

# THE ENTHUSIAST

*The Official Newsletter of the University of Minnesota's  
Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Program*



## A Spirited and Busy Spring

### *A Message from the Editor*

After a return to in-person classes this fall, students and faculty continued to meet face to face this spring. The spring semester was filled with a multitude of events, opportunities, and achievements for our program. Student groups were busy bringing back traditions while also finding new ways to be involved in the campus community. A busy April included the week-long 106th Minnesota Royal, a long-standing St. Paul Campus tradition that celebrates agriculture in the past, present, and future. Additionally, we welcomed FFA members, teachers, and supporters to the University of Minnesota for the first in-person Minnesota State FFA Convention in nearly three years. We are all so grateful for an eventful spring of great camaraderie with one another!

In this edition of *The Enthusiast*, you will get an update on all of the exciting happenings in AECM. You will meet some of our current students in the program who have bright futures in agriculture. Throughout this newsletter, you will hear words of wisdom from alumni, see the accomplishments of our students, and meet some of our student leaders.

The students, staff, and faculty in our program continue to excel in their accomplishments and create a vibrant community. The program is home to the next passionate and creative agricultural advocates who are bound to make a difference in their futures. I am continuously inspired by this community, and I am so excited to share with you the amazing accomplishments of the AECM program from the Spring 2022 semester!

*-Brenna Connelly*

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# AECM PROGRAM UPDATE

## A message from Dr. Becky Haddad AECM Lecturer



Spring has sprung and we're growing as much as ever! As the world reminds us of a continuous cycle of growth and regeneration, we're excited to reflect on the ways we're #UMNProud of our majors, our students, and our thriving programs.

This year brought some return to normalcy as we welcomed students back to campus for a variety of Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing (AECM) courses. Being back on campus meant capitalizing on the use of our new CHS classroom spaces, allowing us to explore options to implement additional offerings to students not traditionally served by AECM majors. We're excited to offer brand-new minors in Agricultural & Food Education (AFE) and Agricultural & Environmental Science Communication (AESC) starting Fall 2022. We've also expanded our offerings to include Curriculum for Agri-Science Educators (CASE) for our pre-service teachers. Initiatives remain underway to offer graduate licensure in Work-Based Learning and distance options for graduate licensure in Agricultural Education. Our facilities have also seen immense development in the Agriculture Mechanics arena. Under Lee Thompson, we've seen growth in both equipment and facilities, including classroom space and virtual welders.

In addition to growth in the classroom, our students saw immense success with conferencing back on their schedule. Ag Ed students Amelia Hayden, Kaiya Novacek, and Anna Buckentine represented the University of Minnesota at the Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) conclave in conjunction with the National FFA Convention. They brought home awards in Quiz Bowl (first), Program of Excellence (third), and the fundraising component of Program of Excellence (first). AECM students Kelsey Biel, Karli Knopf, Nicole Koziolk, and Isabelle Patterson earned their American FFA Degree this fall, and Dr. Amy Smith and Lavyne Rada received their Honorary American FFA Degrees. Agricultural Communication and Marketing students are preparing for their yearly competitions coming up this April and June.

The National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) Team recently submitted their executive summary for review and are preparing their marketing plan pitch for this year's product Oculis 103°, a thermal and motion-

detecting camera and software management system that alerts pork producers when a sow is beginning to farrow. Members of our Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) Club are preparing their submissions to this year's Critique and Contest to be held at the Agricultural Media Summit in Raleigh, North Carolina this summer.

Growth also manifested in opportunities to engage with our community of stakeholders. In addition to attending conferences, we've been able to grow in our outreach. AECM Partnership and Outreach Coordinator Illana Livstrom leads Ag Teacher's IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in Ag Ed) aiding teachers in diversity and inclusion efforts locally and statewide. In addition, the AgriCast platform has been a great way to support stakeholders with content and resources. Our focus over the past few years has been with online delivery, but we are now getting back to face-to-face workshops and outreach. This semester we are developing and rolling out a new workshop series promoting digital media skills and showcasing AECM opportunities at the University of Minnesota. In addition to developing the AgriCast platform and supporting innovative communication technologies across our department, Dr. Troy McKay has been in classrooms, sharing the opportunities available in AECM at the University of Minnesota. Our student teachers, Amelia Hayden, Anna Buckentine, Kaiya Novacek, Max Johnson, and Aleesha Gilbertson were also in classrooms this spring, and we're grateful to their cooperating teachers and sites for their support in growing our next generation of agricultural educators.

As you can see, we've certainly got some spring in our step! As always, we are happy to visit with prospective students, assist in your graduate studies and licensure needs, and promote professional development across the state. #UMNProud #DiscoverAECM #DiscoverCFANS

# NATIONAL AGRI-MARKETING ASSOCIATION (NAMA)

## National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) Student Competition By: Ashley Hagenow

The University of Minnesota National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) is a student organization within CFANS that offers students real-world and applicable experience in agricultural marketing and communication. This is accomplished through students developing a product within food, agriculture or natural resources that focuses on benefitting producers or consumers, and then developing a robust marketing plan for promoting said product.



Each year, student NAMA members from across the country compete at the annual student marketing competition to present about their product and the materials they have developed for its marketing purposes. At this competition and the months of preparation leading up to it, students gain applicable skills in research, analysis, creativity, time management, public speaking and networking, and the work completed in NAMA can be directly applied to a future career in agri-marketing.

Our student NAMA chapter also has the unique opportunity to network and collaborate with our North Central NAMA chapter, which is the professional affiliate chapter in the Twin Cities composed of marketing and communication professionals who typically work in marketing agencies and on corporate brands. We are very grateful for their support and expertise and look forward to fostering this relationship between student and professional NAMA for years to come.



In April, our student chapter was very excited to attend the first in-person student marketing competition in over three years in Kansas City, Missouri. The student marketing competition is part of the overall Agri-Marketing Conference that takes place annually for NAMA professionals. This year, our chapter developed a product called Oculis 103°, which is a thermal and motion-detecting camera and software management system made for the purpose to detect farrowing in sows and prevent piglet loss from unattended births. Our team, which included Ashley Hagenow, Sydney Hendel, Karli Knopf, Olivia Loveless, Matthew Strobel and Suzanna Viau presented our product at this year's competition and were proud to represent the University of Minnesota.

While our team did not make it past the preliminary round of competition, it was a great learning experience for our chapter, and we all took great notes to apply toward next year! Additionally, Ashley Hagenow was recognized as the recipient of the Successful Farming/Fergie Ferguson Scholarship offered through the NAMA Foundation. Congratulations to all participants and award winners at this year's NAMA Conference and we are excited for what next year will bring!

Interested in getting involved in NAMA here on campus? Reach out to a member of our executive team or our advisor, or attend a few of our meetings to gauge interest in our chapter. We are always excited to welcome new or interested members, and we have plenty of opportunities for prospective members to get involved. Our student NAMA meetings typically take place on Tuesday evenings in both the fall and spring semester, and additional meetings are added in the weeks leading up to important events or deadlines, such as submitting our marketing proposal or preparing for the annual competition. If you're interested in joining NAMA, reach out to Ashley Hagenow, student member, at [hagen880@umn.edu](mailto:hagen880@umn.edu), or Dr. Garrett Steede, NAMA advisor, at [gsteede@umn.edu](mailto:gsteede@umn.edu).



# MAELC SCHOLARSHIPS & 2022 TEACHER CANDIDATES

## MAELC SCHOLARSHIPS

The MAELC Undergraduate Agricultural Education scholarship program awards scholarships to undergraduate students studying Agricultural Education with the intent of becoming a licensed agriculture teacher. These scholarships are given to students at Southwest Minnesota State University, the University of Minnesota – Crookston, and the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Recipients are selected upon their academic merit, leadership activities, need, and desire to become an agriculture teacher.

Nine students have been awarded a scholarship from the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC) for the 2022-2023 academic school year. Five of these students are undergraduates at the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities.

### University of Minnesota- Twin Cities Recipients:

*Kelsey Biel*

*Paige Stuber*

*Karli Knopf*

*Cassandra Valdez*

*Isabelle Patterson*



## MAELC

Minnesota Agricultural Education  
Leadership Council

MAELC works to promote and expand agricultural education in Minnesota. The council consists of representatives from various organizations and businesses that are involved in Agricultural Education. For more information on MAELC and the scholarships they provide, please visit their website at [mn.gov/maelc](http://mn.gov/maelc)

*Congratulations,  
recipients!*

## 2022 TEACHER CANDIDATES

Each year, the Agricultural Education teacher candidates undergo a 12-week student teaching experience at schools across Minnesota. This hands-on experience provides them with opportunities to grow and learn in a real classroom setting, and serves to better prepare them to manage their own classrooms in the future.

Teacher candidates are responsible for lesson planning, classroom management, and instruction during their experiences, and are able to gain skills that will benefit them in their future classrooms.



**Spring Semester  
Teaching Internship**

The AECM program is proud of these teacher candidates, and we can't wait to watch them make a difference in the future of agricultural education!



*Ag Ed Teacher Candidates:  
back row - Max Johnson, Jack Roessler,  
middle row - Kaiya Novacek, Anna Buckentine,  
front row - Amelia Hayden, Aleesha Gilbertson*

1. Aleesha Gilbertson: Chatfield - Stacy Fritz
2. Amelia Hayden: Lake City-Lincoln - Nikki Beucler
3. Anna Buckentine: Dassel-Cokato - Tracy Nelson
4. Kaiya Novacek: Sleepy Eye - Mary Hoffmann
5. Max Johnson: Kingsland (Spring Valley) - Kristal Brogran



# STUDENT WORK FEATURES



By: Nicole Koziolk

*We are so proud of the work created by our AECM students. We are excited to feature the work of some students in Dr. Troy McKay's Digital Media Essentials Class this year!*



By: Chloe Murphy



By: Ella Thome



By: Kestlyn Willert



## Rebecca Meger

### *Agricultural Education*

With a love for agriculture and working with youth, agricultural education is the perfect fit for freshman, Rebecca Meger. Growing up in Webster, Minnesota, Rebecca was raised on her family's small farm where they raise rabbits and poultry. She was very active in 4-H, band, National Honor Society, and Scouts. Her high school did not have agricultural classes, so she attended Randolph's night class for FFA as a senior.



After participating in the Minnesota 4-H State Fair Livestock encampment for many years, Rebecca was given a glimpse of the University of Minnesota. She enjoyed the opportunities it could provide and the comfort of the St. Paul campus. Now that she has almost one year completed, Rebecca has enjoyed meeting people with common interests and promoting agriculture through her involvement in various organizations. These include the Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Club, and Lambda Delta Phi Sorority.

Her past experiences led Rebecca to pursue an Agricultural Education major. One of the most notable experiences was working at Tomahawk Scout Reservation during many summers. She was able to focus on hands-on outdoor learning and activities for youth. Rebecca said, "Agricultural education provides me with the opportunity to provide hands-on learning experiences for youth both in and out of the classroom." In the future, she hopes to be a high school agriculture teacher in rural Minnesota because there is always a beautiful outdoor place nearby to explore. Rebecca is looking forward to the opportunity to interact with students in the classroom every day.

So far, Rebecca's favorite class at the University of Minnesota has been AECM 1001: Introduction to Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing. It was a great way to get to know her classmates and learn about the history of agriculture in the United States. As for her advice for new and current students, she says, "Take advantage of all the opportunities on campus. Go to events because that is where you can make connections with people you would have otherwise not met."

### Rebecca's Favorites

*Quote: "Be the reason somebody believes in good people."*

*Hobby: Camping*

## Ella Thome

### *Agricultural Communication & Marketing Minor: Animal Science*

Agriculture has always played a big role in Ella's life. She grew up on a large corn and swine operation in Adams, Minnesota, and was heavily involved in the Southland FFA Chapter and Mower County 4-H Program. Ella also had the opportunity to serve as a Mower County Pork Ambassador. Through these experiences, she discovered how much she enjoyed talking with others about what they are passionate about and being able to make a connection to agriculture.

This passion for agriculture led her to pursue a degree in Agricultural Communication & Marketing and a minor in Animal Science. This decision came easy to her because this has been an area she has been excited about for the majority of her life. She said agricultural clubs, classes, and activities provide her with a platform to be an advocate for agriculture. In the future, Ella wants to help others understand the importance of agriculture and where their food comes from.

The University of Minnesota felt like home for Ella with the tight-knit community on the St. Paul Campus. "After being here for a little over a semester now, I know that I have made the right decision," Ella said.



On campus, she is involved in Beta Chapter of Clovia sorority, Gopher Dairy Club, Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Club, and Block and Bridle. She also serves on the executive team of the Ag Business Club as the Industry Relations Chair. Her favorite class has been Intro to Animal Science because she has previous knowledge of the course content thanks to the 4-H quiz bowl. This summer, Ella will be interning as a Crop Insurance Officer at Compeer Financial. In the future, she plans to work

somewhere where she can share her passion for agriculture. She said, "I feel that it is my calling to share the good about agriculture to bridge the gap between consumers and producers." Her ideal job would be working for a company within the pork industry.

As for her advice for other students, Ella said, "Make every year the year of yes! Make the friends, join the club, and enjoy the experience! The friends you make on the St. Paul Campus truly become your family; hold them tight!"

### Ella's Favorites

*Place on Campus: The Beta of Clovia House*

*Book: Five Feet Apart*

## Paige Stuber

*Agricultural Education  
Minors: Leadership,  
Youth Studies*

Although she did not grow up on a farm, sophomore Paige Stuber, has a deep love for agricultural education. She grew up in Hugo, Minnesota, and attended a charter school with an agricultural focus. She discovered 4-H and FFA and became actively involved in both organizations competing in various events at the local and state level. When looking at colleges, Paige was drawn to the AECM program at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. It allowed her to stay connected to friends and family and commute from home.



Through her involvement and experiences in FFA, Paige was inspired to pursue a degree in Agricultural Education with minors in Leadership and Youth Studies. She was able to serve as an agricultural education teaching assistant, an agriscience fair mentor, and a Career Development Event (CDE) student advisor as a senior in high school. These diverse, hands-on experiences helped reinforce her passion for teaching agriculture.

In the future, Paige hopes to be an Agricultural Education teacher and FFA advisor at an urban high school in the Twin Cities. Since she shares a similar urban background as those students she hopes to help them understand the impact of agriculture and the agricultural opportunities available after high school.

If Paige had to choose her favorite class at the University of Minnesota, she would pick YOST 1366: Stories of Resistance & Change: Youth, Race, Power & Privilege in the U.S. She said, "Learning about the lived experiences of young people has helped me better understand youth that come from diverse backgrounds. As I hope to teach agriculture at an urban high school, understanding the challenges that face youth today will help me better connect with my students." On campus, Paige is a member of the Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Club, Gopher Dairy Club, and CFANS Undergraduate Student Board. She has also served as a Welcome Week Leader and is one of the three co-chairs for Commuter Connection.

As for her advice to new and current students, Paige said, "Don't be afraid to try something new and be more open to experiences. Yes, it can be difficult, but there are people interested in getting to know you. If you are a new student, join a student organization or club. You will be surprised at the number of amazing people you'll meet and the great relationships you'll form."

### Paige's Favorites

*Quote: "When one story has ended, 'round the bend's a whole new start."  
-Nanashi Mumei*

*Book: They Shoot Canoes, Don't They?  
by Patrick F. McManus*

## Kestlyn Willert

*Agricultural Communication & Marketing,  
Animal Science*

Kestlyn's agricultural experiences growing up have prepared her for a future advocating for farmers. Kestlyn is a sophomore from Brookings, South Dakota, studying Agricultural Communication & Marketing and Animal Science. She grew up on her family's cow-calf operation and was heavily involved in 4-H, FFA, and livestock judging. She was also active in choir, school musicals, and vocal jazz groups.

Kestlyn did not originally plan to attend the University of Minnesota, but after a campus tour, it felt like home. She is very certain that she made the right choice and has loved the support of professors and peers within the AECM program. Through speaking opportunities in 4-H and FFA, Kestlyn developed a passion for talking about agriculture issues and telling the story of agriculturalists. This love for communicating about agriculture led her to find the ACM major as a perfect fit for her.

Kestlyn is very active in the campus community. She is a member of the Livestock Judging Team and Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Club as well as Beta of Clovia Sorority where she serves as the Treasurer and Assistant Social Chair. Kestlyn is also the CFANS Student Board Representative for Block & Bridle Club and the Alumni Relations Chair for Minnesota Royal.



In addition, she is a part of the CFANS Research Apprenticeship Program where she works with Dr. Rebecca Swenson. Last year, she interned with her local Chamber of Commerce and Blue Sky Technologies.

In the future, Kestlyn wants to work as a policy advocate for an agricultural company or organization. Kestlyn says, "So much of the hard work that farmers do is impacted by the decisions of policymakers. Therefore, I would love to facilitate communication between

policymakers and agriculturalists in order to advocate for policy that works to improve sustainability while still supporting the hard work of farmers." Kestlyn's favorite class thus far has been AECM 3452: Digital Media Essentials with Dr. Troy McKay. Kestlyn offers this advice to other students, "Take advantage of every opportunity! The U is a great place to try new things, meet new people, and step outside of your comfort zone. College goes by so quickly so it is incredibly important to soak in as many new experiences as possible."

### Kestlyn's Favorites

*Place on Campus: The St. Paul Mall in the fall*

*Hobby: Showing beef cattle*





## Heidi Hoffman

*Agricultural Communication & Marketing, Animal Science  
Minor: Agricultural and Food Business Management*

Heidi always knew that she would have a career in agriculture one day. Her favorite part of her childhood was growing up on a hog and crop farm in New Ulm, Minnesota. Now a junior studying Animal Science and Agricultural Communication & Marketing with a minor in Agricultural and Food Business Management, Heidi is eager to work with farmers in her future career.



Leaving the farm for college pushed Heidi out of her comfort zone, but she is very happy with her decision. She said, "I chose the University of Minnesota because I knew there were no other colleges that could provide the opportunities and connections that a large accredited college in the heart of a metropolitan city could." She is grateful for the skillset she has built that will help her have a successful career in agriculture.

Since coming to the University of Minnesota, Heidi has been actively involved in the campus community. She is a member of Gopher Dairy Club, Ag Business Club, and Pre-Vet Club. She is involved in Catholic Students United and the CFANS Mentor Program. Additionally, she plays in a year-round volleyball league and works as the office assistant in Waite Library.

Last summer, Heidi had the opportunity to serve as a Communications and Public Relations intern for the Minnesota Pork Board/Minnesota Pork Producers Association in Mankato, Minnesota. This unique experience allowed her to speak with consumers about pig farming and advocate for farmers. Through this experience, she discovered a passion for working both with and for farmers. In the future, she hopes to use this passion while working for an agricultural company.

The most valuable class Heidi has taken was AECM 2096: Career Exploration & Early Field Experience in Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing. "The class taught me so much about different careers available to me in agriculture, the importance of networking and utilizing appropriate social media platforms like LinkedIn, and it gave me the connections I needed to land my past and future internships," Heidi stated.

If she were to offer some wisdom to other students, Heidi said, "Get involved as much as possible early on and make the most of your short couple years spent here. You don't want to reach your graduation and wish you would have done more. You don't have to stick with everything that you try out, but you'll never know unless you try. The best opportunities usually come in the places you least expect."

### Heidi's Favorites

*Quote: "Be 1% better today than you were yesterday."*

*Place on Campus: Waite Library in Ruttan Hall*

## Emily Popp

*Agricultural Communication & Marketing  
Minor: Agricultural and Food Business Management*

Dairy and communicating about agriculture are two passions of Emily Popp. Emily grew up on her family's dairy farm in Royalton, Minnesota, where they sell sweet corn and pumpkins. She takes pride in her family's commitment to the environment through the use of solar panels and wind turbines. In high school, she was involved in a variety of activities that include FFA, Fall Play, One Act, Musical, Band, Student Council, Just for Kixs, Winter Wonderland Figure Skating, and Youth Group.

When choosing the University of Minnesota, Emily was encouraged by her ag teacher, who is an alumnus, to apply. She knew through her past experience as a dairy princess that she enjoys being with people. After a recommendation from her academic advisor, Emily chose to continue her passion for agriculture by studying Agricultural Communication & Marketing with a minor in Agricultural and Food Business Management. On campus, she is involved in Gopher Dairy Club, Ag Business Club, Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Club, and Catholic Students United. Emily has held two internships that have been beneficial for her future career. Following her freshman year, she was a potato scout with Anez Consulting in Little Falls.



Last year, she interned with the University of Minnesota Extension in Benton, Stearns, and Morrison counties. Through these experiences, she learned many valuable skills. In the future, she aspires to work with farmers on a daily basis. So far, Emily's favorite class has been AECM 3462: Podcasting for Science Literacy with Dr. Troy McKay. She appreciated his support, encouragement, and knowledge.

Emily said, "The reason I loved podcasting specifically was because I was able to tie my faith, which is by far the most important thing to me, and food into one podcast called Grit and Bare it."

Emily's advice to other students is, "College is a time to be free in yourself. Don't feel pressured to join this sorority or fraternity, this club or that just because it's what everyone else is doing. Find out what you are passionate about and do what your heart leads you to. I think you will find that most rewarding in the end."

### Emily's Favorites

*Hobby: Down Hill Skiing*

*Book: St. John Paul the Great: His Five Loves*

## Jack Roessler

### Agricultural Education

A positive high school agriculture experience and impactful internships have inspired senior Jack Roessler to pursue a career in Agricultural Education. In addition to teaching in a classroom, Jack's dream is to win the lottery and start a foundation. "All I hope for is to positively impact the communities I am a part of, and if I had a few hundred million dollars I'd have a pretty big impact," Jack said.



Growing up in St. Charles, Minnesota, Jack was introduced to agriculture through his grandparents' hobby farm. In eighth grade, FFA chapter officers came into Jack's class to talk about agricultural education and FFA. As a freshman, he decided to get involved with FFA and take agriculture classes. He eventually served as Minnesota FFA State President. Through these experiences, he decided to combine his two passions of agriculture and helping others grow and chose to pursue a degree in Agricultural Education.

Jack knew that he belonged at the University of Minnesota. After attending the Minnesota FFA State Convention, he enjoyed the St. Paul campus and the chance to be pushed outside of his comfort zone. Some key campus involvements for Jack have been being a member of FarmHouse Fraternity, and serving as AECM Club Sentinel and President of NAMA.

There have been many internship experiences that have had a positive impact on Jack. He has served as the MAELC Agricultural Education Summer Intern, All American Co-op Agronomy Crop Scout, and National FFA Organization Agricultural Education Curriculum Development Intern. In addition, he has worked as the National FFA Organization State Officer Programs Facilitator and Erik's Retreat Life Plan Coach.

If Jack were to recommend any class, it would be FSOS 1101: Intimate Relationships. Jack's biggest piece of advice to younger students is to seek out discomfort. "The biggest reason why I am thankful for coming to the University of Minnesota is because of the exposure to so many different life experiences and cultures that find their way here. I literally accidentally signed up for a class about Palestinian film and writing and it was one of my favorite classes. See what the world has to offer, don't just pick what you already know and are comfortable with. If you explore other options and then go back to what you know there's nothing wrong with that, but at least give it a shot."

### Jack's Favorites

*Quote: "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind, always."*

*Place on Campus: Huntington Bank Stadium on Gopher Game Day*

## Conner Holthaus

### Agricultural Communication & Marketing

A native of Eden Valley, Minnesota, Conner Holthaus is very active in the campus community. Growing up, his family raised a variety of different animals and crops. He knew agriculture would be a part of his future career. He originally intended to study Agricultural Education, but an impactful agronomy sales internship as a junior changed his perspective. He saw Agricultural Communication & Marketing as the perfect fit to help him in his future career as a salesman.

When coming to college, Conner was looking for a school that was close to home but would allow him the traditional, big-city university experience. Conner elaborated, "I also chose the University of Minnesota because the faculty here have been putting in a tremendous amount of work into the Ag Ed and ACM programs making them some of the best in the country."

Since coming to the University of Minnesota, Conner has been involved in Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity where he served as Recruitment Chair, House Manager, and President. In Gopher Crops and Soils Club, he has been the CFANS Student Board Representative, Treasurer, and President. He was also a member of the Ag Business Club.

Conner has had the opportunity to have three unique internships during his time in college. He has served as a crop scout at Centra Sota Cooperative in Watkins, Minnesota, a regional agronomy intern for Winfield United in Wisconsin, and a sales agronomy intern for Winfield United in Ohio. Now a senior, Conner is ready to begin his career. His goal is to work in the upper Midwest as a territory representative selling crop protection products.



Conner's favorite course has been ANSC 2012: Livestock and Carcass Evaluation with Kyle Rozeboom. He greatly enjoyed the hands-on work and the chance to look at a variety of livestock each week. As for his advice to younger students, Conner said, "Do not be afraid to try new things to grow outside of your comfort zone. You may find an interest in something that you never thought you would, and it could one day lead to your future career."

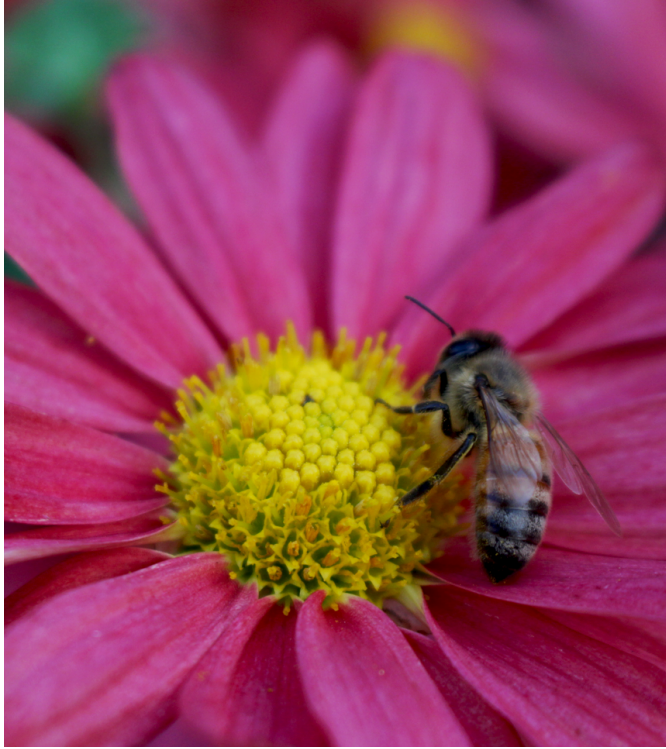
### Conner's Favorites

*Place on Campus: The research fields*

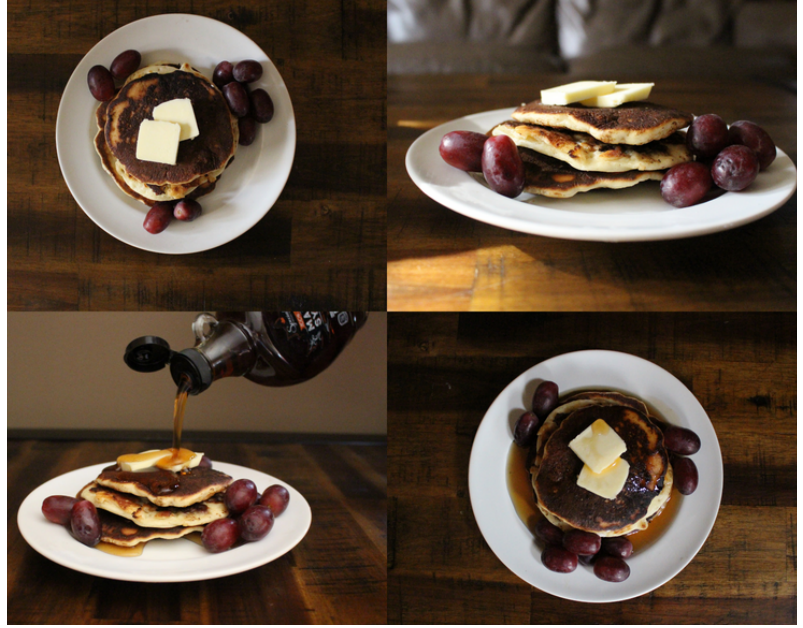
*Hobby: Fishing*



# STUDENT WORK FEATURES, CONTINUED



By: Brenna Connolly



By: Bailey Ruen



By: Emily Hansen



By: Matthew Gunst



# NATIONAL GUERNSEY QUEEN SPOTLIGHT



## Highlights from Haley Beukema

Freshman

New Richmond, Wisconsin

Agricultural Communication & Marketing

Minor: Agriculture and Food Business Management



***The National Guernsey Queen represents the American Guernsey Association at various events throughout the year. They assist at the National Guernsey shows in the fall and act as ambassadors for the breed at other meetings and shows across the country.***

## What were your main responsibilities in this position?

I travel to national and state shows as well as local dairy events advocating for the Guernsey breed and the dairy industry as a whole. This year, I have been to the Wisconsin State Guernsey show, many dairy breakfasts, Wisconsin Jr. State Fair, World Dairy Expo, and other agriculture-related events.

## What has been your favorite thing about being the National Guernsey Queen?

It is hard to pinpoint a favorite activity or responsibility associated with being the National Guernsey Queen. There have been so many great opportunities to interact with Guernsey breeders and enthusiasts. I have been exposed to a variety of production systems and seen a lot of innovative management strategies on farms. I think it is important to recognize the progression of the Guernsey breed as a whole in recent years, and the committees and individuals that have been able to make this happen.

## What will you miss most about your role?

While my role has given many blessings to my life, the largest blessing has been the network I have been able to establish within the dairy industry. Although I have these relationships for the rest of my life, I will very much miss connecting with various community members and young consumers while wearing the crown and sash. Seeing little children's eyes light up when they see a "real-life princess" at dairy breakfasts will be a very missed feeling.

## How has being at the University of Minnesota influenced your year as the National Guernsey Queen?

Although traveling while being a first-year student in college is challenging, I was able to use a lot of the new information I was gaining with my Agricultural Communication & Marketing major to enhance my communication as queen. I have also been able to meet many other students in the St. Paul Campus community who have expanded my knowledge of dairy operations. Professors and TAs have been very understanding and accommodating with the travel I had during fall semester!



## What is your favorite part about being a University of Minnesota student?

My favorite part of being a UMN student is the sense of community and support found on the St. Paul Campus. The opportunities are big and plentiful, but the community of St. Paul gives the students individualized resources and opportunities.

## How has this experience impacted your career path?

It has opened my eyes to how essential it is to advocate and represent the dairy industry to consumers in a positive light. While assisting in various events at my county fair this past July, I was able to see the advocacy efforts in my local community and how much of an impact it has had on fair attendees that are not connected to agriculture. As a future career, I am very interested in working with private companies to not only market and communicate their products and services, but also connect them to consumers for more transparent communication between the producer and consumer. Lastly, I am interested in using the experiences and knowledge I have gained from being the National Guernsey Queen to work in the dairy industry in a marketing capacity.



## What are your plans for the future?

I am anticipating continued involvement within the Guernsey breed past my reign and after graduation. The Guernsey community has accepted me with open arms since the age of nine, and I want to use future career opportunities to benefit the dairy community. I am looking forward to graduating with a degree in ACM and using that to market and communicate agricultural production to the general public.

*"I have gained lifelong friendships, connections, and communication skills during my time as National Guernsey Queen. This position has been something that I have aimed to achieve for years, and it has given me the opportunity to represent a fantastic organization that I am passionate about."*

*The Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing Club has returned to in-person meetings, and members have been busy with a variety of activities! As a club, we work to further professional roles in agricultural education, communication and marketing through networking and outreach within the agricultural industry and community.*

## MEET THE NEW OFFICER TEAM

### President



**Chloe Murphy**  
Sophomore  
Agricultural Communication & Marketing and Animal Science

#### **What are your goals for the club?**

To increase membership of the club, gain its popularity around campus, and help club members to prepare to go into a job within their major after college.

### Vice President



**Emilee Xayanourom**  
Sophomore  
Agricultural Education

#### **Why should others join the AECM Club?**

Students should join the AECM Club, because it is a way to meet students and learn more about the agricultural industry on the communication and marketing side. Also we always have fun!

### Treasurer



**Haley Beukema**  
Freshman  
Agricultural Communication & Marketing  
Minor: Agricultural & Food Business Management

#### **How will the AECM club help you in the future?**

The AECM Club will not only provide me with leadership experience, but it will also allow me to build connections and experience new things within the world of AECM.

### Secretary



**Brenna Connelly**  
Junior  
Agricultural Communication & Marketing and Animal Science

#### **What is your favorite part about AECM?**

I love that it is a community of individuals with similar passions and interests as me. I know it will give me the necessary knowledge, skills, and connections I will need to be successful. I enjoy always being surrounded by fellow agriculturalists and working to make a difference for the future.

## STAY CONNECTED

Be sure to follow the AECM Club on social media to stay up to date on all of the club happenings!



UMNAECMclub



umnaecm.club

### CFANS Student Board Rep



**Hilariia Ponce**  
Freshman  
Agricultural Education  
Minor: Environmental Science

#### **What is your favorite part about AECM?**

I like how welcoming everyone is, no matter your background. I come from a non-agricultural background, but I am always learning something new! I like asking questions and not feeling judged by a community that is full of learners and leaders!

### Sentinel



**Kelsey Biel**  
Sophomore  
Agricultural Education and Animal Science

#### **How will the AECM club help you in the future?**

AECM Club will help me in the future as it helps build my network of people who are going into relatively the same careers as me.

### Communications Coordinator



**Megan Meyer**  
Freshman  
Agricultural and Food Business Management

#### **What are your goals for the club?**

My goals for the AECM Club are to diversify our membership, serve others of St. Paul campus, and help the club members to develop professionally. I hope to bring together students with different backgrounds and help them to develop skills on sharing agriculture with the public.





## TYLER WARREN

*2014 Agricultural Education Graduate*

*Through his experiences in 4-H and FFA, Tyler Warren saw the opportunities within agriculture at a young age.*

Tyler grew up on a dairy and crop farm in Litchfield, Minnesota. He was involved in the Meeker County 4-H Program and Litchfield FFA Chapter. Today, he still helps milk cows and farm back home with his family. He always knew he wanted to be a teacher in a high school and teach something he was passionate about and enjoyed. "For me, they work hand in hand. I want to live a life of service and give back to the things that were important to me," shares Tyler. Some important aspects for him include agriculture, FFA, and sports. He is able to give back to those things through teaching in the classroom, advising an FFA chapter, helping on his family farm, and coaching high school teams.

When deciding on a college, Tyler was set on the University of Minnesota. His parents were a little shocked by his decision because he was a shy and introverted kid who wanted to study in the big city. However, as a Minnesota resident, the University of Minnesota was special to him and they had the program he wanted. He loved the opportunity to have the best of both worlds: the big campus feel and the small St. Paul campus.

Tyler graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2014 with a degree in Agricultural Education. While on campus, Tyler was actively involved in the Ag Ed Club and FarmHouse Fraternity, holding positions on both executive boards. Additionally, he had a campus job at the Career and Internship Services.

Tyler spent one year teaching at Hutchinson Public Schools before coming back to teach at his home high school, Eden Valley Watkins. He is currently teaching welding, woodworking, home construction, floral design, college agronomy, intro to agriculture, employability and careers class, and a work experience class. He also serves as the FFA Advisor for nearly 60 FFA members. Tyler's favorite part about his job is that no day is the same.

The classes may be the same, but there are always different groups of students, opportunities, successes, and obstacles. He also enjoys interacting with his students and building connections with them.

Reflecting on his time at the University of Minnesota, Tyler said his favorite memory was, "living in the same house or down the street from your closest friends." That experience allowed him to always be close to his friends and classmates with endless opportunities to study together and go on adventures.

His experiences at the University of Minnesota helped push Tyler outside of his comfort zone. "I was able to grow a lot academically and professionally. The new place away from home provided me an opportunity to grow, take courses, build my network, and meet new people through jobs and interviews."

As for his advice to current students, Tyler encourages students to stay connected with as many people as you can. "Create and maintain relationships whether with friends on campus, professionals in the industry, or professors. They will last you a lifetime and lead to job opportunities and internships in the future."

### Tyler's Favorites

*Book: Inside Out Coaching*

*Place on Campus: The Mall on East Bank*

*Hobbies: Running and training for races, house projects and renovations*



# MINNESOTA FFA STATE OFFICERS

***Each year, six college-age FFA members are selected to serve as Minnesota FFA State Officers. These students spend their year hosting conferences, developing workshops, and representing Minnesota FFA to members, stakeholders, and the public. We are proud that five 2021-2022 officers are CFANS students, let's get to know them a little better!***



## Wyatt Halverson | Vice President

*Freshman - Animal Science - Thief River Falls, Minnesota*

### **What will you miss most about being a state officer?**

I will, no doubt, miss facilitating and meeting students at schools and camp etc. Even in a facilitating role, I made friends with students that I met.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

I plan to enroll in the University of Minnesota's School of Veterinary Medicine.



## Baleigh Peterson | Sentinel

*Freshman - Agricultural Communication & Marketing - Gibbon, Minnesota*

### **What will you miss most about being a state officer?**

I think that I will miss most about being a state officer is the experiences I have been able to have with my teammates. Together, we have made countless memories traveling the state in a van for two weeks, flying to national convention, leading camps and conferences, meeting an abundance of FFA members, and hopefully making an impact in the organization. On top of that, they have given me a listening ear, encouraged me when I needed it, and have given me some of the best laughs I have ever had.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

I plan to graduate from UMN with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Communication & Marketing to then move back to my home area and find a job in that field. Since deciding on my major in high school, I have seen the importance of agricultural communication to consumers, but since getting to college, I have enjoyed learning about how ACM majors can work with farmers. Both interest me and I look forward to where my future takes me.



## Kyle Thomas | Treasurer

*Freshman - Applied Economics, International Agriculture minor - Corcoran, Minnesota*

### **What will you miss most about being a state officer?**

I will miss the incredible opportunities that being a state officer has provided me with. I will miss wearing the blue jacket. However, I know that I will be able to still carry on my connections with my teammates, the members and supporters.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

IAs for my future, the path is still unknown. Even though I have a better idea of different fields I would want to go into thanks to my involvement in FFA, I still have a lot to learn and explore, and that is just going to take time to figure out by continuing to put myself out in the world. But for right now, I am focusing on exploring areas within agricultural policy and international agricultural operations.



## Nicole Koziolk | Secretary

*Freshman - Agricultural Communication & Marketing - Northfield, Minnesota*

### **What will you miss most about being a state officer?**

I will miss spending time with FFA members during camps, conferences, and chapter visits. I have loved learning about members' ambitions for their futures and learning about their chapters. Not every chapter is the same. I have learned and grown to appreciate the strength of our organization is rooted in our local chapters.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

To work in marketing for an agricultural company. I have a particular interest in product development and product branding but am also passionate about communicating with consumers. In a perfect world, I'd work for a locally based company that would allow me to live on or close to our family farm allowing me to remain involved in production agriculture.



## Anna Ridenour | Reporter

*Freshman - Animal Science (Pre-Vet Emphasis) - Dodge Center, Minnesota*

### **What will you miss most about being a state officer?**

There's so much that I'll miss about FFA state office. My best memories from the last year were from our State Leadership Conference, Traveling One-Day Conferences, National Convention, various regional events, and legislative visits. Talking to others about their passions and experiences reminds me how strong the agricultural community is, and assures me that the future of our industry is in good hands. The little moments, dancing with members, laughing with legislators, connecting with advisors and educators, and being with my team, will be what I miss most after our convention in April.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

After receiving my Bachelor's degree, I plan on attending veterinary school, (hopefully still in Minnesota!) to receive my Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. Afterwards, my main career goal is to serve a rural community as a mixed-animal veterinarian. In addition to that, I'd also be interested in working for the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, American Veterinary Medical Association, or any veterinary institution. I also hope to practice abroad in underserved agricultural communities, and to explore animal agriculture from a global perspective. Beyond my career, I'm excited to raise a family and remain active as an FFA alumni.

***Minnesota State FFA Officer Q and A  
continued on next page***

# MINNESOTA FFA STATE OFFICERS, CONTINUED

## *Continue getting to know the retiring 2021-2022 Minnesota State FFA Officers!*

### **What has been your favorite part of your state officer year?**

**Wyatt:** My favorite thing about being a state officer is taking advantage of this opportunity to teach as many people about the wonderful parts of this organization.

**Baleigh:** My favorite thing about being a state officer has hands-down been the connections I have made with agriculturalists, FFA members, adult leaders of the foundation and association, and of course, my five teammates.

**Kyle:** My favorite part about being a state officer is getting to connect with so many amazing people. The people that wear the blue jacket and those that support it have created one of the most important connections and memories in my life. Every place I go to, I get to meet someone new, and I get to learn their unique backgrounds and how they fit in within our community.

**Nicole:** My favorite part of being a state officer are the connections I have made throughout the year with members, industry professionals, alumni, and supporters. Each group has pushed me to grow and develop. I particularly enjoy chapter visits and getting to know the members. It is very rewarding to watch young members learn about the opportunities within the FFA Organization and to see them embark on their own personal journey through the FFA.

**Anna:** My favorite thing about serving as a state officer is having the opportunity to meet so many amazing and talented students and supporters. It's the people that make this organization as powerful as it is, and FFA members are some of the most respectful, compassionate, resilient, and professional individuals of our generation. Being able to create meaningful experiences and make connections with members is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I hope that I left a meaningful impact on those that I met. I also loved building such a strong connection with the other state officers, Emily, Wyatt, Nicole, Kyle, and Baleigh.

### **How has being at UMN influenced your year as an officer?**

**Wyatt:** Being at UMTC has been greatly beneficial as the majority of our events happen in the cities other than chapter activities.

**Baleigh:** Being at UMN has influenced my year by simply giving me a support system on campus. So many of my classmates are past or present FFA members and it is gladdening to see them encourage our team and even partake in some of our events and social media activities.

**Kyle:** Attending a large university has allowed me to continue to find support groups and people that I know have my back when I need help. I am so lucky to have several of my teammates here with me on campus as well which makes it easier for us to accomplish our tasks.

**Nicole:** Taking classes at the University of Minnesota while being a state officer gave me the support needed to successfully serve the Minnesota FFA Association while being a full-time student. The professors, CFANS professors in particular, take a genuine interest in state officer activities and provide the flexibility required to help us meet the demands of our crazy schedules. They understand that sometimes we will miss a class or possibly even a test for FFA activities and are very accommodating in helping us reschedule classroom requirements. Another important factor is the other students on St. Paul Campus. Many of them are, or were, FFA members and I can't put into words how valuable their friendship and support was to me. It's important to have good friends available to support you. Additionally, state staff offices on campus allowed me easy access to extra guidance when needed.

**Anna:** The University of Minnesota has been nothing but supportive during my year of service. The professors have been understanding of my circumstances, as I do have many commitments that I have to attend during the school day. There are also many FFA alumni on campus that have been so encouraging throughout the entire process. The passion for FFA and agriculture on campus has made my experience much more enjoyable and manageable.

### **How has FFA impacted your career path?**

**Wyatt:** I owe my career path fully to FFA and my ag teacher. I knew I wanted to work with animals, but it wasn't until I was immersed in FFA that I realized I could make it happen.

**Baleigh:** FFA has impacted my future career path by giving me the opportunity to develop skills that I will use in my future. Without my parents getting me started in 4-H and FFA, I may not have chosen agriculture as a future career, but I am so glad they did.

**Kyle:** FFA has totally changed my career path. Not growing up with a background in ag, a future within it was something that I had not thought of. Through my experiences in FFA, I have been able to continue to explore where my interests are and what I want to do in my future so that I can make a positive difference for others just like FFA has done for me.

**Nicole:** I can easily say FFA impacted my career path in every possible way! FFA helped me find my place within the agricultural industry and instilled a zeal for the mission of agriculture in me. Through my supervised agricultural experience, classroom instruction, and the prepared public speaking contest, I found my passion for communicating agricultural practices with consumers as well as innovating practices on my family's crop farm.



**Anna:** I've always had a love for animals, but the combination of classroom experience, my Supervised Agricultural Experience, and the Career and Leadership Development Events allowed me to explore animal science. In addition to those three areas, I've attended agricultural conferences and volunteered with events on the local and state level, which has given me further experience with animals and production agriculture. Without the ability to participate in those areas, I never would've gained the knowledge, transferable skills, or experiences that have now prepared me to be successful in my future career. I also have had the opportunity to meet others in the animal science career area, and explore what my future could have in store.

### **What is your favorite thing about being a student at UMN?**

**Wyatt:** The University of Minnesota is an expansive research facility, but it creates a homey feel and culture that I really have come to love. The opportunities are nearly endless, and I am excited for my future here.

**Baleigh:** My favorite part about being a UMN student is being part of CFANS and living on the St. Paul campus. Before I came here, I was nervous about how big the U is, but because I am part of CFANS and live on the St. Paul campus, it feels so much smaller. We have created such a tight-knit community because many of us have a passion for agriculture and almost everyone gets involved in clubs on campus.

**Kyle:** My favorite part of being a UMN student is the incredible diversity of opportunities, from the student groups, the people, and being a part of one of the nation's premier collegiate athletic conferences in the Big 10, I have had so much fun in my time so far at the U. You can often catch me at one of many sports events during every season.

**Nicole:** I have loved every part of being a Golden Gopher, but what I enjoy the most is the community that comes along with St. Paul campus. I truly feel supported by professors, friends, and classmates, whether that be on campus or not. I believe the friends I've made on campus will be life-long friends and believe that is possible because we all have a lot in common.

**Anna:** My favorite part of being a UMN is being a part of the St. Paul campus community. I feel at home being on a campus of less than a thousand students, but still have access to a world-class education. Most of all, the people here create an atmosphere of belonging. Not only do they share a love for agriculture and leadership, but they care about me as an individual. It's nice to know that we all have each other's back.



# MINNESOTA FFA STATE CONVENTION



The organization now has over 15,000 student members, the highest number since the 1980s. The 93rd Convention had the theme Thrive. Minnesota FFA was able to celebrate the accomplishments of students who have excelled in leadership, career exploration, science, community involvement and agriculture experiences.



***More than 4,000 FFA members, teachers, adult supporters and sponsors gathered April 24-26 for the first time in nearly three years, resuming a tradition that was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.***



The inaugural presentation of the Mary Buschette Friend of FFA Award took place during one of the general sessions. Mary works at the University of Minnesota as the CFANS Director of Alumni & Constituent Relations. Thank you for all you do, Mary!

The Keynote Speaker of the 93rd Minnesota FFA State Convention was PJ Fleck, head coach of the University of Minnesota football team. He gave his keynote address to FFA members during the Tuesday morning session. Thank you Coach Fleck for your words of wisdom and encouragement!

## CONGRATULATIONS, 2022-2023 MINNESOTA FFA STATE OFFICERS!



**Makenzie Alberts**  
*Secretary*



**Natalie Beckendorf**  
*Vice President*



**Noah Erickson**  
*Sentinel*



**Caidyn Johnson**  
*Reporter*



**Emma Kuball**  
*President*



**Brynn Lozinski**  
*Treasurer*

At the 2022 Minnesota FFA State Convention, six new officers were elected to lead the organization through the next year. The AECM Program offers our congratulations to the new officers, and special recognition to the two who will be attending the University of Minnesota next year!

- Noah Erickson, Sentinel - Morris, Minnesota
- Caidyn Johnson, Reporter - Fertile-Beltrami, Minnesota





## DON AND WENDY NICKEL

Throughout the years, Don and Wendy Nickel have found joy in their combined love of agriculture and education and now they're experiencing the joy of giving back.

With a childhood spent growing up on a farm, both Don and Wendy were greatly involved with agriculture. Don grew up on his family's diversified crop farm in Worthington, Minnesota. They grew corn, soybeans, and oats and raised cattle, hogs, and chickens. His family still has the farm to this day.



Wendy had a similar childhood background being raised on her family's dairy and hog farm in Delavan, Minnesota. In addition to livestock, her dad and brothers farmed cropland of corn and soybeans. 4-H was very important to Don and Wendy growing up, and Wendy is a volunteer at the Faribault County fair and involved in 4-H judging.

Don spent his first two years of college at Worthington Community College. While there, he was influenced by longtime family friend and advisor, Walter Larson, to look into agricultural education. After a county extension agent came to speak in his freshman Intro to Ag class, Don approached Walt about a future in agricultural education. He was drawn to the opportunities it provided and the wide range of different areas it covered.

For his last two years of school, Don transferred to the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities to obtain a degree in Agricultural Education. Following graduation, Don taught agricultural education for two years at Wells-Easton High School in Wells, Minnesota. He then worked at Production Credit Association for 5 years and later at Kiester State Bank for 35 years. Working in ag finance, Don was able to help farmers receive agricultural loans for production and farmland.

Meanwhile, Wendy completed her degree in Home Economics at Minnesota State University - Mankato. Wendy said that her 4-H background growing up led to her decision to pursue a career in home economics. Upon graduation, Wendy taught home economics classes at United South Central Public Schools. In addition to teaching, Wendy has been certified as a Master Gardener with University of Minnesota Extension and loves the chance to teach others about gardening.

Now, Don and Wendy reside in Kiester, Minnesota. As they look ahead to the future, they want to give back to organizations and institutions they benefited from. Wendy and Don do not have any children, so they designated a portion of their estate to go to education. In addition to the University of Minnesota AECM program, some of their estate will go to 4-H, agricultural education, and education at Minnesota State University - Mankato.

Reflecting on his time at the University of Minnesota, Don said it exposed him to different people and new concepts. An old friend used to tell him, "You have to get out beyond I-90." This saying proved to be true for Don as he discovered the plethora of opportunities at the University of Minnesota. His time there allowed him to meet new people, expand his knowledge, and most importantly, the opportunity to advance.

**Article continued on next page**

### Don and Wendy's Favorites

#### **Hobbies:**

- Don: hunting and fishing
- Wendy: sewing, hand stitching, outdoor and indoor gardening

#### **Books:**

- Don: *Shadows Reel* by C.J. Box
- Wendy: *Mystery* and John Sandford books

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED

As for his advice to current University of Minnesota students for their future, "You have to be open to learning the rest of your life." He went on, "Things are always changing and you need to learn how to adapt. Work hard and give it your best effort. Be sure to utilize the education you obtain and take advantage of opportunities at the University of Minnesota to expand your horizons." He said that the one regret he has is not taking advantage of more college experiences that were available to him while he was in school.

Wendy and Don said they believe in the next generation of Agricultural Educators and Communicators because of their own backgrounds in education. "We have a strong belief in education and really believe it is a way for people to get ahead in life and improve the world."

For others who are thinking about leaving an estate gift, Don and Wendy encourage them to think about it and take their time. "It is a personal decision and you want to be very comfortable with it." Don and Wendy want their estate to help future generations. With ties to the University of Minnesota and 4-H backgrounds, they want to give back and support leadership and opportunities for students for years to come.



We express our deepest gratitude to the Nickels for the generous donation and support of AECM students!

### Support for AECM Beyond Your Lifetime

Have you considered a future gift to the Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing program through a bequest or beneficiary designation? Contact our University of Minnesota Foundation planned giving representative, Lynn Praska, at (612) 624-4158 or [lpraska@umn.edu](mailto:lpraska@umn.edu) for information on ways to give and/or to inform us of your future gift for AECM. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Are you interested in supporting AECM students?

When you give to the University of Minnesota Agricultural Education, Communication & Marketing, you are maintaining and enriching our programs and helping to recruit and retain students in both our majors. Donations are used to support fellowships and scholarships, outreach programs, special research, Minnesota Teacher Induction Program (TIP) and activities that enhance the learning experiences for our students. Your gifts, in any amount, truly make a difference for our students, faculty, and staff! Learn more about our program in our [AECM Case Statement](#) (PDF).



Scan the QR code above to visit our giving page to learn more!



We recently began a new AECM Undergraduate Scholarship fund to help support our Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communication & Marketing students. The information can also be found at: [\*\*z.umn.edu/aecm\\_scholarship\\_fund\*\*](https://z.umn.edu/aecm_scholarship_fund)

*Your gifts, in any amount, truly make a difference for our students, faculty, and staff!*



# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing program, congratulations on completing your degree at the University of Minnesota! We are so proud to honor your academic and personal achievements!

We are extremely proud of you, and grateful we've had the privilege to be a part of your academic journey in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.



***Congratulations and best wishes to our 2021-2022 graduating students with a degree in Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing at the University of Minnesota!***

## Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education or Agricultural Communication & Marketing

**Anna Buckentine  
Aleesha Gilbertson  
Amelia Hayden  
Maxwell Johnson  
Kaiya Novacek  
Lauren Funk  
Emily Hansen  
Ellen Harth  
Connor Holthaus  
Michael Kanne**

**Megan Kavanagh  
Catera Keeler  
Emma Nelson  
Katrina Paulson  
Bailey Ruen  
Valerie Sauder  
Kristine Schechinger  
Matthew Strobel  
William Teachout  
Suzanna Viau**



## Master of Science in Agricultural Education

**Tamara Berger**

# MINNESOTA ROYAL 2022



Minnesota Royal is a 106-year old celebration of agriculture at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. It is a week long event that involves students and faculty participating in various events.

During this week, many AECM students competed with their organizations in events that included Showmanship, Skits, Milk Maid, and the Royal Run. We are so proud of our students and their involvement on campus!



## STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected to the latest news and updates by following us on social media and check out our blog at [z.umn.edu/AECMblogsite](https://z.umn.edu/AECMblogsite)



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## MEET THE EDITOR

*This semester, an Agricultural Education, Communication and Marketing student worker wrote and edited this edition of The Enthusiast newsletter.*



*Brenna Connelly*

Hi! My name is Brenna Connelly, and I am a junior studying Agricultural Communication & Marketing and Animal Science. I grew up on a small farm in Byron, Minnesota and have always had a passion for agriculture and communicating with others. On campus, I am involved in Beta of Clovia Sorority, the Gopher Dairy Club, AECM Club, Block and Bridle, and the MN Royal executive team. Most recently, I served as the 67th Princess Kay of the Milky Way, the goodwill ambassador for Minnesota dairy famers. In my free time, I love spending time with family and friends, hiking, and traveling.

*"I chose the University of Minnesota and the AECM program because of the opportunities, connections, and networking they have to offer. I love the tight-knit community of the St. Paul Campus and knew it was something I wanted to be a part of! I am grateful for the opportunity to work for the AECM program and have learned valuable skills that I can use in my future profession. I look forward to returning in the fall!"*