Jenessa Friedhof (2015, agricultural business, food science minor) has just joined the staff of The Country Today as a regional editor.

After graduating with an animal science-meat animal degree, Maggie Mickelson (2014) began as a Technical Services Coordinator at MPSC, Inc in Hudson. Maggie recently enrolled at UW-Madison as a graduate student while working full-time, and has been pursuing a hybrid master's degree under Professor Jim Claus.

Agricultural business graduate Mandy Speerstra (2013) joined Countryside Cooperative as a sales agronomist and R7 specialist for Waumandee, Alma and Cochrane in early March.

Kelsey Jurek (2013, animal science-equine) is starting an equine summer camp for kids at her River Falls business KJ Equestrian.

Congratulations to Kory Duerst (2006, dairy science) and Lindsay Knoebel (2013, animal science-meat animal) who were newly-elected to the CAFES Alumni Association Board of Directors this spring.

The following alumni received Honorary Wisconsin FFA Degrees which are the highest honor the FFA Association can give to a non-member:

- Troy Talford (2005, agricultural education)
- Regina Oldendorf (2001, agricultural education)
- Mark S. Alden (1982, agricultural education)
- James A. Holte (1975, farm management)

Joseta Halbur (2004 dairy science, 2006 MS in agricultural education) was recently elected to serve a three year-term on the Wisconsin Holstein Association Board of Directors.

Past CAFES Alumni Board president Leslie Svacina (2004) wrote a blog post about the importance of being a leader in agriculture and local communities titled “Making time to CHOOSE to lead” featured on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation website.
Wendy Kannel (2003, agricultural education) was re-elected for another term on the CAFES Alumni Association Board of Directors.

*The Country Today* article "M&M Arena owners encourage riders to enjoy their ... Indoor haven" features Maria Bendixen (2002 agricultural education, 2010 MS agricultural education). Maria is an instructor in farm business and production management at CVTC and recently built and opened a boarding stable in Clark County called M&M Stable and Arena.

Alan Hughes (1999, broad-area agriculture) and Stephanie Hughes (2002, dairy science) operate about 270 acres to grow corn, soybeans and hay, and Stephanie milks 50 cows as Sunett Dairy. Alan enlisted in 2014 and is part of the 115th Fighter Wing of the Wisconsin Air National Guard. They were featured by *Agri-View* in “Double duty: Military, milking”.

The 2016 Dunn County Dairy Breakfast was held Saturday June 4 hosted by Steve and Yvonne Weinzirl of Val-O-Mo Farm. Their son Ted Weinzirl (2001), the sixth generation to work on the farm, graduated from UWRF with a degree in agricultural engineering.

Sam Zimmermann (2001, animal science) and his wife Jenn were recently named Marathon County's Outstanding Young Farmer's. The couple owns On-Q Holsteins.

Miranda (Weiner) Leis (2000, animal science) was elected to chair the WI DATCP Board (only the 2nd woman to chair the board in its 119-year existence!). She is currently project manager for CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley and owns a Hereford beef herd with her husband.

Marty Hallock (1999) is owner of Mar-Bec Dairy, vice-president of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW) and a UWRF animal science graduate. He is also the focus of an article in *Agri-View* “It’s as much about people as cows for Hallock” about his successful farming career.

Patty Edelburg (1998) was selected by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to be the new Executive Director of the Wisconsin Farm Service Agency (FSA). She graduated from UWRF with an animal science degree and currently operates a 350 acre dairy farm with her husband and two children. She will serve as the Executive Director until the new agriculture secretary under the next president chooses their own agency directors.

Kevin Gilbertson (1995) graduated with a degree in agricultural business but it was an advanced dairy production course that confirmed his desire to make a career out of farming. He is the fifth generation farmer of Gilbertson Farms which was started in 1875. Kevin, his family and the farm were profiled in the article “Crops, cows; it’s all in the details” in *Agri-View*.

Brad Kremer (1995), food science and chemistry graduate from UWRF, was recently elected president of the Wisconsin Soybean Association. Brad, his wife Nicci and their two sons operate Hillcrest Family Farms which includes a 175 cow dairy, and 2500 acres of corn, soybeans, winter wheat and alfalfa.

Congratulations to Heidi (Jansen) Clausen (1994, broad area agriculture major, journalism minor with print emphasis) who won 1st place in the column-writing category of the North American Agricultural Journalists annual writing contest. Heidi is a regional editor for *The Country Today*. She and her husband, Dave, and their two children, Dylan and Hailey, raise beef cattle near Clayton in northwest Wisconsin.
They also publish *Old Allis News*, a quarterly magazine for Allis-Chalmers collectors and enthusiasts worldwide.

Alumni **Joe Tomandl III** (1994, agricultural education) and **Roger King** (1984, agricultural education) were both recognized as Farm Credit 100 Fresh Perspectives which honors leaders in agriculture. Joe, farmer and executive director of the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, was featured in the Leadership (21 and up) category. Roger, agriscience instructor, was selected for the Agriculture Education and Community Impact category.

The following alumni were recipients of the Wisconsin FFA Distinguished Service Award.
- **Jeff Zobeck** (1994, agricultural education)
- **Tim Wyss** (1977, agricultural education)

**Paul Bauer** (1987, agricultural business), CEO of Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, was one of those interviewed on Wisconsin Public Radio The West Side’s show "The Art of Cheese Making" on April 25, 2016.

Three CAFES alumni were featured in the article "AgSource Elects Leaders." **Bob Prahl** (1972, farm management) was elected to fill a position on the AgSource Cooperative Services Board of Directors. **Annette Trescher** (1987, animal science) was re-elected Vice-President on the Board as well as represents AgSource on the Cooperative Resources International (CRI) Board of Directors. Finally, **Pat Baier** (1984, animal science) was quoted in the piece as he is AgSource’s Chief Operating Officer.

Congratulations to Principal **Paul Churchill** (1980, agricultural education) who is retiring after 35 years with the Plum City School District.

Congratulations to 2016 WI FFA Hall of Fame inductee **Clara Hedrich** (1976, agricultural education). She taught agricultural at Chilton High School for 19 years and West DePere High School for 20 years. She retired last summer but continues to provide tours for her family business LaClare Farms.

**Greg Zwald** (1974, animal science) was one of those featured on a panel titled "Sustainability and Customer Buying Trends: How the farming and ranching community can meet evolving expectations" at Dairy Strong in Madison this past January. He was also featured in *Agri-View*’s article “New chapter: From dairy to berries”.

**Don Lutz** (1974 agricultural education and animal science, 1976 MS agricultural education) had worked for the National Agricultural Statistics Service for 25 years before he retired early to farm full-time with his brother **Dale** (1981, agricultural engineering technology). Along with Dale’s son, the two farm approximately 500 acres. Don is also vice-president of the Wisconsin Soybean Association and is profiled in the article “Lutz: data analysis to tractor seat” in *Agri-View*.

**John Rosenow** (1972) and his businesses Rosenholm Dairy and Cowsmo Compost were featured in "Growing Business: Large Dairy Draws Organic Following with Cowsmo Compost" in *The Country Today*.

**Victor Bekkum** (1964, 1968 MS agricultural education) recently completed his term as president of the Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association (WREA) and is now past president of the organization. Victor retired from Iowa State University and previously taught at UW-River Falls, and Barron and Clinton high schools.
The late Robert G. Heebink (1941, agricultural education) was inducted into the WI FFA Hall of Fame. He graduated from the State Teachers College in River Falls. He contributed 52 years of service to the New Richmond School District during his lifetime in various roles related to agriculture and education.