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For immediate release

**Eau Claire, WI (Dec. 28, 2017)** – Four exceptional young farmers will participate in the 65<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) Awards Weekend Jan. 26-28, 2018, in Watertown, WI at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel. The candidates include:

- Justin & Darci Daniels, Hixton, WI (Jackson County), Dairy
- Andy Fisher, Reedsville, WI (Manitowoc County) Dairy
- Justin & Kotti Hintz, Ogdensburg, WI (Waupaca County) Dairy
- Mike Prochnow, Menomonie, WI (Dunn County) Cash Crop

The OYF candidates are sponsored to the state event by local agricultural groups and businesses; sponsors can still contribute to the overall event or a specific candidate.

The public is invited to attend the Saturday banquet. For tickets, contact Harold or Cindy Matton at 715-833-9649 or at [wi-oyf@charter.net](mailto:wi-oyf@charter.net)

The Awards Weekend in Watertown allows the candidates to network on farm and family issues at the two-day event and they will participate in a “Speak up for Ag” workshop. The group will also tour Rosy-Lane Holsteins LLC and Berres Brothers Coffee.

The 2018 state OYF winner will be named Saturday evening at the finale banquet. Also recognized will be a runner up and a “Speak up for Ag” winner, sponsored by *The Country Today*. The state winner will be nominated to attend the February 2019 national OYF Awards Congress.

The 2017 state winners, Sam and Jenn Zimmermann, from Ringle, were just named to the top 10 National finalists. Sam and Jenn will attend national OYF Awards Congress held Feb. 14-18, 2018, in Sacramento, California.

The OYF award is based on 50 percent progress in ag career, 25 percent soil and water conservation and 25 percent contributions to community, state or nation. Goals of the OYF program are:

- To foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of farmers’ challenges, as well as the appreciation of their contributions and achievements;
- To bring about a greater interest in farmers/ranchers;
- To help build an urban awareness of the farmers’ importance and impact on America’s economy.

Now in its 65th year, Wisconsin OYF has had 17 national winners. On the national level, OYF is sponsored by John Deere and the Outstanding Farmers of America Fraternity; and supported by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.