

## Agricultural Business Club at Iowa State University

### Main Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Iowa State University Agricultural Business Club was held on February 20<sup>th</sup>, in Sukup 0022. President Jake Burress called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM. There were 75 members present.

#### Officer Reports:

- **Secretary:** The minutes of the January meeting were briefed by Lainey DeVries. Approved by club members.
- **Treasurer:** Theo Klaes announced the current balance available is \$141,682.14. Approved by club members.
- **CALS Council:** Selected CALS committees
- **Reporters:** Trivia Tuesday winner was Jamie Hejlik
- **Logistics Coordinators:** Hope you enjoyed the food!

#### Committee Reports:

- **Ag Alliance:** No update
- **Banquet:** Banquet is March 1<sup>st</sup>, tickets are \$15 for members and \$25 for guests. Check in will be from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with a meal and program following.
- **CALS Career Day:** No update
- **New Member Engagement:** No update
- **Philanthropy and Service:** March 13<sup>th</sup> will be jean night with all proceeds going to SHOP
- **Professional Meetings:** No update
- **Publicity:** No update
- **Recruitment and Social:** Be on the lookout for spring dodgeball, and congratulations to the super bowl prediction winners!
- **Sponsor Relations:** Leadership dinner will be April 15<sup>th</sup> for all committee chairs and members
- **Travel:** Spring industry tour will be April 25<sup>th</sup>

#### Guest Speakers: Phil Schalz and Cole Johnston - Viterra

- Phil, originally from Aurora, IL, is married with two kids and enjoys camping while exploring national parks. He graduated from Iowa State University in 2008 with a degree in Agricultural Business. During his college years, he completed two summer internships in Idaho and Minnesota, gaining valuable industry experience. Phil began his career with

ConAgra in May 2008, holding various Merchandising and Commercial Manager positions across multiple states until 2017. From 2017 to 2024, he took on regional trading roles, managing key commodity gateways, including southeast/eastern soybean crush, center gulf soybeans, BN corn, Hereford and Mexico, western sorghum, UP, and BN singles freight. Since 2024, Phil has served as the Regional Commercial Manager, overseeing operations at eight facilities.

- Cole is originally from Lenox, IA, and grew up on a row crop farm. He graduated from Iowa State University in 2021 with a degree in Agricultural Business. He will have been with Viterra for four years as a grain merchandiser this May.

**Meet the Faculty:** Dr. Dermot Hayes – Department of Economics Professor

- Dr. Dermot Hayes began teaching at Iowa State University in March of 1986. Dermot's favorite class that he taught is Econ 101, and he recently taught his last class in the Fall of 2024. In his free time, he enjoys spending time and traveling with his wife and 4 kids. Dermot has a daughter named Catherine, who is an Ag Business Alumni and is now part of a commodity trading firm.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Member Recognition:**

- Member of the Month: Caroline Strawhacker
- New Member of the Month: Mindy Keenher
- Old Member of the Month: Jayce Reed

**Advisor Comments:** Craig Welter – Industry Advisor

- Enlightened the club with an ISU basketball analogy, encouraging us all to support each other and step in as a leader when needed. He also spoke about how positive energy and enthusiasm can go a long way!

**Drawings:**

- Are You Here?: Not in attendance, drawing will be worth \$150 at the next meeting.
- Wheel of Fortune: Tyler Wirth won \$20 from the S!

**Announcements:**

- The Jim Knuth lecture will be on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

| <b>Activity</b>      | <b>Date</b>          | <b>Time</b>               |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Club Banquet         | Saturday, March 1st  | 11:00 am Check-in, 11:30  |
| March Meeting        | Thursday, March 13th | 5:30 Social, 6:00 Meeting |
| Jim Knuth Lecture    | Tuesday, April 8th   | 6:00 Social, 6:30 Lecture |
| Leadership Dinner    | Tuesday, April 15th  | 5:30 Welcome, 6:00 Dinner |
| April Meeting        | Thursday, April 17th | 5:30 Social, 6:00 Meeting |
| Spring Industry Tour | Friday, April 25th   |                           |

President Jake Burress adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.