

**CASE IH
WISCONSIN LIVESTOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
MASTER STOCKMAN AWARD APPLICATION**

The Case IH Master Stockman Award is one of the most prestigious awards given to junior livestock project exhibitors and is generously sponsored by Case IH. The Master Stockman Award recognizes knowledge, skill, leadership, and excellence within beef, sheep, meat goat and swine project work.

Case IH Master Stockman Award Requirements & Rules:

- 1) All Master Stockman applicants and/or their immediate families must be paid 2026 WLBA members. Membership applications can be found online at www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com and should be sent in with your application and a check.
- 2) The Master Stockman Scholarship is available to youth not younger than a high school senior graduating in 2026 or not older than 21 years of age by January 1, 2026.
- 3) Applicants must have participated in one or more of the following events: the WLBA Spring Preview, the Wisconsin Livestock Show Camp or the WLBA Summer Spectacular Show a minimum of three out of the last five years (2021-2025). Event participation will be verified by the WLBA office.
- 4) Master Stockman applicants should choose and apply within one species only; beef, sheep, meat goats, or swine.
- 5) Previous Master Stockman winners within any species are not eligible to reapply.
- 6) Previous Honorable Mention Master Stockman winners may reapply within any species; if they still meet all requirements, but they will be eligible to receive a monetary award no more than twice.

Case IH Master Stockman Scholarship Process:

- An original hard copy of the Master Stockman Award application (to be filed), AND (3) additional copies (that will be mailed to our judges) should be mailed to the WLBA office with a postmark date of no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Applications not postmarked by March 10, 2026, will not be considered. Additionally, please do not send your application certified mail with a required signature. There may not be anyone available to sign upon delivery and this isn't necessary.
- As well, an electronic copy of your application in PDF form only (please, no Google doc files) and a scanned picture, of yourself MUST also be emailed to the WLBA office by no later than 11:59 pm on March 10, 2026. Please email this to wisconsinlivestockbreeders@gmail.com.
- Up to a maximum of 10 applications, based on the quality of applications submitted, regardless of species, will be chosen to advance to an interview to be held on Saturday, April 4, 2026 at the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection in Madison, WI. All applicants must be able to interview on April 4, 2026, if chosen. The exact time will be announced later, but it will be likely be about 8:30 am – Noon.
- From the applicants interviewed, (3) \$1000 Master Stockman Award winners and (2) \$250 Honorable Mention Master Stockman Awards will be selected.
- Award winners will be announced at the WLBA Annual Meeting held by Zoom on Sunday, April 19th, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

Master Stockman Application/Interview Tips:

- Your application will be judged on your documented knowledge of your project and your level and depth of involvement and leadership in the livestock industry.
- A scanned picture of yourself should be included on your application cover page with your personal information.
- Additional photos are not required, but a few are encouraged to document and enhance your application. Please scan photos directly into your electronic application, do not send hard copy photos.
- The interview process will evaluate your ability to articulate and respond to questions about your livestock project, your involvement in the livestock industry, and current industry related topics.

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WISCONSIN LIVESTOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
2026 MASTER STOCKMAN AWARD APPLICATION**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

APPLICANT'S PHONE _____ APPLICANT'S EMAIL _____

AGE (AS OF JAN 1, 2026) _____ BIRTHDATE _____

SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING _____

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY (IF APPLICABLE): _____

PARENT(S): _____

ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT THAN ABOVE _____

PARENT(S) PHONE _____ PARENT EMAIL _____

It is a requirement that you must have participated in one or more WLBA events 3 out of the last 5 years. Please list the years you participated in each event the last 5 years, and what species or multiple species.

Years Participated in the Spring Preview Show: _____ Species _____

Years Participated in the Livestock Show Camp: _____ Species _____

Years Participated in the Summer Spectacular: _____ Species _____

All information requested on this page should be on Page 1 of your application along with a scanned picture of yourself.

You are welcome to format the page as you see fit, as long as all information is included.

Please answer the questions below as completely as possible. If a particular question does not pertain to your individual livestock project or farming operation you are allowed to skip it.

JUNIOR/OPEN LIVESTOCK SHOW PARTICIPATION – List or Bullet Format

- 1) List the years and WLBA events you have participated in.
- 2) List the years and other shows where you have exhibited animals.
- 3) List any leadership/mentor/intern roles you have specifically held within the WLBA.
- 4) List leadership roles you have held within other areas of the livestock industry.

PARTICIPATION IN LIVESTOCK RELATED ACTIVITIES OR JOBS – List or Bullet Format

- 1) List your activities, offices held, or other leadership roles in 4-H and FFA.
- 2) List awards won through 4-H, FFA or other livestock related organizations and/or events.
- 3) List your participation and activities in any state and national breed associations, along with any county or state producer groups.
- 4) Share any jobs or internships you have held that are related to agriculture or livestock.

PARTICIPATION IN NON-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES – List or Bullet Format

- 1) List your activities, leadership roles, honors earned, within your school, church, or community.

YOUR PROJECT (Beef, Sheep, Meat Goats, Swine)

- Describe the livestock operation on your farm, including whether you own or manage your animals.
- Describe how you got your start in your project and how your beginning project has grown to your present enterprise.
- Describe your role in the care and management of the livestock operation on your family farm.
- Describe the feeding practices that apply to your project:
 1. Feed rations
 2. Hay and roughage
 3. Pasture management
- Describe the breeding program that applies to your project:
 1. Natural and A.I. breeding
 2. Use of performance testing
 3. Culling program
- Describe the herd health program that applies to your project:
 1. Vaccination and disease control program
 2. Parasite control
 3. Sanitation practices
- Describe your record keeping program as it applies to your project:
 1. Financial records
 2. Breeding information
 3. Herd/flock identification system
 4. Health records

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Please describe what kind of “life-lessons” your livestock experiences have taught you?
2. Please describe your current academic status, your educational goals, and what career opportunities you are working towards. Include if and how your livestock enterprise will fit into your future plans.
3. Below is an example of a biography read about a past Master Stockman Award winner during the Master Stockman presentation in the Case IH Coliseum at the Wisconsin State Fair. In 150 words or less please provide us with ‘your biography’. Write it as if it’s being read in the Coliseum.

Claire Hawthorne is 20 years old and the daughter of Jim & Kim Hawthorne of Westby. Claire will be a junior at Iowa State University majoring in Agribusiness. Claire’s livestock career began age six when she started showing heifers and steers from her families purebred Angus herd. Today, Claire owns a herd of 30 registered Angus cattle and has had numerous leadership roles within the beef industry. She has served on the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association board of directors; she was selected to run for the 2017 Miss American Angus title, and she served as a chair for the 2018 National Junior Angus Show. Claire states that growing up, surrounded by leaders it was easy for her to accept the position as a follower, but her involvement in the beef industry has taught her to be a leader with the ability to recognize the potential in others as well.

REFERENCES

- Please include one letter of recommendation from an individual who is familiar with your livestock project work. This letter should also be included with your submitted hard copies as well as scanned and included in your electronic submission.

Please mail your fully completed application and (3) additional judge copies that all include a letter of recommendation to:

Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association
Jill Alf, Executive Director
5316 N Northwood Trace
Janesville, WI 53545

Applications must be postmarked by March 10, 2026

AND

Email an electronic copy in PDF form of your completed application, your letter of recommendation, and a scanned photo of yourself to:

wisconsinlivestockbreeders@gmail.com

Electronic submissions must be received by 11:59 pm March 10, 2026

Applications will be considered incomplete and will not be considered if both hard-copy and electronic submissions are not received by the deadlines listed above. Please read this application carefully and follow all rules.

Questions can be directed to WLBA Executive Director Jill Alf at 608/743-9080, or emailed to wisconsinlivestockbreeders@gmail.com.