

2016 AWARD WINNERS PROGRAM

American Agricultural Editors' Association 2016 AAEA Communications Awards

Presented Tuesday, July 26, 2016
Agricultural Media Summit
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch
St. Louis, Missouri

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AAEA Writing Awards Program

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

2016 Winners

Breaking News

- 1st – Emily Unglesbee, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Bollworm Invades U.S.”
- 2nd – Pamela Smith, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Dicamba Acceptance Questions”
- 3rd – Marcia Zarley Taylor, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Disparity in ARC Payments”

Economics & Management

- 1st – Bob Burgdorfer, Farm Futures, “Tough times, tough decisions”
- 2nd – Karl Wolfshohl, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Better With Better Numbers”
- 3rd – Holly Spangler, Prairie Farmer, “From seed to spirit”

Editorial Opinion

- 1st – Holly Spangler, Prairie Farmer, “How Poe can win back Illinois agriculture”
- 2nd – Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, “A better job defending animal agriculture”
- 3rd – Pamela Smith, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “My Own Personal Bee Gate”

Human Interest

- 1st – Laurie Bedord, Successful Farming, “Show Bound”
- 2nd – Jennifer Carrico, High Plains Journal, “Nothing Short of a miracle”
- 3rd – Boyd Kidwell, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “O Christmas Tree”

Humorous Article

- 1st – Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, “The doctor will see you now”
- 2nd – Jennifer Latzke, High Plains Journal, “One more day”
- 3rd – Gail Keck, Ohio Farmer, “Puppy Power Reels in Adult Children”

Issues

- 1st – Dan Miller, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “The Great Water War”
- 2nd – Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, “A legal battle to farm”
- 3rd – Steve Werblow, The Furrow, “Heart of Africa”

On-Farm Production

- 1st – Jessie Scott, Successful Farming, “Slash Tillage”
- 2nd – Kurt Lawton, Corn + Soybean Digest, “Soybean inputs lack ROI”
- 3rd – Jill Loehr, Prairie Farmer, “Mother Nature vs. fall-applied nitrogen”

Personality Profile

- 1st – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, “Farm, Family, Football”
- 2nd – Chris Bennett, Farm Journal, “Every Field Its Own Farm”
- 3rd – Martha Mintz, The Furrow, “Pants with Ants”

Regular Column

1st – Kurt Lawton, Corn+Soybean Digest, “Why promote 500-bushel corn?”

2nd – Gail Keck, Ohio Farmer, “Go Peanut Route with GMOs”

3rd – Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, “Your customers are wrong. Live with it”

Technical Feature

1st – Jessie Scott, Successful Farming, “Farm on Lockdown”

2nd – Karl Wolfshohl, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Pasture Poultry Profits”

3rd – Bill Spiegel, Successful Farming, “The Economics of Soil Health”

Team Story

1st – Ben Potter & Sara Schafer, Top Producer, “Proof Positive”

2nd – Kacey Birchmier & Jessie Scott, Successful Farming “A Successful Cover Up”

3rd – Barb Baylor Anderson, Gregg Hillyer, Des Keller, Victoria Myers, Jim Patrico, Russ Quinn, Marcia Zarley Taylor & Elizabeth Williams, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Rebalance Your Business”

Story of the Year

“Proof Positive”

Ben Potter & Sara Schafer

Top Producer

Writer of the Year, Honorable Mention

Jamie Cole

AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group

Writer of the Year

Martha Mintz

Corral Creek Communications

2016 Master Writer Program

New Writers of Merit in 2016

Larry Dreiling

Gil Gullickson

New Master Writers (Level Five) in 2016

Deborah Huso

Liz Morrison

Jessie Scott

Bill Spiegel

Willie Vogt

Level One

Wyatt Bechtel
Julia Debes
Sarah Hill
Courtney Leeper
L.S. Leonard
Alison Rice
Loretta Sorensen
Jennifer Whittaker

Level Two

Chris Bennett
Joy Crosby
Jill Loehr
Lacey Newlin

Level Three

Jeff Hoffelt
Joel Schettler

Level Four

Jennifer Carrico
Ben Potter
Sara Schafer

2016 AAEA Writing Judges

Kasey Allen
Larry Aylward
Tim Barker
Mary Baxter
Gordon Billingsley
Alan Bjerga
Neal Fandek
Ray Ford
Patricia Howard
Sherilyn Hoyer

Jason Jenkins
Jessica Stewart
Robert Meyer
Dianna O'Brien
Candace Pollock
Jake Sherlock
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 Case IH and DuPont Pioneer.

2016 Winners

Cover Page Design -- Commercial

- 1st – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Tread Lightly
- 2nd – Lisa Lynd, Farm Futures, How Low Can You Grow?
- 3rd – Ryan Ebert, Hoard's Dairyman, World Dairy Expo

Cover Page Design -- Custom

- 1st – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, Water Woes
- 2nd – Tom Sizemore, Homestead, Queen Bee
- 3rd – Katie Westman, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Legacy magazine, The Fruits of Their Labor

Single-Page Editorial Design – Commercial

- 1st – Lindsey Benne, Farm Journal, How ARC, PLC Elections Shape Up
- 2nd – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, The Successful Interview
- 3rd – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, First Cut

Single-Page Editorial Design – Custom

- 1st – Tom Sizemore, Homestead, A splash of spring
- 2nd – Tom Sizemore, Homestead, Spectacular springtimes
- 3rd – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, Mammoth Find

Opening Page or Spread Design – Commercial

- 1st – Dana Rafferty, Top Producer, Meat Market
- 2nd – Lindsey Benne, Farm Journal, Resilience Amidst Income Pressure
- 3rd – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Farm on Lockdown

Opening Page or Spread Design – Custom

- 1st – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, When the Levee Breaks
- 2nd – Amy Gohman, C Magazine, Homegrown Advocates
- 3rd – Katie Range, Illinois Field & Bean magazine, Learn what works from the Yield Boosters

Two-Plus Page Design – Commercial

- 1st – Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Land Price Fallout
- 2nd – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Slash Tillage
- 3rd – Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, The big squeeze

Two-Plus Page Design – Custom

- 1st – Tom Sizemore, Homestead, Flat-out skiing
- 2nd – Amy Gohman, C Magazine, Double delight
- 3rd – Amy Gohman, C Magazine, Long View

Special Editorial Section Design

- 1st – Barry Falkner, Donovan Harris & Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Food Security's Fragile Balance
- 2nd – Amy Gohman, C Magazine, CHS Careers Special Section
- 3rd – Donovan Harris, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, America's Best Young Farmers and Ranchers 2016

Overall Magazine Design – Commercial

- 1st – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Mid-February
- 2nd – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Mid-November
- 3rd – Barry Falkner, Donovan Harris & Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, February 2016

Overall Magazine Design – Custom

- 1st – Katie Westman, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Legacy magazine, Winter 2015
- 2nd – Tom Sizemore, Homestead, Winter 2015
- 3rd – Amy Gohman, C Magazine, March/April 2016

Overall Magazine Design – Special Issues

- 1st – Tom Sizemore, The Furrow, February 2016 Why We Care
- 2nd – Tom Sizemore, Homestead, March 2016 The Art of Gardening
- 3rd – Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, The Weather Issue

Special Publication Design

- 1st – Katie Westman, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Beyond the Numbers Annual Report
- 2nd – Faith Jurek, United Sorghum Checkoff Program, 2015: A Big Year for Sorghum Annual Report
- 3rd – Anna Moorese, Colle+McVoy -- Farm Credit Mid-America, 2015 Annual Report

Web Design – Electronic Newsletter/Magazine

- 1st – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, Water For a Thirsty, and Hungry, World Special Report
- 2nd – Haley Ahlers & Mirhee Lee, Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, TERRA-MEPP Website
- 3rd – Tom Sizemore, The Furrow

Best Use of Typography

- 1st – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Tread Lightly
- 2nd – Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, #STAYFARMING
- 3rd – Tom Sizemore, The Furrow, On the Ice Cream Trail

Best Use of Chart and Graph Material

- 1st – Katie Range, Illinois Field & Bean magazine, December 2015 Connect the Dots
- 2nd – Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, November 2015 CRISPR: cutting edge tech for plant breeders
- 3rd – Dana Rafferty, Top Producer, Mid-November 2015 Storage Wars

Best Use of Photography in a Print Periodical

- 1st – Tom Sizemore, Homestead
- 2nd – Tom Sizemore, The Furrow
- 3rd – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group

AAEA Designer of the Year, Honorable Mention

Matt Strelecki
Successful Farming

AAEA Designer of the Year

Amy Gohman
C Magazine

2016 AAEA Design Judges

Blake Dinsdale
Sam DuRegger
Jamie Ezra Mark
Valerie Kisling
Renee Martin Kratzer
J O'Brien
Carolyn Preul
Caysey Welton

AAEA MarComm Awards Program

The AAEA MarComm Awards Program is sponsored by AAEA through funding provided by Agri Marketing, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Farm Journal Media, High Plains Journal, Hoard's Dairyman, Meredith Agrimedia, Penton Agriculture, and The Western Producer.

2016 Winners

Advertorial – One-page

- 1st – Filament Marketing – Purina Animal Nutrition, Dear Purina Column
- 2nd – broadhead. – Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., The Little Beetle That Could Advertorial
- 3rd – Sage – NovaSource/Surround, Managing The Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing

Advertorial – Multi-page or Special Section

- 1st – MorganMyers – Illinois Soybean Association, Size Up the Market for Soybean Meal
- 2nd – AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group – Massey Ferguson Farmstead Projects
- 3rd – Filament Marketing – Purina Animal Nutrition, Purina AMPLI-CALF Advertorial Spread

Media/Special Event

- 1st – broadhead. – Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., BIVI MediaFest
- 2nd – MorganMyers – Illinois Farm Families, #Foodiechats
- 3rd – Filament Marketing – Purina Animal Nutrition, PurinaFlock Mother Earth News Blogger Brunch

Feature Article

- 1st – DTN/The Progressive Farmer Custom Publishing – National Corn Growers Association, Economize Without Compromise
- 2nd – Charleston|Orwig – Illinois Soybean Association, Shatter Your Yield Barriers
- 3rd – Exponent PR – CHS, Inc., Keep Equipment Moving in the Cold

News Article

- 1st – Sage – Ag Council of America, “American Farmers Lead Way In Feeding And Caring For The World”
- 2nd – Barb Baylor Anderson, Illinois Soybean Association, Tenuous Trade Outlook Ups Market Risk
- 3rd – Colle+McVoy/Exponent PR – WinField, Is Your Plant Nutrition Program Healthy?

News Release

1st – Filament Marketing – Purina Animal Nutrition, 4 reasons preconditioning makes ‘cents’

2nd – MorganMyers – Illinois Soybean Association, New Marine Aquaculture Fishery Management Plan to Expand Soybean Meal Market

3rd – Filament Marketing – Nedap, Sow aggression: The cocktail party approach

Technical Writing

1st – Exponent PR – DuPont Crop Protection Field Alerts

2nd – Colle+McVoy/Exponent PR – WinField, Aphanomyces: The Race to Defend Alfalfa

3rd – Kenna B. Rathai Communications – Novus International, How animal feed enzymes can improve producer profitability

Publication – Print or Electronic – Not for Profit

1st – The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Legacy magazine, Spring 2015

2nd – Jennifer Shike -- University of Illinois College of ACES, ACES@Illinois magazine, Spring 2016

3rd – Joy Crosby, Southeastern Peanut Farmer magazine, October/November 2015

Publication – Print or Electronic – For Profit

1st – G&S Business Communications – Syngenta, Thrive Magazine

2nd – Filament Marketing – Purina Animal Nutrition, CheckPoint newsletter

3rd – broadhead. – The Mosaic Company, Unfenced Magazine

Media Materials/Kit

1st – Charleston|Orwig – Illinois Soybean Association, ISA Media Advisories

2nd – Amy Roady -- Illinois Soybean Growers, Illinois Soybean Growers Welcomes Progress with Cuba

3rd – Jessie Bland – Georgia Peanut Commission/Southeastern Peanut Farmer, Southeastern Peanut Farmer Media Kit

Speech/White Paper

1st – Richard Banks & Jamie Cole -- AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, AGCO FarmLife White Paper: Guide to Succession Planning

2nd – J. Adam Calaway -- The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Playground Education

3rd – Patrick Delaney -- American Soybean Association, Comments to the USB Board of Directors

Writing for Special Projects

1st – Colle+McVoy/Exponent PR – WinField, 2016 CROPLAN® Seed Guide

2nd – Faith Jurek -- United Sorghum Checkoff, 2015: A Big Year for Sorghum

3rd – Barb Baylor Anderson -- Illinois Soybean Association, Leadership Matters: ISA Annual Report 2014-15

2016 AAEA MarComm Judges

Debbie Clayton
Felicia Gilham
Seth Jones
Jennell Loschke
Teresa Morgenstern
Bob Rumpza

AAEA Digital & Social Media Awards Program

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

2016 Winners

Digital & Social Media – Marketing Communications Division

Podcasts

1st – broadhead. – The Mosaic Company, The Great Yield Mystery
2nd – Filament Marketing – Purina Animal Nutrition, Purina Flock Ogden Video Series
3rd – Colle+McVoy/Exponent PR - WinField, Feeding Knowledge-Hungry Farmers on the Deal with Yield

Blogs

1st – Bader Rutter – Case IH, Be Ready Blog
2nd – Exponent PR – CHS, Inc., Cenexperts Blog: Delivering Industry Insights
3rd – Charleston|Orwig – Illinois Soybean Association, ILSoyAdvisor.com

Websites

1st – MorganMyers – Illinois Soybean Association, The Acre on WatchUsGrow.org
2nd – Harvest PR & Marketing – U.S. Apple Association, USApple.com/Apple Madness
3rd – Exponent PR – DuPont Crop Protection, Walk the Plots: Southern Virtual Field Tour

Webinars

1st – Charleston|Orwig – Illinois Soybean Association, ILSoyAdvisor.com Webinar Series

Social Media

1st – Harvest PR & Marketing – U.S. Apple Association, Apples for Education
2nd – Filament Marketing – Purina Animal Nutrition, Purina Poultry Social Media Campaign
3rd – MorganMyers – Illinois Farm Families, Local Farms Social Media Campaign

Mobile/Tablet Technology Apps

1st – Exponent PR – DuPont Crop Production Guide

2nd – broadhead. – Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., IDPPID.com Digital Diagnostic App

3rd – Charleston|Orwig – U.S. Grains Council, Grains Conversion Calculator

Digital & Social Media – Publishing Division

Podcasts

1st – Richard Banks, Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, Cool Running: A Visit with the Sloans

2nd – Jodi Henke, Living the Country Life, Keep the Chickens from Crossing the Road

3rd – Bryce Anderson, Nick Scalise & Elaine Shein, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Reporter's Notebook: Crop Progress and Weather Review

Blogs

1st – Marcia Zarley Taylor, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Minding Ag's Business

2nd – Holly Spangler, Prairie Farmer, My Generation

3rd – Urban Lehner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, An Urban's Rural View

Websites

1st – Angus Media, Angus Media Website, www.angus.media

2nd – DTN/The Progressive Farmer – DTNPF.com

3rd – Meredith Agrimedia – Successful Farming at Agriculture.com

Webinars

1st – Hoard's Dairyman, Milking ration fiber for all it's worth

2nd – Hoard's Dairyman, What the cows are telling us about their transition needs

3rd – Darin Newsom, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Livestock Markets Quarterly Outlook

Social Media

1st – DTN/The Progressive Farmer, DTN/The Progressive Farmer Ag Summit Coverage

2nd – AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, AGCO FarmLife Social Media

3rd – Betsy Freese, Living the Country Life, Living the Country Life Social Media

Mobile/Tablet Technology Apps

1st – AgriCharts & Successful Farming, AgMobile

2nd – Colle+McVoy/Exponent PR – CHS, Inc., C Magazine App

3rd – DTN/The Progressive Farmer, DTN/The Progressive Farmer iPad App

Multimedia Story

- 1st – Crystal Albers, Josh Comminellis & Eric Grant, Angus Media, I Am Angus Dec. 28, 2015 Episode
- 2nd – David Ekstrom & Jessie Scott, Agriculture.com, Cover Crops
- 3rd – Richard Banks & Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, Water for a Thirsty, and Hungry, World

2016 AAEA Digital & Social Media Judges

Jessie Decker
McGavock Edwards
Lynette Von Minden
Kerry A. O'Connor
Jeff Salem
Elaine Symanski

AAEA Photography Awards Program

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

2016 Winners

Portrait/Personality

- 1st – Todd Klassy, RANGE Magazine
- 2nd – Lacey Newlin, High Plains Journal
- 3rd – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation web and social media
- HM – Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM – Greg Lamp, C Magazine

Pictorial

- 1st – David Lundquist, C Magazine
- 2nd – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- 3rd – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group
- HM – Sam Wirzba, Last Light Bovine Photography
- HM – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Feature

- 1st – David Ekstrom, Successful Farming
- 2st – Todd Klassy, RANGE magazine
- 3rd – Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group
- 3rd – Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM – David Ekstrom, Successful Farming, Meredith Agrimedia

Nuts & Bolts – Livestock

- 1st – Charles Johnson, The Furrow
- 2nd – Todd Klassy, RANGE Magazine
- 3rd – Becky Mills, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM – Steve Werblow, The Furrow
- HM – Karl Wolfshohl, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Nuts & Bolts – Crops

- 1st – Dean Houghton, The Furrow
- 2nd – Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 3rd – Dean Houghton, Homestead
- HM – Dean Houghton, The Furrow
- HM – Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming
- HM – Harlen Persinger, Wisconsin Agriculturalist

Picture Story

- 1st – Todd Klassy, Range Magazine
- 2nd – Steve Werblow, The Furrow
- 3rd – Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM – Martha Mintz, The Furrow

Emerging Photographer

- 1st – Todd Klassy, Great Falls Tribune
- 2nd – Todd Klassy, Great Falls Tribune
- 3rd – Todd Klassy, Great Falls Tribune
- HM – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Photo Illustration

- 1st – Greg Lamp, C Magazine
- 2nd – Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 3rd – Dean Houghton, The Furrow
- HM – David Lundquist, C Magazine
- HM – Lorne McClinton, The Furrow

Unpublished

- 1st – Kacey Birchmier, Successful Farming
- 2nd – Kerri Reynolds, MFA Incorporated
- 3rd – Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM – Bill Spiegel, Successful Farming
- HM – Todd Klassy, Todd Klassy Photography
- HM – Todd Klassy, Todd Klassy Photography

Photo of the Year

Todd Klassy, RANGE Magazine (Bovines in the Bear Paws)

Photographer of the Year

Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group

Honorable Mention Photographer of the Year

Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

2016 Master Photographer Program

Level One

Jay Stone, Georgia Farm Bureau

Jennifer Whittaker, Georgia Farm Bureau

Joy Crosby, Georgia Peanut Commission

Wyatt Bechtel, Farm Journal Media

Jill Loehr, Prairie Farmer

Abby Bauer, Hoard's Dairyman

Level Two

Kerri Reynolds, MFA Incorporated

Level Three

Lacey Newlin, High Plains Journal

Kacy Birchmier, Successful Farming

Bill Spiegel, Successful Farming

Level Four

Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Sam Wirzba, Last Light Bovine Photography

Level Five

Todd Klassy, Todd Klassy Photography

Charles Johnson

Master Photographer

Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group

2016 Photography Judges

Scott Baxter

Patrick Downs

Russell Graves

Adam Jahiel

Jeff Kida

Keith Skelton

2016 AAEA Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by 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. Eight years ago, the American Agricultural Editors' Association reinstated the Lifetime Achievement Award, which had been given for the first and only time to Wheeler McMillen in 1990.

Jack Odle

Jack Odle, retired publisher of DTN/The Progressive Farmer, served as president of AAEA in 1996-97. In a previous role as editor and editor in chief of The Progressive Farmer, he provided leadership and overall direction for several series of articles that resulted in team awards, including Oscars in Agriculture in 1984 and 1992 as well as first place in the AAEA Writing Awards Contest in 1992. Odle, himself, won an AAEA Writing Award for Best Column in 2002.

Odle served on the boards of the Farm Foundation, Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), USDA Honor Awards Evaluation Committee, Clemson Agricultural Research Advisory Board, Auburn Research Advisory Board, Agriculture Foundation (former chair), American Business Media Ag Media Committee and the Alabama Agribusiness Council.

Harlen Persinger

Harlen Persinger is a veteran independent journalist, photographer, mentor, and friend to all. His agricultural communications career of more than 40 years has covered just about everything related to the farm and ranch: equipment, crop and livestock production, rural health and safety issues, agribusiness, and rural lifestyles. Persinger's photography has graced the covers of great magazines like Successful Farming, Top Producer, Farm Industry News, Wisconsin Agriculturalist, Hoard's Dairyman, Drover's Journal, Hay & Forage Grower, Eastern Dairy Producer, Agri Marketing and so many more. Persinger has been named AAEA's Photographer of the Year three times.

2016 Fellows of the AAEA

The American Agricultural Editors' Association is proud to announce the selection of 17 longtime members into the first class of Fellows Of The AAEA. The newly developed Fellows Program recognizes members for excellent service to AAEA.

The members of the first class of AAEA Fellows are:

- JoAnn Alumbaugh, FAAE, editor of *PorkNetwork*, Farm Journal Media
- Jim Dickrell, FAAE, editor, *Dairy Herd Management*, Farm Journal Media
- Larry Dreiling, FAAE, senior field editor, *High Plains Journal*
- Betsy Freese, FAAE, executive editor, *Living the Country Life*, Meredith Agrimedia
- Gregg Hillyer, FAAE, editor in chief, *DTN/The Progressive Farmer*
- Greg Horstmeier, FAAE, DTN editor in chief, *DTN/The Progressive Farmer*
- Greg Lamp, FAAE, editor in chief, CHS, Inc.
- Holly Martin, FAAE, editor, *High Plains Journal*
- Christine McClintic, FAAE, freelance writer/photographer
- Amy McDonald, FAAE, McDonald Marketing Communications
- Karen McMahan, FAAE, freelance reporter
- Lyle Orwig, FAAE, chairman, Charleston|Orwig.
- R. Kelly Schwalbe, FAAE, partner, Sage Communications
- Karen Simon, FAAE, president, Karen Simon Communications
- Willie Vogt, FAAE, executive director, Content and User Engagement, Penton Farm Progress
- Mike Wilson, FAAE, executive editor, Penton Farm Progress
- Sara Wyant, FAAE, president, Agri-Pulse Communications Inc.

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. It is estimated the inaugural class has combined for slightly more than 400 years of membership in the association, and 12 of the Fellows are AAEA past presidents.

2016 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.

Ryan Ebert

Art Director

Hoard's Dairyman and Hay & Forage Grower magazines

Ebert, who has been the one-person art department at Hoard's for the past nine years, says he never thought growing up on a small hog and poultry farm in Wisconsin that he would have a career allowing him to blend his passions for agriculture and art. He credits the knowledge and networking gained from AAEA for many of the ways he's helped improve Hoard's communication offerings. One reference said Ebert is "a dynamic member of our editorial team ... who has made outstanding contributions to company-related business development projects. An outstanding, award-winning photographer, storyteller and employee who lends his time to helping nonprofits and AAEA." Another wrote that Ebert is "continually raising the standards for excellence; never content; always looking for new and better ideas and ways to grow and improve." Ebert has served in leadership roles on the AAEA Photography and Design Awards Committees and is currently a member of the AAEA Board of Directors.

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.

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."

Cameron Jodlowski

Iowa State University

2016 AAEA/ACT Past Presidents' Scholarship Recipients

John David Rosman
Oklahoma State University

Madison Hickey
University of Georgia

Audrey Schmitz
Kansas State University

2016 AAEA Interns

Sydney Sleep, South Dakota State University agricultural communications major, served as the AAEA editorial communications intern with Hay & Forage Grower in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. She also assisted with the 2016 Ag Media Summit in St. Louis, Missouri.

Tessa Chambers, University of Missouri science and agricultural journalism major, spent the summer as the AAEA marketing communications intern with Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis, Indiana. She also assisted with the 2016 Ag Media Summit in St. Louis, Missouri.

AAEA Communications Awards Sponsors

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

Writing Awards:

Syngenta

Design Awards:

Case IH
DuPont Pioneer

MarComm Awards:

Agri Marketing
DTN/The Progressive Farmer
Farm Journal Media
High Plains Journal

Hoard's Dairyman
Meredith Agrimedia
Penton Agriculture
The Western Producer

Digital & Social Media Awards:

Syngenta

Photography Awards:

Monsanto Company

Rabo AgriFinance

Distinguished Service Award:

Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM)

Lifetime Achievement Awards:

CHS Inc.

Andy Markwart Horizon Award:

John Deere

AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation

Thank you to our hard-working committees:

AAEA Writing Awards Committee

Mike Wilson and Jamie Cole, Co-Chairs

AAEA Design Awards Committee

Matt Strelecki, Chair

AAEA MarComm Awards Committee (Affiliate Advisory Committee)

Cynthia Clanton, Chair

AAEA Digital & Social Media Awards Committee

Josh Flint, Chair

AAEA Photography Awards Committee

Ryan Ebert and David Ekstrom, Co-Chairs

AAEA Legacy Committee

Larry Dreiling, Chair

AAEA Future Ag Communicators Committee

Laurie Bedord, Chair

Thank you to our award program managers, Marilyn Cummins and Christine McClintic, and to our AAEA Communications Awards Program interns from the University of Missouri Science & Agricultural Journalism program, Tori Lock and Lindsey Robinson, with assistance from Will Fandek, student at Northwestern University.

Thank you to Den Gardner, Kristy Mach, Kenna Rathai, Barb Ulschmid and Kyle Wieskus of the AAEA staff for strong support of the award programs throughout the year.

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