

Spring 2020



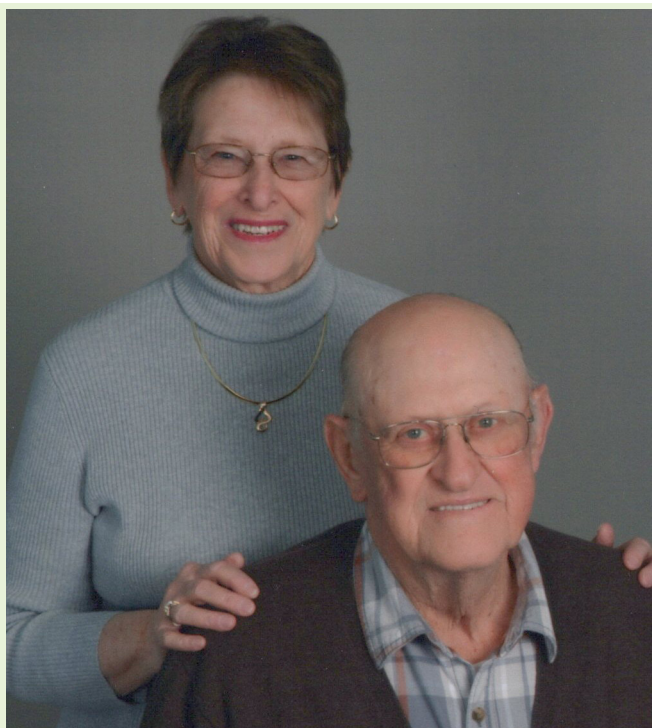
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2020 NOYF WINNERS - The four National Outstanding Young Farmers for 2020 are (from left) Brandon and Ashley Bonk of Magnolia, Delaware; Doug and Maria Bichler of Linton, North Dakota; Awards Host Tom Steever; Michael and Mary Beth Jackson of Oskaloosa, Iowa; and Will and Heather Cabe of Carnesville, Georgia.



Pat & Jerry Barnes Member of Distinction Award presented

The Pat and Jerry Barnes Member of Distinction Award is a legacy award for the OFA is made possible through the hard work and dedication of Pat and Jerry Barnes. This distinction is awarded to any OFA members who have shown exemplary involvement to the overall betterment of the OFA and its programs. Receiving the award this year were David and Bernie Schiver (pictured left).





Finalists for the National Outstanding Young Farmers award include (from left) Adam and Chrissy Seibel of Wisconsin; Stuart and Tracy Goble of Illinois; Matthew and Jennifer Lansford of New Mexico; Russel and Karli Schiermeier of Idaho; Brandon and Ashley Bonk of Delaware; Brooks and Heather Barnes of North Carolina; Ned and Olga Gaine of New Jersey; Michael and Mary Beth Jackson of Iowa; Doug and Maria Bichler of North Dakota; and Will and Heather Cabe of Georgia.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greg and Carmen Bendixson (ND 2002)
bendixsn@nccray.com

OFA coordinators will be changing

Greetings from Northwest North Dakota. We had a pretty decent winter compared to most. We are busy finishing up with spring work and ready for the summer. We are looking forward to hopefully a normal growing season and maybe sneak out a little profit.

We really enjoyed the OFA Congress in Connecticut. The regional committee did a sensational job all around. Their fundraising efforts were off the charts, the tour stops were all wonderful, and the venue itself was a fantastic facility. Congratulations to all involved from the Northeast for a job well done.

There are several people involved that get very little recognition for all their work done throughout the year, starting with our media coordinator Erin Slivka, who puts in many hours getting all our materials done with a first class, very professional job. Rich and Debbie Norz, our candidate coordinators work tirelessly from the beginning of the nomination process, through the judging process, all the way through to the final awards

presentation, thanks again for another great job. Sharon Page has a very large job. It starts more than two years before a Congress with selecting a venue, then putting together all the logistics and infinite amount of details to produce the final product that we all get to enjoy. Sharon does a lot of travel to various conventions promoting our program throughout the year, she is in her final year in this position and will be missed, thanks Sharon.

We will have some changes coming up. Rich and Debbie will be taking over Sharon's position after the Wisconsin Congress, big shoes to fill, but we know they are up to it. The candidate position is now transitioning to Mary and Marlan Johnson. As we all know they are very passionate about our program, and we know that they will do everything necessary to help our program continue to be the elite recognition program in the country.

We are looking forward to the 2021 Wisconsin Congress, it looks like the regional



committee has put together another fine event in Appleton, and we are looking forward to visiting the area next February and seeing all our OFA friends again. It is never too early to search out young farmers to nominate for next year, the first round of paperwork is due August 1st, but the earlier the better. I encourage you to ask around, use your county agent for support, or look outside your area for someone you think deserves some resignation for their accomplishments.

I have enjoyed my time being involved with the OFA board and would like to thank the rest of our team, the Birchens, Thomsons, and Stapletons that we learned the ropes from, and the Kimmels and Hartmans who we lean on now to help us through this process. Once again thanks to all, and look forward to 2021 Appleton next February.



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Andrew & Erin Kimmel (PA 2007)
ackimmel@windstream.net



Supporting the OFA makes future events possible

Greetings from western Pennsylvania; we would first like to share our thanks and gratitude to the Eastern region for hosting us in Westbrook, CT at the Water's Edge Resort in February. What a beautiful resort, everything was wonderful. The tours were excellent, thank you to all who shared their operations with us. I am sure there are lots of stories and pictures of cider presses, wine, orchids and hemp being shared across the country.

As we prepare for the 2021 congress in Appleton, WI, there is much planning and preparing to be done. I know the eastern Midwest is already hard at work. We rely on the region to find great tours and fund raise for special treats that highlight their region.

We continue to ask for your support in many ways. At the annual meeting we raised over three thousand dollars with the hundred-dollar challenge. This money is earmarked to offset the registration fees of this year's class for next year's congress. This helps encourage the class to come back and sit in the audience and relax and watch next year's finalist while getting to know all the OFA alumni better.

The Spirit of Giving is another way that you can support the OFA in making sure that your experience at congress is the best it can be. The spirit of giving monies

help provide the extra things like shuttles to and from the airport, snacks and drinks in the hospital room, and all the extra things that make our congresses so special. We want to thank everyone who has given to the spirit of giving.

The last thing I would like you to consider is a one time donation to the OFA Foundation, which was set up several years ago to help the OFA make sure the program is able to support itself in the future. We all know how important the NOYF program is to every one of us. Some of us have not missed a congress since being a finalist, others just a few. Please help us make sure the OFA can carry on

forever. Please help us continue to honor young men and women in agriculture though the NOYF program. We are truly grateful for all our alumni support and our sponsors, especially John Deere. John Deere has supported the NOYF program for over fifty years.

If you would like to make any kind of donation or pay your lifetime dues, please send them to our treasurer: Don and Cheryl Hartman, 6495 Highway 418 SW Deming NM 88030.

Thank you for your support, and we are looking forward to seeing you in Appleton, WI in 2021!



Dues and Donations

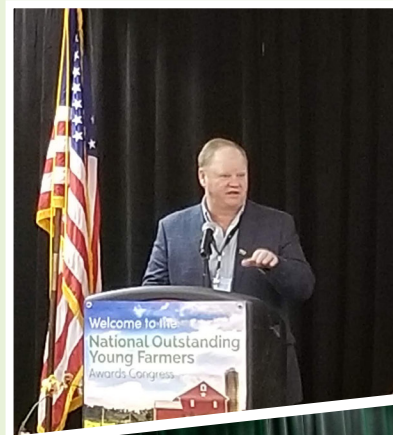
- ☐ Annual Dues: \$25
- ☐ Lifetime Dues: \$250
- ☐ \$100 Challenge: \$100
- ☐ Spirit of Giving: \$_____
- ☐ OFA Foundation: \$_____

Submit to: Don & Cheryl Hartman
6495 HWY 418 SW
Deming, NM 88030

Connecticut 2020

NOYE

National Outstanding Young Farmers





NOYE
National Outstanding Young Farmers
Connecticut 2020

OFA SPIRIT OF GIVING



OFA is a 501(c) 3 Tax Deductible Non-Profit Organization.

OFA DONOR FUND

Buck Teeter	1975	TN
ONEOK	2017	ND
Jack & Mary Lou Thomson Foundation	1955	CA
John & Delores Brown	1965	FL
Wisner H Buckbee	1965	NY

PLATINUM \$5000+

Joe Gambini & Lois Armstrong	1965	CA
Gerald Barnes & Neoma Loehr	1970	OR

DIAMOND \$1000+

Kevin & Sharon Page	1991	MI
Dana & Julie Stapleton	2002	SD
Marlan & Mary Johnson	1989	NE
Rod & Janelle Holth	Honary	ND
Russ & Marilyn Rosenboom	1972	IL
Dave & Jeanne Endres	2001	WI
Ben & Kathryn Littlepage	1965	LA
Rich and Debbie Norz	2010	NJ
TIM & Sara Sullivan	2005	MN
Greg & Carmen Bendixson	2002	ND
David & Bernie Shriver	1970	IL
Joe & Ida DeFrancesco	2016	CT
Ralph & Cleo Thompson	1970	ND
John & Marge Walchli	1969	OR
Andy & Hilde Burger	1966	DE
Ken & Audrey Mason	1970	SD
Robert & Roberta Call	1960	NY
Ken & Marilyn Bush	1966	IL
Robert Sakata	1956	CO
Bob & Ella Mae Wade	1969	KY
John & Gail Kautz	1966	CA
Dan & Sheila White	1970	TX
Kevin & Krissy Albert	2005	NE
Don and Cheryl Hartman	2006	NM

GOLD \$500+

Joe Geremia	2011	CT
Bill Richards	1967	OH
Lloyd & Daphnie Holterman	1994	WI
Rod & Mary Birchen	1993	IL
Scott & Peggy Hildebrandt	2002	MN
Willard & Ruth Pederson	1967	ND
Memory of Pat Barnes (Class of 07)	2007	
Willard & Pat Hennings	1965	WA
Eric & Marlene Haberer	1972	KS
Max & Connie Peterson	1974	IL
Bryce & Cheryl Chamberlain	1982	IL
Richard & Juanalee Alder	1966	NE
Sandy & Peggy Luderman	1982	MN
Dale & Joanna Koester	1959	ID
Mike & Sandy Hennenfent	1981	IL
Steve & Janeen Moest	1994	IL
Dennis & Doris Tubergen	1994	MI
Jay & Kristin Richardson	2004	WI
Mary Ann Brown	1965	GA
Steve & Dee Gordon	2012	OR
Glen & Angie Walters	2002	GA
Donald & Jeanette Reuvers	1967	MN
Earl and Sue Stanley	1974	VT

SILVER

Leo Sebek Memorial	2002	SD
Mark & Angie Ulness	2017	WI
Ken & Donna Dickneite	1996	MO
Rufus & Mary Sharard	1967	SC
Ruth Pederson Memorial(Uglen)	2012	ND
Mark & Trudy Peterson	2002	MO
Anderson Farm IIc		
Deb & Bob Carpenter	1980	NY
John & Mary Shawhan	1977	OH
Karl Eby/Judy Erickson	1985	IA
Danny & Danette McAlhaney	2002	SC
George Maxey	1965	CO
Elaine Thompson	1981	CA

Anniversaries at NOYF 2021

65 years:

NOYF Awards Program

55 years:

Orion Samuelson

45 years:

John Deere sponsorship

Class Anniversaries:

55 years: 1966

50 years: 1971

45 years: 1976

40 years: 1981

35 years: 1986

30 years: 1991

25 years: 1996

20 years: 2001

15 years: 2006

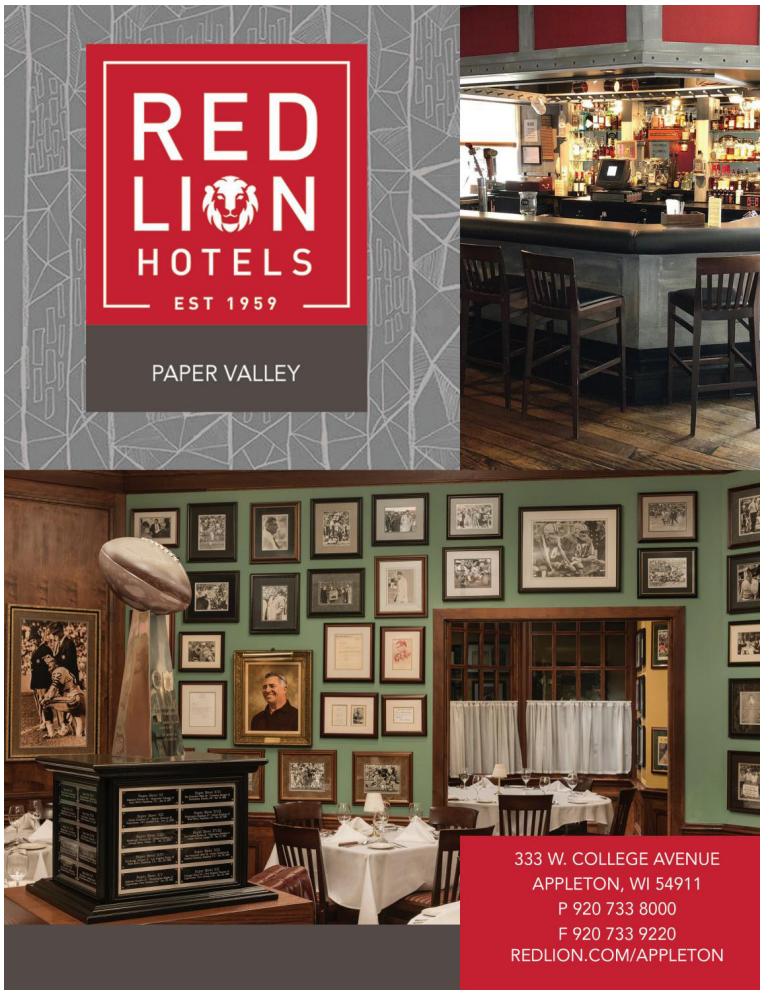
10 years: 2011

5 years: 2016

1 year: 2020

In Remembrance

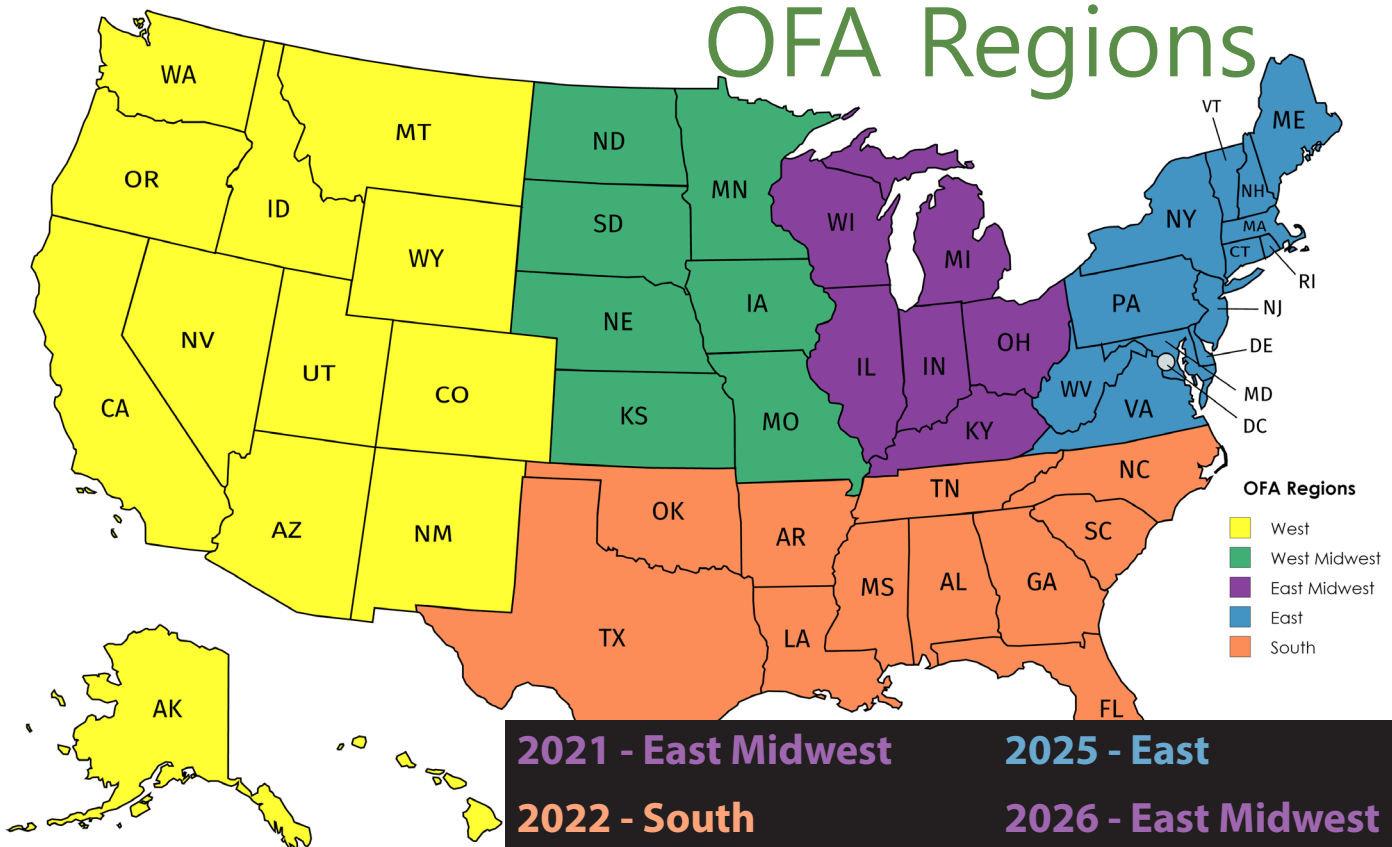
Ken Bush (IL 1966) passed away on April 5, 2020, after battling cancer. Funeral arrangements will be announced when restrictions are lifted and a celebration of life can be arranged.



Red Lion Paper Valley Appleton, Wisconsin

welcomes the 2021
National Outstanding Young Farmers
Awards Congress

February 4-7, 2021



2021 - East Midwest

2025 - East

2022 - South

2026 - East Midwest

2023 - West

2027 - South

2024 - West Midwest

2028 - West

NOYF WINNER'S SPOTLIGHT

Will and Heather Cabe (GA 2020)

"You want to nominate me for what?" I remember the conversation very well when our county extension agent asked our permission to nominate us for the National Outstanding Young Farmer award. I grew up on a farm and had had at least some stake in farming on my own since high school, and I did not know that there was such a thing. An award? For farming? I recalled the sentiments of Oliver Wendell Douglas from the popular television show *Green Acres* from the 1960's, and I knew that caring for the land and using it to produce a crop whether it grain, vegetable or livestock should be reward enough, and I could look around to some of the young farmers in our community and think that there were many who were doing it better than me. "I think you might be surprised," my county agent persisted, and so ultimately we consented and what a great decision that proved to be.

I cannot remember having ever encountered an organization that focused so greatly on fostering the relationships between its newest members as the Outstanding Farmers of America, and it did not take long to understand why this was so important. It's easy to see that the success of the OFA is predicated upon these connections and how they have endured for years upon years is incredible, something that I have not seen in any other organization of which I have been a part. The very fact that it seems to rest entirely on the continuing efforts of previous classes as opposed to having some corporate-like governing body, not to mention the unbridled enthusiasm that is absolutely contagious by seemingly everyone in attendance... it was certainly enough for Heather and

I to buy in. And the incredible families and farming operations that the members represent! I am still honored and blown away by the fact that we should even be in the same room with such an outstanding group of people.

I would like to give you an idea of how the Cabe family got here. In the early 2000's I was as convinced as most of the young men that grew up where and how I did that I was going to be the next great baseball player, and while I knew that I would keep and maintain the small family farm I grew up on, I was working hard to pursue that goal. However, the call of farming was already there and certain priorities started shifting in my life about that time, and when I was told that multiple surgeries stood between me and the next step in baseball I knew that God in his providence had other plans for me. I had already been heavily involved in both 4-H and FFA and showing livestock and competing in livestock based competitions, and I was very blessed for my success therein to earn a scholarship to judge livestock at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M. But it was before that time, while I was still in high school, that with help and advice from my parents we began expanding the farm for my return after college was over. When that time came, a more rapid expansion project began, and I was committed and devoted myself to making the farm the most efficient and profitable that it could be. I knew that this was how I wanted to raise a family, and although you may be looking for that funny anecdote of how I met my wife, I hope you're not disappointed to learn that we had known each other our entire lives. We grew up together in church where

both our families attended, and the fact that Heather, like me, had grown up on a cattle and poultry farm meant that we were destined to be a part of the same farming circles. We've been married now ten years, and there is no question that my farming endeavors have been more fun since she's been a part. Trust me, I understand what Genesis is talking about when woman is given to man to be a "help meet" for him, because I don't



know how I could continue without her assisting on the farm and guiding the house. And don't skip over that guiding the house part, because with two sons (Deacon is 8 and Teller is 5) and one daughter (Emersyn is 2), that could be a full time job without even mentioning that Heather is the homeschool teacher to all.

It cannot be overstated what my family means to me and what I do and the decisions I make every single day. As far as the farm is concerned, nothing I do is in the name of self-promotion and no "right-now" decisions are made. Instead, my entire focus is on making the farm better than it was the day before so that my three children have the opportunity to take it and raise their families the same way if they desire to do so. The family is IN the farm, but the farm is also IN the family. I've been blessed to see the same love for farming and animal agriculture in my children that I've always had myself. That love is manifested in the form of showing and exhibiting livestock: we've shown pigs, goats, and sheep, and we attend 20-25 shows per year. Yes, this takes a lot of our weekends. Yes, this takes most of our summertime hours in the barn working. But this is what we do as a family. This is OUR thing. We don't do a lot of vacationing, amusement parks, or weekend getaways; we go to shows. It is so important to me that my family and farm are so interrelated, and I thank God daily that he has given us this opportunity.

We look very much forward to the privilege of being involved in the OFA going forward, and hope to have the chance to visit with more of the members that make it up at future events. We all know that farming as a profession is not always easy; there are so many variables that can make life challenging at times. But I encourage each of us to persevere and be a rock in our communities. In other words, OFA family, just keep being OUTSTANDING!



NOYF WINNER'S SPOTLIGHT

Mike and Mary Beth Jackson (IA 2020)

I would like to first say thank you to the past classes of the Outstanding Farmers of America for welcoming us into this organization. Mary Beth and I are very honored to be part of the 2020 class. We made several new friends and are looking forward to next year's NOYF Congress. Also a very special thank you to John Deere and all the hands that worked very hard to have everything in place for this year's Award Congress, for the sponsorship of this prestigious honor awarded to us and our class of 2020.

My father reminds me of a story, one spring day during the lunch hour, I proceeded to pull hitch pins from all the equipment lined up in the barnyard. I proudly parked my little red wagon, piled high near the backdoor. They quickly replaced the missing pins, all except one. Dad figured out a day later when he pulled the grinder mixer out of the shed, oops! Dad still says he's amazed a four year old could pull 7 hitch pins in such a short time. I was always my father's shadow. It's enjoyable watching my kids ask similar questions and willing to take on certain chores and responsibilities like me at their age. Unfortunately for them I use bolts or a clip of some sort on the bottom of my hitch pins so they would need to work a little harder to perform the same task.

A little background on Mary Beth and I, we both grew up in Mahaska county in Southern Iowa. Mary Beth grew up on her family's farrow to finish swine, dairy and row crop farm south of Pella Iowa on the West side of the county. I grew up east of Oskaloosa on the East side of the county on my family's swine and row crop farm. Mary Beth and I now live

on my family's century farm just east of Oskaloosa. I grasped the opportunity to return to the family farm and begin my adult career of farming with the building of our segregated early wean swine facility to ensure a place for Mary Beth and I on the family farm with my parents Mark and JoAnn. We have been fortunate enough to lease this building to another young farmer and his brother allowing them to return to their family's farrowing operations; at that time we started Jackson Seed Sales working with Latham Hi Tech Seed and Iowa cover crops. We are very passionate about family, soil health and education on our farm. Multiple classrooms know me as Farmer Mike; by using the Farm Chat platform I am able to take a class room full of kids into my swine buildings or in the tractor cab and better explain



modern ag to them, with a hands on digital approach. The teachers like it because we can keep the visits short 30 minutes and then they are back



to normal routine. We have done this with a class in Florida, Alaska and local Oskaloosa. We have also hosted multiple farm tours on our farm talking about conservation practices we use with local farmers and foreign visitors. The practices we discuss include contour buffers, no-till, grassy waterways and terraces, woodlands, stream buffer strips, settling ponds and wetland restoration projects.

Our kids are the main reason we do everything on the farm to keep the soil fertile and on our land. Our oldest, Arianna, is in her 2 year of 4H, and she is looking forward to getting another bucket bottle calf project. Johnathon our middle son is looking forward to joining the 4H club come August; he enjoys helping us on the farm where he can. Mack, our youngest, is always ready for a tractor ride with me or my dad. Mary Beth and I are both very active in our local community and state level with Iowa Farm Bureau and Mahaska County Farm Bureau, our church, the kids' school, Oskaloosa Christian Grade School, and the Sonshine preschool our kids attended. I am also part of Iowa State Extension and South Skunk watershed advisory boards.

I hope everyone has a safe growing season and a bountiful harvest. Mary Beth and I are looking forward to next February and seeing everyone again in Wisconsin.



Outstanding Farmers of America
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www.outstandingfarmers.com



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Spirit

The Newsletter
of the Outstanding Farmers of America

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