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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Royal Association and AFA announce scholarship recipients

Kansas City, Missouri – June 1, 2017 – The American Royal Association and Agriculture Future of America have selected three students for a unique scholarship program.

Through the American Royal AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship program, Lindsey Robinson, Madison Schafer and Matthew Smith will gain access to premier personal and professional development and financial assistance for their college educations. These three outstanding students are pursuing agriculture-related, four-year degrees and are passionate about the future of the agriculture industry.

Robinson, from Wellsville, Missouri, is studying agricultural journalism at the University of Missouri. She plans to work for a livestock magazine or advertising agency following the completion of her bachelor's degree. Schafer, from Goodhue, Minnesota, is studying agricultural communications and journalism at South Dakota State University. She looks forward to sharing a united agriculture message with those unfamiliar. Smith is from Jersey, Arkansas and studies agricultural business at Arkansas Tech University. He plans to pursue a career in public policy, working as a legislative assistant and lobbyist in the future.

AFA and the American Royal are committed to investing in each of their scholars' development as a leader. This is why the scholarship program includes sponsorship to AFA Leaders Conference as well as a traditional academic scholarship. The Conference is AFA's key leader development event, personal and professional development and connecting students with their peers and industry professionals.

AFA will welcome over 800 students from across the nation to Kansas City, Missouri, Nov. 2-5 for the 2017 AFA Leaders Conference. College students pursuing careers in agriculture and food may apply for Conference until Sept. 11. For more information about Conference, visit www.agfuture.org/conference.

American Royal Association and AFA Leader and Academic Scholars

Lindsey Robinson, Wellsville, Missouri, University of Missouri
Madison Shaffer, Goodhue, Minnesota; South Dakota State University
Matthew Smith, Jersey, Arkansas, Arkansas Tech University

About AFA

AFA builds bridges for young leaders to foster engagement and innovation in food and agriculture. With program participation increasing 61 percent in the last five years, AFA leader development programs have impacted 15,000 college leaders and young professionals from more than 200 colleges and universities throughout 43 states since its inception in 1996. AFA has awarded more than \$9 million in academic and leader development scholarships. For more information about AFA, visit www.agfuture.org or contact Megan Karlin at megan.karlin@agfuture.org.

About the American Royal Association

The American Royal Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that has been a Kansas City tradition since 1899. Each year more than 270,000 people attend events at the American Royal Complex. In 2014, the Royal was able to give \$1.4 million in scholarship and educational awards. In addition to its educational mission, the American Royal generates some \$60 million of economic impact, \$4.4 million in local tax revenues, and supports 450 jobs. For further information, see www.americanroyal.com.