CARNIVORE CREW

Many Morrison team members have distinct memories of raising animals for their respective county fairs. The early hours of feeding and grooming their animals before school; the brimming excitement ahead of weighing them in and showing them at fair; the checks going into their college savings accounts after their animals were sold: all of these were formative in our team members' development and essential in instilling a love for agriculture that fuels our work to this day.

It was this deep appreciation that led Morrison to launch a non-profit auction buyers group called Carnivore Crew this past summer.

What is an auction buyers group, you may ask? This group bids and buys on animals whose prices are not attaining market value to keep the auction moving along and help youth at least break even. Essentially, this group's efforts serve as a backstop to support the investments of youth exhibitors and to encourage their future participation in such an impactful learning experience. After seeing low prices at recent livestock auctions in our area and recognizing tough economic times, Morrison identified the need and decided to do something about it.

The concept was simple: Morrison would offer the opportunity to the community to contribute a flat amount prior to the livestock auctions at our local Butte County Fair and Silver Dollar Fair. These donations would be pooled and the leadership of the Carnivore Crew would be in the stands on auction day to purchase animals from exhibitors who are not receiving bids (also referred to as "no bid" animals), helping to maintain a floor price throughout the auction.

In addition to supporting our hardworking and entrepreneurial youth, the Carnivore Crew would also support local vocational training opportunities and meal programs for the Jesus Center, donating the majority of the meat purchased to the nonprofit organization that provides services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Meals made from the donated meat would be planned and prepared by individuals engaged in the Jesus Center's vocational training program and served to individuals living at the Jesus Center's Sabbath House and Renewal Center.

Though Morrison had the idea, it was the incredible momentum and generosity of community members, businesses, and organizations that

made this a smashing success. With an initial goal of raising $25,000 by August 19 from 50 founding members, we were humbled by the overwhelming response of caring individuals wanting to collaborate in our efforts that resulted in meeting this goal by early August. Accordingly, we raised the stakes to securing 75 total founding members and raising $35,000 in donations, which we met without a hitch ahead of our August 19 deadline.

Morrison put its plan into action at the Butte County Fair's livestock auction on August 24. We bid on and purchased 4 hogs, 3 lambs, 2 goats, 1 steer, and 1 chicken pen. Nothing could have prepared us for the great joy and honor of supporting Butte County's youth exhibitors who by the generosity of Carnivore Crew donations were able to get a fair market price on their animals, receive the validation they deserved for their tireless efforts, and hopefully foster a greater love and commitment to agriculture. Purchased livestock amounted to 1,000 pounds of meat from 11 different animals from local butchers, which were sent to the Jesus Center's meal programs in mid-September.

We want to extend our deep appreciation to all of our Morrison clients who supported Carnivore Crew! We are once again amazed by the privilege it is to collaborate with you on projects that promote the flourishing of our communities. It is also not too late to get involved, feel free to check out our website and Instagram account @carnivorecrewbuttecounty, which will include timely opportunities to partner in our efforts to support youth exhibitors at the 2025 Silver Dollar Fair Junior Livestock Auction and Butte County Fair that follows.