

Agprofessionals

West Central, MN

(formerly West Central Ag Sales Association)



2019 Evening of Agcellence Banquet

Friday, February 1, 2019 | 5:00 p.m.
Willmar Conference Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Keynote speaker, Tom Haag, is a fourth-generation family farmer where he grows more than 1,300 acres of corn and soybeans with his son, Nathan.

As a member of the National Corn Growers Association Board, Haag serves as liaison to the Ethanol Action Team and chairs the Governance Committee. Haag is past president of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and previously served as an appointee of the Minnesota Trade Advisory Council.

Haag is married with two sons and resides in Eden Valley.

SPECIAL THANKS

EVENT COMMITTEE

Rollie Boll
Greg Ervin
Russ Peterson
Sarah Schieck

Connie Schmoll
John Soderholm
Travis Szczesniak

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GRANT RECIPIENTS CONT.



Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Committee—\$750

The Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Committee hosts 5th Grade Ag Tours, which are designed to bring students, who may not otherwise have an opportunity, to tour a farm. Through relationships with the Willmar Elementary Schools and Community Christian School, they were able to bring 334 5th grade students to CoJo Dairy and Louriston Dairy

to learn about a dairy operation and foster dialogue and a greater understanding of that aspect of the ag industry. It is wonderful to see the excitement in the eyes of the children as they learn and explore and there are always moments of surprise as their knowledge expands. The grant received paid for the one major expense, bussing the students. The support is appreciated and the students appreciated this opportunity as well.



Ridgewater College Professional Ag Students (PAS)—\$1,000

For nearly 40 years, PAS has been developing two and four-year college-level professional agriculture students for the workplace through participation in employment experience programs, skill-set development, network

opportunities, and organizational activities. Its one-of-a-kind national collegiate-level competition-style learning model gives students the practical and hands-on development opportunities essential for career success. Students compete at the local, state and national levels and are guided by faculty advisors to develop the technical, professional and soft skills required for career success within the agriculture industry.

AWARDS

Agriculture Excellence Award to an Ag Professional Member
presented by John Soderholm

Agriculture Excellence Award to an Ag Professional Community Member
presented by Connie Schmoll

EVENING SCHEDULE

5:00 p.m. Social Hour

Emcee, Joe Gill

6:00 p.m. Welcome

Travis Szczesniak
2018 Chair

6:10 p.m. WCASA/Agprofessionals

John Soderholm

6:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker

Tom Haag

7:00 p.m. Dinner and Mixer

8:00 p.m. Scholarship Awards and
Grant Recipients

Jeff Stewart

8:15 p.m. Ag Excellence Awards

John Solderholm
Connie Schmoll

8:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

Russ Peterson
2019 Chair

Agprofessionals (formerly the West Central Ag Sales Association), exists to promote careers in agriculture. For the past 35 years, association members have given scholarships to students committing to agriculture-related education paths.

Proceeds from this banquet benefit student scholarships and agriculture programs.



EMCEE



Joe Gill has been with KASM Radio since 1999 and is the current Farm Director and Traffic Manager. He is a member of many statewide agricultural organizations and is active on a local level.

As Farm Director, Gill covers local, statewide and nationwide agricultural events and conferences. Gill is a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and currently serves as the West Region Vice President.

Gill is married with two children and resides in Sartell.

PRESENTER



Jeff Stewart grew up on a farm in Douglas County, Minnesota. He worked in feed and agronomy marketing after receiving his Associates Degree from the Willmar Technical College in 1978.

A 35-year broadcasting industry veteran, including 11 years in upstate New York, Stewart does interviews and remote broadcasts on the air and has been a Regional Marketing Specialist for the Linder Farm Network for the last 21

years.

Stewart is single and has resided in Owatonna for 20 years.

GRANT RECIPIENTS



New London-Spicer FFA Chapter—\$300

The Chapter will use the money for FFA week. NL-S FFA promotes agriculture during FFA week by putting on a petting zoo and making ice cream for the school's first graders and also invite middle and high schoolers. They also serve a staff and alumni pancake breakfast during the week.



Kandiyohi County Fair—\$750

The Kandiyohi County Fair strives to educate, provide quality entertainment and a place for citizens of Kandiyohi County to showcase their products and businesses related to agriculture. The Kandiyohi County Fair offers 4-H and FFA students the opportunity to explore a future in agriculture through exhibits and competitions. The grant received from Ag Professionals was used to support these activities during the 2018 County Fair. The Fair Association is very thankful for your support of a "Kandiyohi County Tradition."



Brian McNeill—\$400

McNeill is an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension located at the Regional Office near Morris. For 25 years he has been working with the 4-H program and providing leadership and STEM opportunities for youth. In 2018 he brought back a focus in agronomy with a five-county pilot. In 2019, he is moving the idea to 27 counties and statewide in 2020. The grant provided help to give momentum to the agronomy work. In 2018, 115 youth participated in agronomy startup kits. The grant funds helped keep the cost down so 4-H members could sign up for kits, grow them and exhibit at their local county fairs. Thank you for your contribution to grow the 4-H agronomy project.



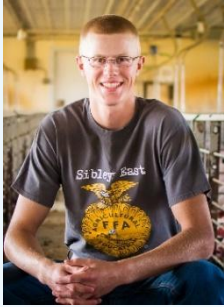
Paynesville FFA Chapter—\$300

The Chapter used its grant for a new class, Ag Food Chemistry. The goal of the class is to show students the science behind growing, producing and processing their own food. The grant allowed the Chapter to purchase canners, sieves, larger cooking kettles and science equipment for the thermal preservation unit. They have been able to conduct more experiments and teach different aspects in agriculture, food production, science and chemistry. Learning to prepare their own food has been a big draw and students are raving to their friends about everything they are learning.



SIERRA SWANSON—A junior in the Animal Science program at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Sierra is passionate about good quality cows and loves farming. Since she was little, she has exhibited cows at fairs and sales and attends shows/expos and dairy judging competitions. Sierra “grew up in the barn” milking cows and now assists with AI selections, milking, calf care, feeding cows, administering antibiotics and vaccinations and fieldwork. Sierra has a small herd of 30 Holsteins and 4 Brown Swiss and created her own prefix, 3 Sisters Dairy, for her animals kept at her uncle’s farm and oversees management decisions for her animals. Having her own herd has solidified her desire to be

a dairy farmer. Sierra is currently active in Gopher Dairy Club (past camp chair), Agriculture Education Club, U of M Dairy Judging Team Member, Beta of Clovia Sorority, McLeod County Junior Holstein Association serving as treasurer and fundraising chair and volunteers with People Serving People. Sierra’s parents are David and Kari Swanson of Hutchinson.



LOGAN TESCH—A freshman at South Dakota State University, Logan is majoring in Animal Science with specialty in swine and Ag Business with minors in Ag Marketing and Accounting. Logan’s plans are to become an Ag farm manager, Ag finance person or general farm manager/operator. Logan has been involved in FFA serving as chapter president, vice president and region secretary, was a State Degree recipient and National Convention participant in Farm Business Management. In high school, he was on the National Honor Society, Knowledge Bowl, track and field, wrestling and band. At SDSU, Logan is in the National Agri-Marketing Association Club, Swine Club and Block & Bridle 96th

Little International. His parents are Jeremy and Lisa Tesch of Henderson.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

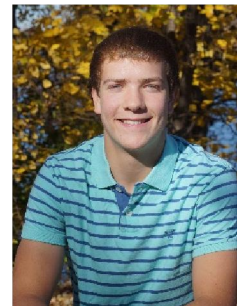


KIRSTEN BAROTT—A senior at South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, in the Agricultural Communications, Public Relations and Leadership programs. After graduation, Kirsten plans to attend SDSU for her Master’s in Communication Studies. Kirsten is seeking to apply her skills and knowledge in a public relations field, with aspirations of becoming a Public Relations and Fundraising Manager for an agricultural corporation, preferably internationally. She dreams of traveling to every corner of the world

learning of developing technology and progressive implementations for the agricultural industry. She has been active in campus organizations such as State A Thon, hall government, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Agriculture Communicators of Tomorrow, the campus newspaper (*The Collegian*), and interns for both the Brookings Area Chamber of Commerce and SDSU Career Development Office as Communications Interns. Her parents are Curt and Teresa Bussler of Glencoe.



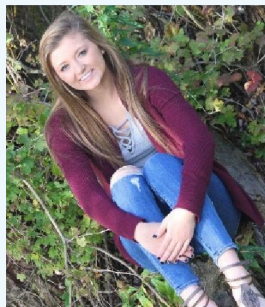
MCKENZIE CSELOVSKI—A freshman at South Dakota State University, McKenzie is majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Ag Business. McKenzie’s career goal is to become an Animal Nutritionist and start her own diversified livestock herd. McKenzie was a member of 4-H for 13 years with a focus on equine and market goats. She participated in the state fair every year since the 7th grade and was a national finalist in equine. She was also a member of the National Poultry Team. Her parents are John and Becky Cselovszki of Sleepy Eye.



CAM DRESSEN—A freshman at Ridgewater College in the Farm Operations and Management program. After receiving his AAS degree, Cam plans to return to Ridgewater and take Ag Business or Ag Power courses and then following graduation, he plans to work on a farm or at an Ag business. Cam participated in Fish and Wildlife while in high school, as well as Ag Mechanics and 4-H showing dairy steers. He earned a State FFA Degree in 2018. His parents are Chuck and Sandy Dressen of Trimont.



SAMANTHA GREINER—A Freshman at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. Samantha plans to graduate in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Communications with a minor in social media and leadership. In high school, Samantha was an FFA member for 5 years and a chapter reporter and president during her junior and senior years. She was also active in acapella and express choir and has been a member of her church council for 4 years. Samantha believes her love for agriculture is still growing. Her parents are Greg and Dona Greiner of Donnelly.



MORGAN GRONLI—A freshman at Ridgewater College in the Farm Operations Management program, Morgan plans to attend an extra semester to get an Ag Management degree in addition to her AAS degree. Following graduation, she intends to work on the family farm. Morgan participated in FFA during all of high school and held the secretary position her senior year. She also participated in basketball, volleyball, softball and trap shooting and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She currently plays volleyball at Ridgewater. Her parents are Mark Walsh and Kristi Gronli of New London.



AMBER JOHNSON—A junior at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, Amber is studying Agricultural Communication. Her plans are to work as a public relations specialist for a large agricultural company and to continue to be an advocate for agriculture. She has participated in 4-H (13 years); FFA (4 years); Business Professionals of America; Skills USA; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; Collegiate FFA; North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture; UMC Ag-Arama Club, Study Abroad Club and Minnesota Farm Bureau Discussion Meet. Her parents are Russell and Barbara Johnson of Sebeka.



NATHAN KAYE—A freshman at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, Nathan is pursuing a Bachelor's degree majoring in Agricultural Business with a minor in Agricultural Marketing. Nathan's plans are to be a grain merchandiser for a co-op or trading company. Nathan was a member of the National Honor Society while in high school and played basketball. At SDSU he is a member of the National Agri-Marketing Association and part of the baseball team. His parents are Mike and Laurie Kaye of Elbow Lake.



Her parents are Perry and Sarah Kuechle of Eden Valley.

SHELBY KUECHLE—A freshman in the Dairy Production program at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. Shelby's goal is to obtain a career in dairy cattle genetics to help better dairy herds across Minnesota. She is active in SDSU's Dairy Club and in high school was active in 4-H, FFA, Student Council, National Honor Society and the school newspaper.



2017. Her parents are Chris and Amy Nemitz of Canby.

GABRIELLE NEMITZ—A freshman at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, Gabrielle is majoring in Animal Science, Ag Education. Gabrielle plans to further her education and obtain a Master's degree in beef production and genetics or become an Ag Education teacher. Gabrielle has been active in 4-H, FFA, Minnesota Junior Simmental Association and a Midwest Cattlemen's Ambassador. She has held multiple officer positions in each. Gabrielle was also the Minnesota Junior Simmental Association Queen in



MITCHELL REITSMA—A student at Ridgewater College in the Dairy Management Program, Mitchell plans to return to his family's dairy farm and start the transition of taking it over. While in high school, Mitchell was involved in FFA serving as vice president and treasurer. Since entering college, he joined the Post-Secondary Agriculture Students Club where he will compete in dairy competitions and take part in fundraisers for the club. Mitchell's parents are Paul and Carolyn Reitsma of Sauk Centre.



LAURA SHOUTZ—A student of Ridgewater College in the Agriculture Science and Technology/Ag Education field, Laura plans to transfer to the University of Minnesota-Crookston to complete a degree in Agriculture Education. After graduation, Laura hopes to work as a high school agriculture instructor and FFA advisor. Laura has been active in FFA, 4-H, National Honor Society, Meeker County Fair Board and Litchfield Watercade Royalty. Her parents are Jon and Crisi Shoutz of Litchfield.