

News 'n Notes June 2012

Introducing your new CAFES Alumni Association Board. Ashley Gausman 2009, Jenni Skiba 2003, and Troy Talford 2005 are newly elected members, joining Andy Carlson 1983, Ann Prescott 1999, Leah Schliep Addington 2001, Chad Glaze 1997, and Krishona Bjork Martinson 1998. Leslie Shuler Svacina 2004, is the newly elected president.

Gary Sipiorski 1973 and Mark Ludtke 1994, spoke to dairy producers and agri-business professionals at the Ag Power Luncheon hosted by the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation in April.

Joseph Brantmeier 1974, of Hilrose Holsteins was one of four Wisconsin dairies to receive the 2012 Holstein Association USA Herds of Excellence.

Bob Leder 1978 and Penny Leder 1979, hosted a lamb field day in April to show how a producer manages 90 ewes and their lambs on fewer than 80 acres of pasture. This took place at Bear Creek Sheep Station.

Brad Joern 1984, Agronomy professor at Purdue University received the University's 2011 Spirit of the Land-Grant mission award. He developed the Manure Management Planner which is a computer program designed to help farmers optimize nutrient applications and minimize risks of nutrients reaching water sources.

Ken Gabler 1987, who farms in partnership with his siblings, was one of two featured stops on the Eau Claire County Dairy Facilities tour in March. The tour is sponsored by Chippewa Valley Technical College and UW-Extension.

Matt Hanson 1990, is now the new UW Extension southern region director. His new duties began on February 1st. He previously worked for Dodge County as a UW Extension agent and before that he worked for Jefferson County. He and his family will continue living in their Jefferson County home.

Joe Tomandl, III 1994, received the Grazing Advocate Award at the Grassworks Grazing Conference. This award is given to individuals who have helped to facilitate the adoption of managed grazing and whose work on behalf of the grazing community is exceptional.

Doug Kapral, 1995, Nick Schneider 1999, and Anton Kaltenberg 2009, were all presenters for the UW-Extension grain production clinics in Green Bay.

Jeff Hicken 1998, agriculture and natural resources consultant of the Department of Public Instruction has helped develop a curriculum for the returning agriculture education classes for the Milwaukee Public Schools. There has been an absence of more than 30 years of agriculture education in the MPS.

TJ Kennedy 1998, is the current vice president of Heartland Farms, Inc., which was named the winner of the National Potato Council Environmental Stewardship Award. TJ started at the company in their research facility, then became an account manager, and finally worked his way up to vice president.

Krishona Martinson 1998, wrote an article entitled, Selecting Cool-season Grasses for Horse Pastures for the Progressive Forage Grower March 2012 issue.

Mark Cournoyer 1999, 2011, who teaches agriculture and biology to 7th-12th graders at Auburndale, was recently awarded one of four Crystal Apple Awards. The Crystal Apple Awards are given by the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry to outstanding local educators. Mark has taught at Auburndale for 12 years.

Alicia Kasper Huffman 2000, is the instructor for the green therapy class at Village Northwest Unlimited. Recently, one of her students was awarded the Silver Dish Grand Prize for the best floral arrangement at the annual Sheldon Flower & Garden Show

Justin Luther 2000, is working with his family to have the first ever embryo transfer done on their Luther Club Lambs flock. Their flock is made up of Suffolk and Hampshire genetics.

Jarred Searls 2001, of Cobb won the annual Speak Up for Agriculture Award from the Wisconsin Jaycees. He and Laura Daniels have a herd of 300 Jerseys and operate 549 acres of land in Iowa County. They have two children.

Maria Bendixen 2002, an Extension dairy and livestock agent in Clark County recently went to Kenya to help improve the profitability of dairy farms in Kenya.

Katie Olson 2002, joined the ABS Global team as a research scientist. She will be developing products and tools to service ABS customers.

Justin Wood 2002, and his family in Clear Lake, helped Texas ranchers who are short on hay by sending 535 square bales down to Texas.

Matt Hartwig 2003, wife Tabitha and two children, own and operate Green Acres Dairy, in Athens.

Steve Vermilya 2004, became part of the family farm operation near Dover, MN in 2004. He has taken the lead in using grid soil sampling and analysis for better site-specific management. Steve took charge of precision planting and has raised the average corn yield by 30 bushels in five years. Steve now fulfills the management role at the farm. The Vermilyas farm was featured in the March issue of Successful Farming.

Stephanie Jens 2005, is the territory development manager for Lallemand Animal Nutrition. She will be responsible for supporting and building the sales of silage inoculants and probiotics in the Upper Midwest. Jens previously worked for Danisco Animal Nutrition.

Angie Kringle 2006, of Shawano was selected as one of 25 individuals for the Leadership Wisconsin Group 15. This is a two year program aimed at developing leaders to strengthen communities.

Jeff Hoffelt 2010, is the newest associate marketing executive at Filament Marketing, LLC. Previously, Jeff worked as a livestock editor for *Agri-View*.

Rachel Erickson 2011, and **Danielle Hammer 2012**, were both finalists for the Alice in Dairyland program.

Brittany Pierce 2012 is working for Organic Valley in Cashton as a Dairy Program Associate.