

# **Agricultural Business Club at Iowa State University**

Main Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2020

The regular meeting of the Iowa State University Agricultural Business Club was held September 17, 2020 in Troxel 1001. President Cody Tjossem called the meeting to order at **5:45 pm**. There were **136** members present and 28 via Zoom.

## **Officer Reports**

- Vice President: Thank you to all the committees for their hard work!
- Secretary: The minutes of the August meeting were briefed by Emma Kehrli. Approved by club members.
- Treasurer: Julia Campbell announced the current balance available is **90, 375.45**. Approved by club members.
- CALS: Iowa Corn Growers Fall BBQ Tues. Sept. 22 at 5:30 in Kildee 125. CALS Week Sept. 28-Oct 2nd. CALS Virtual Career Fair is Oct 13th and 14th 10am-5pm.
- Reporters: Follow our social media. Social Media Spotlight: Jacob Hall
- Logistics: The food for next month's meeting is TBD.

## **Committee Reports:**

- Ag Alliance: Applications are due Monday, September 21st. Kickoff event on Oct. 12th.
- Banquet: Email Lydia if you're quarantined to receive a care package at your doorstep. Banquet is March 6th.
- Career Day: Replacement for the mixer will be an interest poll sent out early next week.
- Philanthropy and Service: Thank you for wearing jeans! Bacon Expo is September 30th from 6:30-7:30 in the Richardson Court area. Dr. Deiter is matching 20% of all jean donations.
- Professional Meetings: Trivia night coming up on October 27th. Look for sign up in October.
- Publicity: Great turnout for the clothing order. Will be back in about 3 weeks. Mask order out soon, due at the beginning of October.
- Recruitment and Social: Virtual ClubFest, Sept 14-18th. Check out their Flipgrid video.
- Sponsor Relations: Golf outing check in 8:30-9:15 and finish around 2:30. Attire, khakis and polo. Don't consume alcohol if you are under 21.
- Travel: FIT Oct. 9th from 4-6 pm in TBD lecture hall. Online sign up, Monday Sept. 28th. Cargill, Land O'Lakes, Hormel Foods, Crystal Valley Co-op, IAS, REG, and AGP.
- Freshman Engagement: Mock Interview Opportunity with Cargill. Open to 12 students. Sign up opens Friday, September 18th at 12 pm and closes Monday, September 21st at 12 pm. Dr. Deiter interview tips and tricks Monday, September 21st @ 6 pm in Heady 160.

**Guest Speaker: Megan Kaestner- Human Resources Manager for Summit Agricultural Group**

Megan grew up in a small town in Southeast Iowa called Marengo. She went to Wartburg and double majored in Business Administration and Spanish. After college, she moved to Iowa Falls to work for Iowa Select Farms as a Bilingual HR Manager. After 3 years, she joined Summit Ag as the Human Resources Manager. Although Megan didn't grow up on a farm, she has grown to have a passion for agriculture. Summit Ag was founded 30 years ago by Bruce Rastetter who is still very involved in the company. Summit is connected to an extensive network of farmers, investors and advisors working together to support capital investments and manage agricultural assets throughout the Midwest and in locations around the world. Megan explained that Summit offers various summer internships throughout different parts of the company, Summit Ag Investors and Summit Farms. When recruiting, Megan looks for an employee who will be a good culture fit and who is open to new opportunities. Visit SummitAg.com, CyHire, the CALS Career Fair or reach out to Megan if you are interested in opportunities. She describes Summit as a place where everyone is willing to help out and a place with a strong comradery. When looking at a resume, she recommends a clear and concise format with work history at the top. Megan also stressed the importance of having a prepared elevator speech when talking to recruiters.

#### **Meet the Professor: Dr. Wendong Zhang: Assistant Professor, Economics Department**

Dr. Zhang grew up in a rural NE China and currently lives in Iowa with his wife and two daughters. He has been an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department since 2015. His research is focused on three fronts including farmland markets, water conservation, and Chinese agriculture. Dr. Zhang was an exchange student in Hong Kong in 2007. He then gained his BA in China and his Ph.D. from Ohio State. Dr. Zhang explained how China is a country of rapid change and how his home province of around 100 million people used to grow lots of corn and wheat, but is now a leader in vegetable production. He teaches various classes at Iowa State such as Econ 364, Rural Property Appraisal. In this class, students pick a farm and do a rural property appraisal report to figure out how much the land is worth. He encourages students to broaden their information sources by keeping up on news within the food and ag industry. His favorite American food is cottage cheese.

#### **New Business:**

- CALS Olympics: Our team this year is Brayden Beinhart, Cole Weinkauf, Hunter Crawford, and Jay Edlefson.
- Mr. CALS: Sigma Alpha's philanthropy. Judges will base the winner off the candidate's bio and social media interaction. Kody Koberg is the ABC's 2020 Mr. CALS candidate.

#### **Member Recognition**

- Member of the Month: Cheyenne Harle
- New Member of the Month: Ian Latham
- Old Member of the Month: Eleanor Korum

#### **Advisor Comments: Elizabeth Burns Thompson**

Elizabeth explained how everyone with every background can be a part of agriculture. Don't wait until the end to think about making connections in preparation for the Career Fair. Always

be looking for that next role. Don't limit your opportunities to the career fair. Each job EBT has had was created, always look to grow!

**Drawings:**

- Wheel of Fortune: Devin Lansing \$40. It was in the S
- Are you here?: Calvin Carlson \$100

**Announcements:**

- FIT sign up Monday, September 28th
- Ag Alliance Kickoff Monday, October 12th
- October ABC meeting Thursday, October 22nd
- Keep an eye out for the clothing order
- Email Lydia, [lyrich@iastate.edu](mailto:lyrich@iastate.edu), for a quarantine care package
- Good luck to our CALS teams

President, Cody Tjossem, adjourned the meeting at **6:52 PM**.