

2019 AWARD WINNERS PROGRAM

AAEA the Agricultural Communicators Network 2019 AAEA Communications Awards

Presented Tuesday, July 30, 2019
Agricultural Media Summit
Doubletree by Hilton
Minneapolis, MN

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AAEA Writing Awards Program

The AAEA Writing Awards Program is sponsored by AAEA through funding provided by Syngenta.

2019 Winners

Breaking News

- 1st Katie Dehlinger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Farmers Wary of Tariff’s Financial Toll”
- 2nd Emily Unglesbee, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Regulators’ Dicamba Angst”
- 3rd Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, “EPA Dicamba Ruling Raises Spirits, Questions, and Concerns”

Economics & Management

- 1st Jennifer Latzke, High Plains Journal, “Trust Everyone, But Brand Your Data”
- 2nd Des Keller, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Back in the Fold”
- 3rd Gil Gullickon, Successful Farming, “Seed Secret: It’s Out of the Bag”

Editorial Opinion

- 1st Holly Spangler, Prairie Farmer, “Beware the Rural Outrage Cycle”
- 2nd Urban Lehner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “An Idea Whose Time Has Come”
- 3rd Urban Lehner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “The Curious Politics of the Proposed USDA Relocation”

Human Interest

- 1st Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, “Hometown USA”
- 2nd Joe Link, Homestead, “The Perfect Cure” Joe Link
- 3rd Courtney Leeper, Legacy, “From the Ashes” Noble Research Institute

Humorous Article

- 1st Gail Keck, Ohio Farmer, “Dealing With a Difficult Tick Disposal”
- 2nd Brent Olson, “Leeches”
- 3rd Mike Rankin, Hay & Forage Grower, “Tail of the Dragon” W.D. Hoard and Sons

Issues

- 1st Kayla Sargent, Western Ag Reporter, “Ranching on the Mexico Border – A Harsh Reality”
- 2nd Lacey Newlin, High Plains Journal, “Cowboy Cops”
- 3rd Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, “Farmyard Connection” LMCC Holdings Inc

On-Farm Production

- 1st Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, “Sustainability”

- 2nd Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, “Night Harvest” LMCC Holdings Inc
- 3rd Mike Rankin, Hay & Forage Grower, “Grazing the Blue Ridge” W.D. Hoard and Sons

Personality Profile

- 1st Allison Jenkins, Today’s Farmer, “Views From the Countryside”
- 2nd Steve Werblow, Homestead, “From Aargh to Art” Steve Werblow Communications
- 3rd Katy Holdener, Angus Journal, “Just One of Those Things”

Regular Column

- 1st Adam Calaway, Legacy, “Getting a Grip on Life”
- 2nd Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, “Embrace Your Customer’s Mindset” FARM PROGRESS
- 3rd Pamela Smith, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Embrace Farmer Diversity”

Technical Feature

- 1st Betsy Freese, Successful Farming, “Genes 2.0: What the Future Holds for Gene Editing in Livestock”
- 2nd Kerri Lotven, Today’s Farmer, “River, Rail and Road” MFA Incorporated
- 3rd Jessie Scott, Successful Farming, “Plastics is Where the Money Is”

Team Story

- 1st Mike Wilson and Bryce Knorr, Farm Futures, “Farm Like Pharoh”
- 2nd Gregg Hillyer, Barb Anderson, Des Keller, Katie Dehlinger, Elizabeth Williams, and Chris Clayton, DTN/The Progressive Farmer “Master Your Margins: Mid-Nov. 2023”
- 3rd Gregg Hillyer, Elton Robinson, Jim Patrico, Des Keller, Greg Lamp, Debra Ferguson, Charles Johnson, and Susan Winsor, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Listen to the Land Mid-Feb. 2019”

Story of the Year

“Farm Like Pharoh”
Mike Wilson and Bryce Knorr
Farm Futures

Writer of the Year, Honorable Mention

Steve Werblow

Writer of the Year

Joe Link

2019 Master Writer Program

New Writer of Merit

Jennifer Latzke

New Master Writers (Level Five) in 2019

Allison Jenkins

Level One

Robert Arnason

Debra Ferguson

Brad Haire

Katy Holdener

Lindsay King

Diane Meyer

Maggie Seiler

Level Two

Brent Adams

Curt Arens

Debra Davis

Katie Knapp

Maggie Malson

Kayla Sargent

Ryan Tipps

Level Three

Lacey Newlin

Elton Robinson

Level Four

J. Adam Calaway

Kerri Lotven

Ron Lyseng

Mike Rankin

Elizabeth Williams

2019 AAEA Writing Judges

Larry Aylward

Sue Stuever Battel

Gordon Billingsley

Melea Licht

Shannon Linderoth

Kylie Moulton

Ray Ford
Jim Haist
Molly Harbarger
Patrica Howard
Vanessa Infanzon
Tom Jirik
Traci Knight
Mary Lawrence

Candace Pollock
Cele Seldon
Jake Sherlock
Anita Stuever
Susan Thompson
Grant Wall
Nicole Wisniewski
Mike Zawacki

AAEA Design Awards Program

The AAEA Design Awards Program is sponsored by AAEA through funding provided by DuPont Pioneer.

2019 Winners

Cover Page Design -- Commercial

- 1st Lisa Lynd, Farm Progress, May/June 2018 Cover
- 2nd Matt Strolecki, Successful Farming, July 2018 cover
- 3rd Matt Strolecki, Successful Farming, Mid-November 2018 cover

Cover Page Design -- Custom

- 1st Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, "From the Ashes"
- 2nd Matthew Winterholler, Sorghum Grower, Winter Cover Sorghum Grower
- 3rd Nate Werner, Homestead Magazine Apr 2019 cover

Single-Page Editorial Design -- Commercial

- 1st Matt Strolecki, Successful Farming, March 2019 Table of Contents
- 2nd Matt Strolecki, Successful Farming, Mid-November 2018 Table of Contents
- 3rd Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "The End of Fake Calamari"

Single-Page Editorial Design -- Custom

- 1st Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, "Pecans"
- 2nd Nate Werner, The Furrow, "A Commodity Niche" December 2018
- 3rd Nate Werner, The Furrow, "Beetlemania" March 2019

Opening Page or Spread Design -- Commercial

- 1st Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "The Fault with Salt"
- 2nd Matt Strolecki, Successful Farming, "Genes 2.0"
- 3rd Matt Strolecki, Successful Farming, "Put More Profit in Your Pocket"

Opening Page or Spread Design -- Custom

- 1st Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, “From the Ashes”
- 2nd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, “Edible Oil Revolution”
- 3rd Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, “Pecan Bandage”

Two-Plus Page Design -- Commercial

- 1st Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, “Faking it / The Great Honey Robbery”
- 2nd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, “Seed Secret”
- 3rd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, “Unblocked”

Two-Plus Page Design – Custom

- 1st Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, “From the Ashes”
- 2nd Nate Werner, The Furrow, “A Sharp Skill” December 2018
- 3rd Nate Werner, Homestead, “The Muscle for Brussels” March 2019

Special Editorial Section Design

- 1st Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, “DIY: Reigning Champions”
- 2nd Brent Warren and Jennifer Richburg, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “America’s 2019 Best Young Farmers and Ranchers”
- 3rd Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, “What’s Online”

Overall Magazine Design -- Commercial

- 1st Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Mid-November 2018
- 2nd Jennifer Richburg and Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, February 2019
- 3rd Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, “Yield Saskatchewan 2019”

Overall Magazine Design -- Custom

- 1st Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, Fall 2018
- 2nd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, Spring 2018
- 3rd Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, Winter 2018

Overall Magazine Design -- Special Issues

- 1st Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, “The Innovation Issue”
- 2nd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, Special Issue
- 3rd Jennifer Richburg and Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, ”Listen to the Land ”

Special Publication Design

- 1st Rachael Davis, Noble Research Institute, 2017 Annual Report: Possible
- 2nd Rachel Robinson (American Angus Association) and Tim Loretangeli (Random Thought Studio), American Angus Association Annual Report
- 3rd Katie Range, Illinois Soybean Association, ISA Annual Report 2018

Web Design – Electronic Newsletter/Magazine

- 1st Shalin Pinkerton, Simply Sorghum eNewsletter – Celebrate Sorghum Month!
- 2nd Katy Holdener, Inside Angus eNewsletter,

Best Use of Typography

- 1st Rachael Davis, “Vision” 2017 Annual Report
- 2nd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, “Unblocked”
- 3rd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, “Game Changers: 13 Innovations Reshaping Ag”

Best Use of Chart and Graph Material

- 1st Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, “Who Pays More?”
- 2nd Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, “Farmland Values Raise in Canada”
- 3rd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, Spring 2018

Best Use of Photography in a Print Periodical

- 1st Amy Gohman, C Magazine, 2018
- 2nd Allison Jenkins and Kerri Reynolds Lotven and Craig Weiland, Today’s Farmer

AAEA Designer of the Year, Honorable Mention

Matt Strelecki

AAEA Designer of the Year

Rachael Davis

2019 AAEA Design Judges

Stephanie Barlow

Jim Blayney

Blake Dinsdale

Renee Martin Kratzer

J. O’Brien

Carolyn Preul

AAEA MarComm Awards Program

The AAEA MarComm Awards Program is sponsored by AAEA through funding provided by Agri Marketing, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Farm Progress, High

Plains Journal, Hoard's Dairyman, and Meredith Agrimedia.

2019 Winners

Advertorial -- One-page

- 1st Filament Marketing LLC, Purina "How a Co-Op Feeds Your Coop"
- 2nd Stephanie Hoult, Karwoski & Courage and Jesse Cler, West Central Distribution, "Efficiently Manage Phosphorus During the Growing Season"
- 3rd Joan Olson, FLM/Harvest and Hilary Winn, FMC

Advertorial -- Multi-page or Special Section

- 1st Shawna Hubbard and Annie Spencer, Corteva Agriscience "Enlist Weed Control System Native Content for Agriculture.com"
- 2nd Illinois Soybean Association, MorganMyers "Illinois Soybean Association: Consumer Protein Trends and Truth Special Section"
- 3rd Joann Pipkin, Show Me Agri-Comm, "Step Up to the Table"

Media/Special Event

- 1st Illinois Soybean Association, MorganMyers "Illinois Soybean Association: Soy in the City Tech + Food Dinners"
- 2nd Joy Crosby and Whitney Brannen, Georgia Peanut Commission, "Peanut Harvest Tour"
- 3rd Brenda Ruesch, Joseph Waite, Kelsey Gunderson, Katie Boettcher, WinField United, Exponent PR, "Disrupting the Drone Dialogue"

Feature Article

- 1st Illinois Soybean Association, Charleston|Orwig "The Dehydrated Elephant in the Room"
- 2nd Kristina Mossong, Alex Gunderson, Carol Estocko, WinField United, Exponent PR "Protecting Minnesota Farmers' Yield Potential with Nitrogen Management Strategies"
- 3rd Barb Anderson, Anderson and Associates "Soy Power: The Protein of Choice"

News Article

- 1st Karyn Ostrom G&S Business Communications "Weathering the Storm"
- 2nd Rabo AgriFinance "Navigate Dairy Revenue Protection and Risk with Your Lender"
- 3rd Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated "Season of Extremes"

News Release

- 1st Filament Marketing LLC, "GEA DPQ Installation"
- 2nd Kristina Mossong, Alex Gunderson, Katie Boettcher, Amanda Allworth WinField United, Exponent PR "Tissue Sampling Reveals Plant Health Trends"

3rd Casey Parrett, G&S Business Communications “Mary-Dell Chilton Tribute Release”

Technical Writing

1st Miriam Paulson, G&S Business Communications “Integrated Innovation”

2nd Brenda Ruesch, Kelsey Gunderson, Katie Boettcher, Carol Estocko WinField United, Exponent PR “Equipping Applicators to Control Dicamba Drift”

3rd Stephanie Hoult, Karwoski & Courage and Jesse Cler, West Central Distribution “Profit Opportunities Increase Grower Yields Sustainably”

Publication -- Print or Electronic -- Not for Profit

1st J. Adam Calaway, Rachael Davis, Courtney Leeper, Robyn Peterson, Rob Mattson, Tim Woodruff, Noble Research Institute, “Legacy”

2nd Amy Roady, Rachel Peabody Illinois Soybean Association Barb Anderson Anderson and Associates “Soy Perspectives”

3rd Joy Crosby, Southeastern Peanut Farmer, “May/June 2018 Southeastern Peanut Farmer”

Publication -- Print or Electronic – For Profit

1st MFA Incorporated “Today’s Farmer”

2nd Wendell Calhoun, Ann Bryan, Syngenta Susan Fisher, Miriam Paulson, G&S Business Communications Mark Caskie, Letizia Albamonte Pace Communications “Thrive Magazine”

3rd Filament Marketing LLC, “Purina Herdsmart eNewsletter Program”

Media Materials/Kit

1st Filament Marketing LLC, “Nedap Editor Box”

2nd Jessie Bland, Georgia Peanut Commission “2019 Southeastern Peanut Farmer Media Kit”

Speech/White Paper

1st Rachel Peabody, Amy Roady Illinois Soybean Association, Ameet Sachdev, Finn Partners “Soybeans at an Unprecedented Crossroads”

2nd CoBank, Knowledge Exchange Division “Higher Costs and Debt to Hamstring Producers”

3rd Brenda Ruesch, Carol Estocko, Katie Boettcher, WinField United, Exponent PR “Affirming Ag Retailers as Ag Tech Experts”

Writing for Special Projects

1st Illinois Soybean Association, MorganMyers “Illinois Soybean Association: Legislative Fact Sheet Series”

2nd J. Adam Calaway, Courtney Leeper, Noble Research Institute “2017 Annual Report:

- Possible”
- 3rd CoBank, Knowledge Exchange Division “The Year Ahead: Forces That Will Shape the U.S. Rural Economy in 2019”

2019 AAEA MarComm Judges

Teresa Araque
Jessie Decker
Julie Kaiser
Michael Marn

AAEA Digital & Social Media Awards Program

The AAEA Digital & Social Media Awards Program is sponsored by AAEA through funding provided by Syngenta.

2019 Winners

Digital & Social Media – Marketing Communications Division

Podcasts

- 1st WinField United and Exponent PR, Feeding Knowledge-Hungry Listeners on the Deal with Yield
- 2nd Successful Farming, SF Podcast: Hometown USA
- 3rd Rabo AgriFinance, RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness North America Podcast

Blogs

- 1st Two Rivers Marketing and Zinpro Corporation “Essential Feed Blog”
- 2nd Illinois Soybean Association and Charleston|Orwig, ILSoyAdvisor Blog
- 3rd Cenex and Exponent PR “Calling in the Experts: Easy Answers to Tough Questions on the Farm” Blog

Websites

- 1st Boehringer Ingelheim and broadhead, Boehringer Ingelheim Lockout Website
- 2nd The Partnership, Cheribundi 7 Day Challenge Website
- 3rd The Partnership, Milk on My Mind Website

Webinars

- 1st Illinois Soybean Association and Charleston|Orwig, ILSoyAdvisor Webinars
- 2nd FLM Harvest, FMC Webinar Series
- 3rd Truffle Media Networks and Agricultural Relations Council, ARC Webinar Series
Delivers Value to Members

Social Media

- 1st Filament Marketing LLC, “Purina Co-Op Sign Reveal”
- 2nd WinField United and Exponent PR, “Honest Ag: Getting Real with Farmers”
- 3rd G&S Business Communications, “2018 National Pollinator Week”

Video Production

- 1st Illinois Corn Marketing Board/MorganMyers, “Illinois Corn Marketing Board: A seed. A spark. An idea.”
- 2nd The Partnership, “Peach Stuffed French Toast”
- 3rd Today's Farmer Magazine “Steps in the Right Direction”

Digital & Social Media – Publishing Division

Podcasts

- 1st Brent Adams, Fastline Media Group “Fastline Fast Track”
- 2nd David Jones, Chrissy Taylor, Chad Wagner, Nate Werner, John Deere, “On Life & Land: The Psychology of Tech”
- 3rd Bryce Anderson, Nick Scalise, Elaine Shein, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Flooding in Midwest”

Blogs

- 1st Chris Clayton, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Ag Policy Blog”
- 2nd Russ Quinn, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Machinery Chatter Blog”
- 3rd Urban Lehner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “An Urban's Rural View”

Websites

- 1st AGDAILY, www.AGDAILY.com
- 2nd MFA Incorporated, www.TodaysFarmerMagazine.com
- 3rd Random Thought Studios/American Angus Association, www.AngusLink.com

Webinars

- 1st Hoard’s Dairyman, “Calf Rearing Affects Lifetime Eating Behavior”
- 2nd Hoard’s Dairyman, “Cutting Feed Costs Without Cutting Milk”
- 3rd Hoard’s Dairyman, “The Dairy Situation and Outlook 2019”

Social Media

- 1st American Angus Association, National Junior Angus Show Video Campaign
- 2nd Fastline Media Group, Pink Tractor Social Media
- 3rd American Angus Association, I Am Angus Subject Reveals

Multimedia Story

- 1st Filament Marketing LLC, “Purina No Two Herds are Alike”
- 2nd Allison Jenkins and Kerri Lotven, MFA Incorporated, “Steps in the Right Direction”
- 3rd Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, “A Mother’s Mission”

Video Production

- 1st Noble Research Group, “From the Ashes”
- 2nd American Angus Association, “This is Our Home. Angus. America's Breed.”
- 3rd MFA Incorporated, “Empower”

2019 AAEA Digital & Social Media Judges

Adam Durfee
Regan Myers
Jeff Salem
Lynette Von Minden

AAEA Photography Awards Program

The AAEA Photography Awards Program is sponsored by AAEA through funding provided by Rabo AgriFinance.

2019 Winners

Portrait/Personality

- 1st Rob Mattson, Legacy Magazine
- 2nd Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 3rd Steve Voit, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Kerri Lotven, Today’s Farmer
- HM Joe Link, Homestead Magazine

Pictorial

- 1st Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 2nd Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 3rd Joe Link, Homestead Magazine
- HM Martha Mintz, The Furrow
- HM Katie Knapp, The Furrow

Feature

- 1st Martha Mintz, The Furrow
- 2nd Joe Link, The Furrow
- 3rd Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Kylene Scott, High Plains Journal
- HM Jennifer Blackburn, National Sorghum Producers

Nuts & Bolts-Livestock:

- 1st Martha Mintz, The Furrow
- 2nd David Lindquist, C Magazine
- 3rd Harlen Persinger, The Byline
- HM Lorne McClinton, The Furrow

Nuts & Bolts-Crops

- 1st Kerri Lotven, Today's Farmer
- 2nd Lorne McClinton, The Furrow
- 3rd Dean Houghton, The Furrow
- HM Mike Rankin, Hay & Forage Grower e Hay Weekly, Hoard's Dairyman, W.D. Hoard & Sons
- HM Pamela Smith, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Picture Story/ Photo Sequence/ Photo Essay

- 1st Martha Mintz, The Furrow
- 2nd Joe Link, The Furrow
- 3rd Joe Link, The Furrow
- HM Dean Houghton, The Furrow
- HM Lorne McClinton, Homestead

Emerging Photographer

- 1st Maggie Seiler, Hoard's Dairyman
- 2nd Maggie Seiler, Hoard's Dairyman
- 3rd Jessie Bland, Georgia Peanut Commission
- HM Jessie Bland, Georgia Peanut Commission

Photo Illustration

- 1st Steve Werblow, The Furrow
- 2nd Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute
- 3rd David Lundquist, C Magazine
- HM Steve Werblow, The Furrow
- HM Kerri Lotven, Today's Farmer

Unpublished

- 1st Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute
- 2nd Katy Holdener, American Angus Association
- 3rd Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute
- HM Mike Rankin, Hay & Forage Grower e Hay Weekly

Advertorial

1st Ryan Ebert, Hoard's Dairyman

Rotating Theme: Animal House

1st Ryan Ebert, Hoard's Dairyman

2nd Martha Mintz, The Furrow

3rd Kerri Lotven, Today's Farmer

HM Joel Reichenberger, Homestead

Digitally Enhanced Photos

1st Katy Holdener, American Angus Association

Photo of the Year

"Depression Diner"

Steve Werblow

The Furrow

Photographer of the Year

Martha Mintz

Honorable Mention Photographer of the Year

Dean Houghton

2019 Master Photographer Program

Level One

Steve Godwin

Jodi Henke

Austin Keating

Julie Mais

Victoria Myers

Edwin Remsburg

Mark Wallheiser

Level Two

Jessie Bland

Steve Woit

Level Three

Jennifer Blackburn

Katy Holdener

Kylene Scott

Maggie Seiler

Pamela Smith

Brent Warren

Level Four

Kerri Lotven

Level Five

Ryan Ebert

2019 Photography Judges

Scott Baxter

David Charrlin

Bob Elbert

Michael Gessinger

David Tonge

Steve Voit

2019 AAEA Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation and CHS, Inc.

The AAEA Lifetime Achievement Award is designed to honor current and former members of the organization, including those who may be deceased, for outstanding professional and personal achievements and leadership, with specific emphasis on contributions toward improvement of the viability and value of AAEA. This award is reserved for those who have adhered to high standards of professionalism in all aspects of their endeavors.

Jim Patrico

Having been awarded the Photographer of the Year award nine times, Jim Patrico's reputation in AAEA is synonymous with excellence. Jim has served on the AAEA board of directors, as a committee chair, and PIF trustee. With his award-winning work and selfless work for the association, he's left a major impact for generations to come.

Joann Alumbaugh

For more than 30 years, JoAnn Alumbaugh has been a champion of AAEA and PIF programs. She is dedicated and passionate and has served on or chaired nearly every committee available. JoAnn is widely known and respected for her work in the swine industry. In her career, she's served as the executive director of the National Association of Swine Records, for breed associations, and written for PorkNetwork and Farms.com.

2019 Fellows of the AAEA

The American Agricultural Editors' Association is proud to announce the selection of two new Fellows of the AAEA. The Fellows Program recognizes members for excellent service to AAEA.

The new AAEA Fellows are:

- Den Gardner, Gardner and Gardner Communications
- Kenna Rathai, broadhead
- Steve Werblow, Steve Werblow Communications

The Fellows were nominated by the 12-member AAEA Legacy Committee. The nominations were then passed onto the AAEA Board of Directors for final approval.

2018 Andy Markwart Horizon Award

The Andy Markwart Horizon Award, presented by the AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation (PIF) and John Deere in a matching grant partnership, is an annual award given to an AAEA member who embodies the youthful vigor, energy, passion, dedication and creativity shown by Andy in his volunteer work for AAEA for many years. Andy, editor of *The Furrow*, died in 2006 from heart problems.

Cassie Yontz

Account Supervisor
Charleston | Orwig

Since graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2011, Cassie Yontz has worked for GROWMARK, Inc., Archer Malmo and is now an account supervisor at Charleston | Orwig.

“Cassie embodies all the same qualities that made Andy such a wonderful AAEA member and mentor,” said Lyle Orwig, who knew Andy Markwart. “She displays that same youthful vigor, high energy, passion for everything she does, and dedication to her clients, her fellow employees and to every challenge placed in front of her.”

In her application for the Andy Markwart Horizon award, Yontz wrote, “I am grateful to spend each day seeking to understand and serve the best interests of my clients, coaching and mentoring the next generation of agricultural communicators and serving as an agricultural advocate in my networks. I am a firm believer that no matter how old we get, how long we’ve worked, how much we *think* we know – we can *never* stop pursuing knowledge. We can never lose the hunger for further education, the hunger to learn more and continue bettering ourselves.”

Yontz currently serves as a trustee for the AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation.

AAEA/ACT Scholarship Program

The AAEA/ACT Scholarship Program is a joint effort of AAEA and the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and is **funded by the AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation, CoBank and AgCareers.com.**

The Jim Evans Scholarship

The top AAEA/ACT scholarship given each year is “The Jim Evans Scholarship.” Dr. Evans has had a tremendous impact on the establishment and growth of agricultural communications programs, and serves as a mentor for hundreds of former and present students. Anyone who meets and visits with Jim comes away with renewed enthusiasm for our industry and a great appreciation for everything he has done for our profession. The recipient is recognized for “excellence in academics and leadership, and for exemplifying the dedication and commitment of the outstanding individual for whom this award is named.”

Amanda Crow Iowa State University

Amanda Crow stands out as a leader as she strives to advocate for the agricultural industry. Rather than sit back and coast through school, she is dedicated to the agriculture industry and to a growing network in agricultural communications.

Outside of her school work, she is also involved in a number of agricultural-related activities. She is always looking for ways to advance her education experience, which includes travelling across her home state for informational meetings.

2019 AAEA/ACT Past Presidents’ Scholarship Recipients

- Amanda Crow, Iowa State University**
- Janae McKinney, Kansas State University**
- Jessica Wesson, University of Arkansas**
- Kathryn Zelechowski, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

2019 AAEA Interns

Loren Lindler was selected to be the AAEA editorial communications intern with DTN/Progressive Farmer in Omaha, Nebraska. She is a senior at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and is majoring in agricultural communications.

Katherine Wist was named the AAEA marketing communications intern with Charleston | Orwig in Hartland, Wisconsin. She is a junior at Kansas State University majoring in agricultural communications and journalism.

AAEA Communications Awards Sponsors

Thank you to our generous sponsors who help fund the AAEA awards programs.

Writing Awards

Syngenta

Design Awards

Corteva Agriscience

MarComm Awards

Agri Marketing

DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Farm Progress

Hoard's Dairyman

Meredith Agrimedia

Digital & Social Media Awards

Syngenta

Photography Awards

Rabo AgriFinance

Lifetime Achievement Awards

CHS Inc.

AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation

Andy Markwart Horizon Award:

John Deere

AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation

Thank you to our hard-working committees:

AAEA Awards Program

Jim Patrico, Co-Chair

Joy Carter Crosby, Co-Chair

AAEA Writing Awards Committee

Bill Spiegel, Chair

AAEA Design Awards Committee

Amy Gohman, Chair

AAEA MarComm Awards Committee

Pam Caraway, Chair

AAEA Digital & Social Media Awards Committee

Josh Flint, Chair

AAEA Photography Awards Committee

David Ekstrom, Co-Chair

Kerri Reynolds Lotven, Co-Chair

AAEA Legacy Committee
Larry Dreiling, Chair

AAEA Future Ag Communicators Committee
Laurie Bedord, Chair

Thank you to our award program managers, Debbie Alexander and Carly Byrd, and to Samantha Kilgore and Mary Kendall Dixon of the AAEA staff for strong support of the award programs throughout the year.