

Minnesota's AgEd Advocate



MAELC

Spring 2015

Kari Schwab, Editor

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Martin County Farm Business Management Wins Award

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Martin County Farm Business Management received a prestigious award at the National Association of Agricultural Educators annual convention.



Agricultural Education Internship

Minnesota will be offering a brand-new, Agricultural Education Summer Internship as part of a State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program initiative. Four students majoring in Agricultural Education will be participating in the program and have been paired with a current agriculture teacher for the summer.

The purpose of the Summer Agricultural Education Internship is to spark an interest in current undergraduate students to consider entering the teaching profession, and to provide Agricultural Education students hands-on experience as an agriculture teacher. The internship will include all aspects of the three-circle educational model, including classroom instruction, FFA, and experiential learning.

The internship will last 10 weeks, running from June 8-August 14, 2015. One week of the summer will be spent at the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) summer conference, providing opportunities for professional development and networking. The culmination of the internship will be the Agricultural Education Summer Immersion Camp, where interns will assist with the student learning activities for the camp attendees.

This pilot internship was made possible by a generous donation from AgriBank.

(Story continued on back page)

AgriBank

Upcoming Events

MAELC Board Meeting - June 10th
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Southwest Minnesota State University (Marshall, MN)

Sarah Dornink
Executive Director

Co-Chairs
Dan Sparks
State Senator

Rod Hamilton
State Representative

Board Members
Paul Anderson
State Representative

Brian Buhr
College of Food, Agricultural and
Natural Resource Sciences - U of MN

Kevin Dahlman
Governor's Appointment

Gary Dahms
State Senator

Susan Geib
Minnesota Private Colleges Council

Brad Greiman
Agricultural Education - U of MN

Paul Hansen
FFA Foundation

Mary Hoffmann
President, MAAE

Lyle Koenen
State Senator

Joel Larsen
Minnesota Department of Education

Larry Lundblad
Minnesota State Colleges
and Universities (MnSCU)

Jeanne Poppe
State Representative

Charlie Poster
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Zach Rada
President-Elect, MAAE

Matthew Wolle
Governor's Appointment

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Assistant**
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From the Desk of Sarah Dornink MAELC Executive Director

Last fall, we attended the Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) conference and it immediately became clear that we still have a lot of work to do communicating about agricultural education. As I was standing in line for a muffin and juice, a woman from Wayzata was across the table looking questioningly at my name tag. She asked, "Agriculture? Why are you here?" I of course launched into my elevator speech about Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource (AFNR) Education and she replied, "There are that many students that want to go back to the land?" I quickly realized I needed to start at the most basic level; there are careers in agriculture besides production farming, and they are right here in the metro area.

"We're preaching to the choir." How many times have we heard this expression in Agricultural Education? This year, MAELC committed to connecting with people outside of our typical audience. Whether it was presenting a workshop, hosting a booth or attending the conference, we have been promoting the messages of Agricultural Education to others. Besides AMSD, we also attended conferences for the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals, Minnesota School Counselors Association, the Minnesota School Board Association, Minnesota Association of Career and Technical Administrators, and CTE Works.

At every conference, we would find people that had no idea we even had AFNR in our high schools. However, on a positive note, we had others that were interested in starting a new AFNR program or investing and improving upon the one they already have established.

**Whether statewide or in your local community,
now is the time to build a positive image for
agricultural education.**

As some of you read this, I know you are asking, "But what about the teacher shortage? How can we add programs when we cannot find teachers for the ones we have?" I agree that we need to continue to address this critical issue, but we must remain vigilant in promoting and expanding our programs.

Career and Technical Education, which AFNR is a part of, is making a strong comeback in our educational system. Whether statewide or in your local community, now is the time to build a positive image for agricultural education. Please know MAELC is a resource for you, and we will continue to provide leadership in promoting and expanding agricultural education opportunities in our state.



MAELC at the Capitol

MAELC was busy during this past legislative session assisting with and participating in several meetings and activities to help educate legislators and the general public about the importance of agricultural education. Take a look at some of our highlights!

Agricultural Education Legislative Breakfast



For the second year, MAELC, the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE), and the Minnesota FFA hosted an Agricultural Education Legislative Breakfast. This year's breakfast was held on February 26 at the Best Western-Capitol Ridge in St. Paul, with 25 legislators and over 50 students, teachers, and guests attending the breakfast meeting.

The agenda included several speakers, covering agricultural education at all levels in Minnesota. MAELC Executive Director, Sarah Dornink, along with MAAE President and Sleepy Eye agricultural instructor, Mary Hoffmann, gave a welcome to start the morning program.

Agriculture teachers, Stacy Fritz of Chatfield High School and Al Stemper of Foley High School provided an overview of two of the components of the three-circle model used in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource (AFNR) education: classroom instruction and experiential learning (Supervised Agricultural Experience). Jack Roessler, President of the Minnesota FFA Association, talked about the FFA component of the model.

Curt Yoose of Ridgewater College spoke about post-secondary agricultural education and Pam Uhlenkamp of South Central College provided an overview of Farm Business Management.

Legislative Hearings

Sarah Dornink was asked to testify about MAELC and Agricultural Education at the February 24 House Agriculture Finance Committee. Dornink also had the opportunity to testify at the Senate Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development Committee on January 12 in conjunction with FFA Agricultural Policy Experience activities.

Thank you to the following instructors and students who also testified throughout the legislative session:

- Mike Miron (Forest Lake HS)
- Lavyne Rada (MN FFA)
- Zach Rada (Ridgewater College FBM)
- Eric Sawatzke (Dassel-Cokato HS)
- Amber Seibert (Fairmont HS)
- Pam Uhlenkamp (South Central College FBM)
- Brady Wulf (MN FFA State Officer) & other FFA Members



FFA Agricultural Policy Experience

Twenty-seven FFA members from throughout Minnesota participated in the Minnesota FFA Agricultural Policy Experience, January 12-13, 2015. This fourth annual event encouraged and challenged students to expand on their current knowledge of agricultural issues and policy, and become a more informed and active leader in their schools and communities.



On Monday night of the conference, the students hosted a reception and had the opportunity to meet with legislators. The reception was very well attended, with almost 30 legislators and over 20 guests in attendance, which was an increase over the past year's conference.

MAELC is proud to support this conference as a member of the planning committee and by assisting with the legislative reception.

FFA Day at the Capitol

In its eighteenth year of success, Minnesota FFA Day at the Capitol was held on February 26, 2015. This day is a chance for students to meet their legislators, discuss vital issues surrounding agricultural education, and to see state government in action. Each year, MAELC staff takes the State FFA Officers around the Capitol for various meetings with agriculture and education legislative leaders.

ACTE National Policy Seminar

Sarah Dornink and Zach Rada, President-Elect of MAAE, attended the Association for Career and Technical Education National Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. from March 2-4, 2015.





MAELC Awards Over \$61,000 in Grants

This past fall, MAELC awarded over \$61,000 in Strategic Initiative grants to Minnesota high schools, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations that work to improve agricultural education in the state.

Institution	Amount	Project Description
AgCentric - Center of Excellence in Agriculture	\$5,000	Professional Excellence Program (PEP) for early career Farm Business Management
Inver Hills Community College Foundation	\$13,340	A3 for Agricultural Science
MN Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE)	\$5,090	Resources for Professional Learning (RPL) Program
Meeker County Agriculture Society	\$6,175	Little Hands in Agriculture
Minnesota FFA Association	\$7,000	Executive Secretary Transition
Nicollet High School	\$2,700	Food Chemistry Lab Equipment & Supplies
North Park Elementary (Fridley)	\$3,450	STEAM & Agriculture Literacy in the North Park Elementary School Garden
Pierz Healy High School	\$2,000	Understanding GIS and GPS
Rockford High School	\$9,968	A C.A.S.E. for Advancement in Agriscience
UMN Agricultural Education	\$6,529	Continuing Professional Development for Agricultural Education Teachers



MAELC Board Members Thank You & Welcome

Thank You

We would like to express our gratitude to Mike Dove, Representative Tim Faust, and ADawn Melbye for their years of service on the MAELC board. Their input and thoughtfulness about the future of agricultural education in Minnesota is greatly appreciated by all.

Welcome



Susan Geib is a professor of global marketing, cross-cultural management, and sales/marketing/fundraising for non-profits at Concordia College's Offutt School of Business. She is representing the Minnesota Private Colleges Council.

She has much experience in marketing and international business, and has also served as Executive Director of the North Dakota Trade Office.

Susan earned a bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of North Dakota, a master's degree from Loyola University in Chicago and post-graduate study in modern literature at Oxford University.



Paul Hansen serves as the Minnesota FFA Foundation representative. He is originally from Iowa and obtained his degree in Agricultural Education from Iowa State University. Upon graduation he started working for Cargill as a commodity merchant and has worked

in various business and leadership development roles throughout his career. Paul began a new position with Land O'Lakes at the end of May as a Manager of Leadership Development.



Zach Rada is a Farm Business Management Instructor at Ridgewater College in Willmar, where he thoroughly enjoys working with farm families. He grew in South Dakota on a beef cow, hog, and crop farm. Zach graduated from South Dakota State University with

an Agricultural Education degree. Zach is a representative of MAAE.

Rep. Paul Anderson

Welcome back to Rep. Paul Anderson. He previously served on the MAELC board from 2011-2013, and will serve again from 2015-2017 as the House Education Committee representative.



Agricultural Education Summer Immersion Camp



August 11-13, 2015 will mark the first-ever Agricultural Education Summer Immersion Camp, intended for high school students interested in agricultural education to learn more about the teaching profession. The camp will be held at La Quinta Inn and Suites in Bloomington. Registration is open until July 20, 2015.

The idea for the camp came out of discussions as a part of the State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program. STAR is an initiative of the National Teach Ag Campaign, with Minnesota being one of the original pilot states. MAELC is one of the collaborators for the camp, along with the two Centers of Excellence for Agriculture, which include AgCentric and the Southern Minnesota Center of Agriculture.



"We celebrate the opportunity to support people learning about food, agricultural careers, and the needs in our world to be the best versions of ourselves we can be. Ag Educators do this every day!" said Brad Schloesser, director of the Southern Minnesota Center of Agriculture.

The Agricultural Education Summer Immersion Camp strives to offer an experience in agricultural education and promote the rewards it offers as a career. Keith Olander, director of AgCentric, stated "As the 'Teach Ag' campaign points out, we are seriously short of entry-level educators in many areas of our state and nation. This camp is a piece of the puzzle in promoting teaching agricultural education, and we hope it will be a catalyst for students to decide on teaching as a career."



Cost to attend the camp is \$75; however that cost will be reimbursed to students once they complete the camp. The ability to essentially offer a free three-day camp is made possible by the support from the Centers of Excellence and a grant from MAELC. Applications can be found at www.mn.gov/maelc/initiatives.html.

New Faces in Minnesota Agricultural Education

Southwest State University

Tracy Fink was named the new Director of Marketing, Recruitment and Outreach for Agricultural Programs at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) in February. In her role, she will promote and recruit for the new Agricultural Education degree at SMSU, and the four other agriculture degrees offered at the university.

Tracy grew up on a family farm near Lanesboro, Minnesota and pursued a degree in Animal and Plant Systems from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She also holds a master's in Counseling and Human Resource Development from South Dakota State University. Tracy is a past state FFA President and a National 4-H Congress winner in the dairy science division.

Previously, Tracy has worked as a recruiter and held several positions at the Schwan Food Company.

In 2014, SMSU received a Common Fund grant from MAELC to help start the new position.



University of Minnesota



Sarah Lindholm is the new Recruiter and Academic Advisor for the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Education Department.

Sarah joins the department from the University of Minnesota-College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) Admissions team where she was a Freshman Admissions Counselor.

Sarah has worked closely with CFANS and agricultural education students, attending the National FFA Convention for the past three years to exhibit at the Career Fair. She will also be taking over as the Advisor for the Agricultural Education Club next fall.

MAELC Awards Nearly \$36,000 in Scholarships

MAELC is helping students achieve their collegiate goals by awarding nearly \$36,000 in scholarships to first-year, continuing education, and graduate students studying Agricultural Education. Over the past sixteen years, MAELC has awarded nearly \$470,000 in scholarships to Agricultural Education students.

Freshman Awardees

Name	Amount	High School
Abigail Donkers	\$1,000	Kenyon-Wanamingo
Paige Hildebrandt	\$750	Waseca
Anna Johnson	\$1,000	Sebeka
Winona Johnson	\$1,000	AFSA
Morgan Krause	\$1,000	Buffalo
Haely Leiding	\$1,000	Lanesboro
Kayla Leiding	\$1,000	Lanesboro
Maggie Mills	\$1,000	Goodhue
Austin Nelson	\$750	Grand Rapids
Joe Ramstad	\$1,000	Forest Lake
Caleb Rempel	\$1,000	Mountain Lake
Audrey Schleper	\$1,000	Upsala
Adam Stervermer	\$1,000	United South Central
Ellyn Swanson	\$750	Martin County West

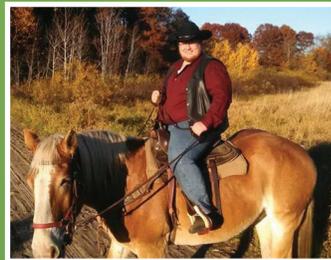
Continuing Education Awardees

Name	Amount	Hometown
Katherine Anderson	\$1,250	Glenwood
Andrea Clement	\$2,000	Spring Valley
Ethan Dado	\$1,000	Amery, WI
Mariah Daninger	\$1,000	Forest Lake
Michaela Gallup	\$1,500	Dassel
Madison Giese	\$750	Grand Rapids
Jessica Junczewski	\$2,000	Dassel
Vinz Karl	\$2,000	Arlington
Tiffany Vue	\$2,000	Wyoming
Savannah Zippel	\$1,500	Le Sueur

M. Ed. Initial Licensure Awardee

Name	Amount	Hometown
Elizabeth Eastep	\$7,000	Yanceyville, NC

Student Teacher Spotlight Nathan Anderson



Background Information:
Senior majoring in Agricultural Education from Appleton, Minnesota.

UMN Activities/Offices:
While at University of Minnesota-Crookston, I was

a member of the Collegiate FFA, was an Agarama royalty candidate, served as choir vice president, was a Community Adviser for McCall Hall, and was heavily involved in the drama department.

Favorite course taken while in college:

My favorite course that I have taken was Intro to Animal Science with ADawn Melbye at UMC.

Highlight of College:

The highlight for me was being placed at an awesome location for student teaching - Sibley East.

Why did you go into Agricultural Education?

I went into Agricultural Education because I believe in the future of agriculture. I want to educate future generations where their food and clothes come from. Too many people today are not aware of what all goes into the production of their food, and I want to help change that.

How was your experience student teaching?

Student teaching was great! I was placed at Sibley East and worked with Mr. Eppen and Mr. Uhlenkamp. I really learned more during that experience than during the rest of my college career.

What did you discover you love about it and what could you live without?

I found that I love when you can see the light bulb come on in a difficult student. It is really great to know that you were able to get through to them. I do not know if I really found anything I could live without, I mean yes there is always politics, but that is with any job. I think that the good things far outweigh anything that I may want to do without.

Future plans after graduation?

My plans after graduation are to teach agriculture at Breckenridge High School. I am also getting married this upcoming winter, so I have a lot to look forward to in my future!

Martin County Farm Business Management

NAAE Outstanding Post-Secondary/Adult Agricultural Education Program



The Martin County Farm Business Management Program in the Agriculture Department at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota was awarded the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Outstanding Postsecondary/ Adult Agricultural Education Program Award at the annual convention held in Nashville, Tennessee this past November. They were one of only six programs nationwide that received this award.

Instructors Bob Roesler, Kent Janssen, and Justin Williamson utilize a team approach and help their students reach family and business goals by teaching them a variety of improved management practices. Between these three, they have 83 years of combined education experience in their community and have over 160 farm operations enrolled in the program, with students ranging in age from their twenties to mid-eighties.

As Farm Business Management Instructors, they have the opportunity to take the theory and knowledge-based teaching of a college instructor and put that to work in a real-life learning situation. Their ultimate experiential learning goal for the students is to use the information they are taught to gather information and make decisions for their future.



Students are offered three different certificate programs - Essentials, Applications, and Advanced. Each certificate can be accomplished in two years. In the Essentials certificate track, students build a foundation for successful financial management of their farm business through basic accounting skills and goal setting. The Applications certificate track teaches students accounting skills needed to record and evaluate data related to the profitability and longevity of their business. Students who choose the Advanced certificate track learn about key factors in farm business management for the long term: risk management, strategic planning and business plan development.

For the last two years, the students in the Farm Business Management program have partnered with other groups at Minnesota West Community and Technical College to host a one day educational event called "Spring Break for Farmers." Farmers throughout southwest Minnesota are invited for a day of speakers and workshops. This event has brought in more than 100 area farmers each year.

The FBM program in Martin County has taken decades of cooperation and hard work to develop. The vision and goals set for the program have served the program well over the years. The tactics that the instructors employ to continue to grow the program and make it relevant to students have been in continuous change, however the constant over the years has been providing an FBM program which meets the needs of individual farm families.

Congratulations to Bob, Kent, and Justin for being recognized for their hard work and dedication to their students and to the Farm Business Management profession!

Congratulations to the MAELC Board members who received recognition at the 2015 State FFA Convention for their service and contribution to agricultural education!

Senator Gary Dahms was inducted into the FFA Hall of Fame



Rep. Paul Anderson, Mary Hoffmann, Rep. Jeanne Poppe, and Senator Dan Sparks (not pictured) received the Honorary Minnesota State FFA Degree

Agricultural Education Internship (continued)

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities students Traci Block, Michaela Gallup, and Jack Roessler along with University of Minnesota-Crookston student, Christina Smith, were selected for the Agricultural Education Summer Internship.

Traci has been placed with Mr. Tim Uhlenkamp at Sibley-East High School, Michaela will work with Ms. Becky Haddad at Glencoe-Silver Lake, Jack is paired with Ms. Mary Hoffmann at Sleepy Eye, and Christina will be working with Mr. Shawn Linder at Grand Rapids.

Paul Aarsvold, agriculture teacher at Plainview-Elgin-Millville, will be coordinating the internship. Paul has been working hard to develop goals and expectations with deliverables that each intern-teacher pair should meet. Some of the activities include developing promotional materials for local community and program use, developing or improving an activity for the local program to engage with the community, and writing curriculum.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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