2017 AWARD WINNERS PROGRAM

American Agricultural Editors' Association: Agricultural Communicators Network 2017 AAEA Communications Awards

Presented Tuesday, July 25, 2017 Agricultural Media Summit Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort Snowbird, Utah

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AAEA Writing Awards Program

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

2017 Winners

Breaking News

- 1st Bill Spiegel, High Plains Journal, "Wildfires Take Emotional Toll"
- 2nd Emily Unglesbee, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Herculex Trait Fails Against Western Bean Cutworm"
- 3rd Pamela Smith, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Dicamba Restrictions"

Economics & Management

- 1st Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, "Troubled Waters"
- 2nd Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, "Traits Under the Lens"
- 3rd Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, "Logistical Symphony"

Editorial Opinion

- 1st Holly Spangler, Prairie Farmer, "Illinois Budget: Like a Bull That Can't Breed"
- 2nd Gregg Hillyer, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Food Labels Won't Solve GMO Knowledge Gap"
- 3rd Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, "We Ignore Cuba at Our Own Peril"

Human Interest

- 1st Joel Reichenberger, The Furrow, "Sleeping on Straw"
- 2nd Joe Link, The Furrow, "The Crooked Road"
- 3rd Martha Mintz, Homestead Magazine, "Celebrating Sauerkraut"

Humorous Article

- 1st Marlee Moore, Alabama Farmers Federation, "Going Out with a Bang: Holy Smoke Offers Outdoorsmen One Last Shot"
- 2nd Pamela Smith, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Hover Over This"
- 3rd Charles Johnson, Homestead Magazine, "Blame the Llama

Issues

- 1st Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, "Palm Oil Producer Bucks the Tide"
- 2nd Virginia Harris, DTN/ The Progressive Farmer, "Primary Care Pipeline"
- 3rd Dan Miller, DTN/ The Progressive Farmer, "Bridging the Gap"

On-Farm Production

- 1st Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Out of the Toy Box"
- 2nd Joann Pipkin, Angus Journal, "Fingertip Marketing"
- 3rd Dave Mowitz, Successful Farming, "100 Percent Speed, Zero Percent Losses"

Personality Profile

- 1st Joe Link, Homestead Magazine, "The Luthier"
- 2nd Ann Hess, Ag Daily, "The Incredible Dr. Pol"
- 3rd Kasey Brown, Angus Journal, "A Century of Overcoming Adversity"

Regular Column

- 1st Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, "Soil Health Just Needs One First Step"
- 2nd Urban Lehner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "The Blurring Line Between Big Food and Little Food"
- 3rd Kurt Lawton, Corn + Soybean Digest, "Green Autumn Fields"

Technical Feature

- 1st Victoria Myers, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Hooves Not Harrows"
- 2nd Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, "The Next Great Leap"
- 3rd Jill Loehr, Farm Progress, "Tech's Trust Issues"

Team Story

- 1st Jacqui Fatka & Mike Wilson, Farm Futures, "Fear on the Farm"
- 2nd Gil Gullickson & Kacey Birchmier, Successful Farming, "Some Call It Satan"
- 3rd Jennifer Kiel, Paul Jackson, & Nicole Heslip, Michigan Farmer & Michigan Farm News, "Help Wanted"

Story of the Year

"Sleeping on Straw"
Joel Reichenberger
The Furrow

Writer of the Year, Honorable Mention

Kacey Birchmier Successful Farming

Writer of the Year

Joe Link The Furrow

2017 Master Writer Program

New Writer of Merit in 2017

Gregg Hillyer Jennifer Kiel

New Master Writers (Level Five) in 2017

Jennifer Carrico

Dee Goerge

Level One

Robin Booker

J. Adam Calaway

Susan Crowell

Debra Davis

Nicole Heslip

Ann Hess

Katie Navarra

Level Two

Laura Conaway

Marilyn Cummins

Cheryl Day

Courtney Leeper

Ron Lyseng

Shelby Mettlen

Joann Pipkin

Joel Reichenberger

Level Three

Jill Loehr

Marlee Moore

Kylene Scott

Level Four

Kacey Birchmier

2017 AAEA Writing Judges

Kasey Allen Larry Aylward Sue Stuever Battel Gordon Billingsley Alan Bjerga Neal Fandek Ray Ford

Georgina Gustin

Michael Hanisco Brian Horn Patricia Howard Jason Jenkins Tim Marema Candace Pollock Jake Sherlock Jessica Stewart 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.

2017 Winners

Cover Page Design -- Commercial

- 1st Lisa Lynd, Farm Futures, "Super Powers"
- 2nd Lisa Lynd, Farm Futures, "Can Science Save Citrus?"
- 3rd Lisa Lynd, Farm Futures, "Target Practice"

Cover Page Design -- Custom

- 1st Amy Gohman, C Magazine, "The Future of Food" Jan/Feb 2017
- 2nd Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, "Today's Lessons, Tomorrow's Leaders"
- 3rd Matt Strelecki, FFA New Horizons Magazine, "I am FFA" Spring 2017

Single-Page Editorial Design – Commercial

- 1st Lisa Lynd, Farm Futures, "How We Got Here"
- 2nd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Gleanings" Mid-November 2016
- 3rd Donovan Harris, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Speak Up For Ag"

Single-Page Editorial Design – Custom

- 1st Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, "Recovering Dairyman"
- 2nd Katie Range, Illinois Field & Bean, "Look into the Illinois Millennial Mindset"
- 3rd Katie Range, Illinois Field & Bean, "Voice for Soy Advocacy Champions Multiply Farmer Voices

Opening Page or Spread Design – Commercial

- 1st Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "The Pollinator Blame Game"
- 2nd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Put Your Power Use Under the Microscope"
- 3rd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "The Next Great Leap"

Opening Page or Spread Design – Custom

- 1st Richard Williamson, The Furrow, "Rekindling the Flame"
- 2nd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, "The Future of Food"
- 3rd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, "Building Together"

Two-Plus Page Design – Commercial

- 1st Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Put Your Power Use Under the Microscope"
- 2nd Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "Divergence: If GM Technology is Safe, Why Don't Consumers Trust It?"
- 3rd Donovan Harris, Brent Warren, and Barry Falkner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "The Pulse of Rural America"

Two-Plus Page Design – Custom

- 1st Amy Gohman, C Magazine, "Blueberry Fields Forever"
- 2nd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, "Off the Rails"
- 3rd Amy Gohman, C Magazine, "Building Together"

Special Editorial Section Design

- 1st Greg Ryan, GPN Magazine, "2017 Guide to Cannabis Production"
- 2nd Donovan Harris, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "2017 America's Best Young Farmers and Ranchers"
- 3rd Donovan Harris, Brent Warren, and Barry Falkner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Life in the Trench"

Overall Magazine Design – Commercial

- 1st Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, October 2016
- 2nd Greg Ryan, GPN Magazine, October 2016
- 3rd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, August 2016

Overall Magazine Design - Custom

- 1st Amy Gohman, C Magazine, Jan/Feb 2017
- 2nd Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, Winter 2016
- 3rd Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, Fall 2016

Overall Magazine Design – Special Issues

- 1st Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, Mid-November 2016
- 2nd Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, The Innovation Issue
- 3rd Donovan Harris, Brent Warren, and Barry Falkner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, Mid-February 2017

Special Publication Design

- 1st Rachael Davis, Legacy Magazine, 2015 Annual Report: Celebrating 70 Years
- 2nd Faith Smith and Elisa Alvarado, United Sorghum Checkoff, 2016 Sorghum Checkoff Annual Report
- 3rd Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, CETA

Web Design – Electronic Newsletter/Magazine

- 1st Leo Nieter, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, "Cuba at the Crossroads" Transformation and Legacy"
- 2nd Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, MyFarmLife.com
- 3rd Faith Smith, United Sorghum Checkoff, The Sorghum Scoop

Best Use of Typography

- 1st Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Put Your Power Use Under the Microscope"
- 2nd Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Got Data?"
- 3rd Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, "Liquid Gold in the Sunshine

State"

Best Use of Chart and Graph Material

- 1st Amy Gohman, C Magazine, "Acres into Opportunities"
- 2nd Leo Nieter, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, "Ogallala and Soil Infographics"
- 3rd Katie Range, Illinois Field & Bean, "A Look Down the Line"

Best Use of Photography in a Print Periodical

- 1st Richard Williamson, Homestead Magazine
- 2nd Amy Gohman, C Magazine
- 3rd Jamie Cole and Leo Nieter, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group

AAEA Designer of the Year, Honorable Mention

Amy Gohman C Magazine

AAEA Designer of the Year

Matt Strelecki Successful Farming

2017 AAEA Design Judges

Blake Dinsdale
Sam DuRegger
Jamie Ezra Mark
Gardner Hatch
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, High Plains Journal, Hoard's Dairyman, Meredith Agrimedia, and Penton Farm Progress.

2017 Winners

Advertorial – One-page

1st Exponent PR - DuPont Crop Protection, Planning Beyond Your Seed Selection

- 2nd Exponent PR DuPont Crop Protection, Thrips Control Strategies: Updated Solutions Deliver Lasting Value
- 3rd Filament Marketing LLC Purina Animal Nutrition Cattle, Replacement Heifer Advertorial

Advertorial - Multi-page or Special Section

- 1st Gregg Hillyer & Donovan Harris, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, BASF Innovations From the Field
- 1st Filament Marketing LLC Purina Animal Nutrition, Flock Decision Tree
- 2nd broadhead., Peanut Grower Inoculant Guide
- 3rd Amy Roady & Laura Temple, MorganMyers, Build That Barn

Media/Special Event

- 1st DuPont Pioneer with Mikesell Global Communications & The Lacek Group, DuPont Pioneer Virtual Media Tour
- 2nd Joy Crosby, Whitney Yarbrough, & Jessie Bland, Georgia Peanut Commission, National Peanut Month
- 3rd Broadhead, Shop With A Farmer

Feature Article

- 1st Miranda Reiman, Angus Journal, "Riverbend: The Name That Cows Built"
- 2nd Catherine Merlo, New Holland News, "Redefining the Modern Dairy"
- 3rd Stephanie Henry, University of Illinois, "Operation Rescue"

News Article

- 1st Patrick Delaney, American Soybean Association, "Farm to Table: Hunger, Nutrition, and Farm Programs in the Farm Bill"
- 2nd Filament Marketing LLC Purina Animal Nutrition Dairy, "Dairy Farmers Reveal Their Next Step to Higher Production"
- 3rd The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, National U.S. Beef Sustainability Project

News Release

- 1st Filament Marketing LLC Purina Animal Nutrition Flock, "Chickens in Schools: How You Can Help"
- 2nd G&S Business Communications and Syngenta, Palmer Amaranth News Release
- 3rd Anna Wagner Schliep, Harvest PR & Marketing, "Rainy Harvest Season Lowers Wheat Straw Projections"

Technical Writing

- 1st Filament Marketing- Purina Animal Nutrition-Cattle, "Three Trimesters That Last a Lifetime: The Story of Your Cow's Pregnancy"
- 2nd G&S Business Communications and Syngenta, "Agrisure Traits Digital Brochure"
- 3rd Barb Baylor Anderson, Anderson & Associates, "Custom Crops"

Publication – Print or Electronic – Not for Profit

- 1st Meredith Agrimedia, FFA New Horizons Spring 2017
- 2nd Georgia Peanut Commission, Southeastern Peanut Farmer Jan/Feb 2017
- 3rd The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Legacy Magazine Winter 2016

Publication – Print or Electronic – For Profit

- 1st G&S Business Communications and Syngenta, Thrive Magazine
- 2nd broadhead., Unfenced Magazine
- 3rd AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, The Hesston Guide to Quality Hay ebook

Media Materials/Kit

- 1st broadhead, Taking the Field Day to You Media Kit
- 2nd Trista Cady, Harvest PR & Marketing, Survey Reveals High Acceptance for Phytogenic Feed Additives Among Millenial Foodies
- 3rd broadhead, Poop-A-Chew Media Kit

Speech/White Paper

- 1st Catherine Merlo, CoBank, "Genomics: Game-Changer for the Dairy Industry"
- 2nd Rhea + Kaiser, Grand Opening Speech Chris Tinius
- 3rd Jessica Wharton, American Soybean Association, "Two Peas in a Pod" ASA Speech to USB

Writing for Special Projects

- Julie Blunier, Illinois Soybean Association, "Pod to Plate: The Lifecycle of Soybeans"
- 2nd Filament Marketing LLC Purina Animal Nutrition, Flock Guide
- 3rd Courtney Leeper & J. Adam Calaway, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, 2015 Annual Report: Celebrating 70 Years

2017 AAEA MarComm Judges

Teresa Araque Debbie Clayton Felicia Gilham Seth Jones Julie Kaiser Jennell Loschke

AAEA Digital & Social Media Awards Program

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

2017 Winners

<u>Digital & Social Media – Marketing Communications Division</u>

Podcasts

- 1st Exponent PR WinField United, "Tuning In to Listener Needs: The Deal with Yield"
- 2nd Charleston|Orwig Illinois Soybean Association, ILSoy Advisor.com Podcasts

Blogs

- 1st Faith Smith, United Sorghum Checkoff Program, "Simply Sorghum Blog"
- 2nd Jessica Wharton, American Soybean Association, "Pod Policy, A Soybean Blog"
- 3rd Jacqui Fatka, Farm Futures, "DC Dialogue"

Websites

- 1st MorganMyers, Watch Us Grow Redesign
- 2nd G&S Business Communications and Syngenta, Thrive website
- 3rd Exponent PR WinField United, Answer Tech: Bringing Farmers and Retailers Ag Tech News and Insights

Webinars

1st Charleston|Orwig – Illinois Soybean Association, ILSoy Advisor.com Webinar series

Social Media

- 1st Filament Marketing LLC, Purina Poultry Social Media Ecosystem
- 2nd broadhead., #PorkPlease
- 3rd broadhead., Crop Nutrition #Soil Aptitude Tests

Mobile/Tablet Technology Apps

- 1st Exponent PR DuPont Crop Protection, DuPont Evalio Field Partner US App
- 2nd The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ag Tools

Online Media Rooms/ Media Kits/ Media Eventss

1st Faith Smith, United Sorghum Checkoff Program, Simply Sorghum Trade Show Media Kit

Video Production

1st MorganMyers, "Feeding Bluefin"

- 2nd broadhead., "#PorkPlease"
- 3rd Angus Media, "I Am Angus"

Digital & Social Media – Publishing Division

Podcasts

- 1st Holly Spangler and Emily Webel, Prairie Farmer, "Confessions of a Farm Wife"
- 2nd Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media, "Stover Makeover"
- 3rd Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media, "Bridges Built, Alliances Forged: Inside Shepherd's Grain"

Blogs

- 1st Kylene Scott, High Plains Publishers Inc., "Kylene's Blog"
- 2nd Urban Lehner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "An Urban's Rural View"
- 3rd Holly Spangler, Penton Farm Progress, "My Generation"

Websites

- 1st Meredith Agrimedia Successful Farming at Agriculture.com
- 2nd Ag Daily, Commercial Farming and Rural Life for Modern Times, www.agdaily.com
- 3rd Grand View Media, Farming Magazine website

Webinars

- 1st Hoard's Dairyman, "Barn Design for Robotic Milking"
- 2nd Hoard's Dairyman, "An Update on Raising Better Calves"
- 3rd Hoard's Dairyman, "Strategies for Nonpregnancy Diagnosis in Dairy Cows"

Social Media

- 1st AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, AGCO FarmLife Social Media
- 2nd Meredith Agrimedia, Successful Farming Facebook
- 3rd Ag Daily, Social Media from Ag Daily

Mobile/Tablet Technology Apps

- 1st Colle+McVoy/Exponent PR CHS, Inc., C Magazine App
- 2nd AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group, The Hesston Guide to Quality Hay ebook

Multimedia Story

- 1st Angus Media, "Rural America Rises, March 2017 Wildfire Coverage"
- 2nd Jessica Scott & David Ekstrom, Successful Farming, "From Fighter to Farmer"
- 3rd Jennifer Latzke, High Plains Journal, "Plenty of Rounds Left in These Combines"

Video Production

- 1st Alabama Farmers Federation, "Farming Feeds Alabama"
- 2nd Simply Southern, "Simply Southern TV Storybook Farm"

2017 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 Rabo AgriFinance.

2017 Winners

Portrait/Personality

- 1st Todd Klassy, Range Magazine
- 2nd Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- 3rd Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Rob Mattson. The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Pictorial

- 1st Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group
- 2nd Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 3rd Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Elaine Shein, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Feature

- 1st Joel Reichenberger, The Furrow
- 2st Joel Reichenberger, The Furrow
- 3rd David Lundquist, C Magazine
- HM Ryan Ebert, Hoard's Dairyman
- HM Martha Mintz, Homestead Magazine

Nuts & Bolts – Livestock

- 1st Lorne McClinton, The Furrow
- 2nd Sam Wirzba, Last Light Bovine Photography

- 3rd Todd Klassy, Lifestyles Montana
- HM Jamie Cole, AGCO FarmLife/Red Barn Media Group
- HM Lorne McClinton, The Furrow

Nuts & Bolts - Crops

- 1st Todd Klassy, Farm406
- 2nd Todd Klassy, Farm406
- 3rd Todd Klassy, Farm406
- HM Elaine Shein, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Elaine Shein, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Picture Story/ Photo Sequence/ Photo Essay

- 1st Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- 2nd Joel Reichenberger, The Furrow
- 3rd Martha Mintz, Homestead Magazine
- HM Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM David Lundquist, C Magazine
- HM Tom Dodge, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Emerging Photographer

- 1st Catherine Merlo, Acres
- 2nd Jennifer Latzke, High Plains Journal
- 3rd Paul Jackson, Michigan Farmer
- HM Jill Loehr, Farm Progress
- HM Paul Jackson, Michigan Farmer

Photo Illustration

- 1st Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- 1st Matt Strelecki, Meredith Agrimedia
- 2nd Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- 3rd Matt Strelecki, Meredith Agrimedia
- HM Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM Matt Strelecki, Meredith Agrimedia
- HM Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Unpublished Photos

- 1st Sam Wirzba, Last Light Bovine Photography
- 2nd Katie Knapp
- 3rd Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
- HM Sam Wirzba, Last Light Bovine Photography
- HM Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
- HM Gregg Hillyer, DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Advertorial Photos

1st Debra Davis, Alabama Farmers Federation

Photo of the Year

Joel Reichenberger, The Furrow

Photographer of the Year

Jim Patrico, DTN/The Progressive Farmer_

Honorable Mention Photographer of the Year

Rob Mattson, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

2017 Master Photographer Program

Level One

Katy Mumaw

Level Two

Jennifer Latzke Paul Jackson

Level Three

Marilyn Cummins Catherine Merlo Matt Strelelcki Debra Davis

Level Four

Elaine Shein Joel Reichenberger

Master Photographer

Todd Klassy Rob Mattson

2017 Photography Judges

Jeannie Adams-Smith Bob Elbert Russell Graves Andrea Hansen David Hansen Steve Woit

2017 AAEA Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation

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.

Paul Queck

Paul Queck began his ag journalism career in 1978 as the Hog Editor for Farm Progress Publication's *Wallaces Farmer* in Iowa. Queck went on to have a more than 21-year career as an editor with Farm Progress companies in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maryland, and New York. In late 1999, he left Farm Progress Publications and worked in ag public relations for seven years before moving into freelance writing and photography.

Queck joined AAEA in 1978 and has served on the International Committee and the Legacy Committee, as well as serving as president in 1996. He also served as President of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists from 1997 to 2000, the first American to hold this position. Queck continues to be active with AAEA, currently serving as an advisor to the AAEA PIF Board.

2017 Fellows of the AAEA

The new AAEA Fellows are:

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.

☐ Elaine Shein, FAAE, DTN/The Progressive Farmer
☐ Gil Gullickson, FAAE, Crops Technology Editor, Meredith Corporation

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.

2017 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.

Jessie Scott

Digital Content Manager Meredith Agrimedia (Successful Farming)

Jessie Scott, who has been with Meredith Corporation for nearly 5 years, created the job title and description that she has today—Digital Content Manager. Scott started as Innovations Editor and quickly moved up the ranks within Meredith, taking on a broader range of responsibilities as a multimedia editor, covering television and online content, in addition to print. Scott now directs one of the leading agricultural websites in the nation at the second largest media group in America.

"I have never witnessed an editor who encompasses that rare combination of a keen desire to work, the ready knowledge to produce high-quality editorial, and determination to excel at every task she is assigned," wrote one of Scott's references.

In her application for the Andy Markwart Horizon Award, Scott wrote that she hopes to become a visionary leader that guides a passionate team of editors to create powerful content that can make farmers better, more productive producers. She credits the continual learning opportunities that she's gained from peers and leaders in the industry at Ag Media Summit and IFAJ congress for helping her to become the leader she aspires to be. Scott is "committed to excellent journalism and in working with clients, customers, and farmers," wrote another reference.

Scott currently serves as a Young Professionals in Agriculture board member and as the AAEA AMS InfoExpo committee chair. She has been recognized across the industry for her work and was recently awarded the IFAJ Young Leader in Agriculture Journalism Award.

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."

Jackie Newland Kansas State University

2017 AAEA/ACT Past Presidents' Scholarship Recipients

Shalin Lawson West Texas A&M University

Lindsay Robinson University of Missouri

Audrey Schmitz Kansas State University

2017 AAEA Interns

Emily Berger, Texas A&M University double major in Poultry Science and Agricultural Communications & Journalism, served as the AAEA editorial communications intern with Farm Journal Media, Inc. She also assisted with the 2017 Ag Media Summit in Snowbird, Utah

Michaela Simcoe, an Agricultural Communications major and Animal Science minor at South Dakota State University, spent the summer as the AAEA marketing communications intern with broadhead. She also assisted with the 2017 Ag Media Summit in Snowbird, Utah.

AAEA Communications Awards Sponsors

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

Writing Awards:

Syngenta

Design Awards:

DuPont Pioneer

MarComm Awards:

Agri Marketing

DTN/The Progressive Farmer Farm Journal High Plains Journal Hoard's Dairyman Meredith Agrimedia Penton Farm Progress

Digital & Social Media Awards:

Syngenta

Photography Awards:

Rabo AgriFinance

Lifetime Achievement Awards:

AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation

Andy Markwart Horizon Award:

John Deere

AAEA Professional Improvement Foundation

Thank you to our hard-working committees:

AAEA Writing Awards Committee Jamie Cole, Chair

AAEA Design Awards Committee Matt Strelecki, Chair

AAEA MarComm Awards Committee Cynthia Clanton, Chair

AAEA Digital & Social Media Awards Committee Josh Flint, Chair

AAEA Photography Awards Committee David Ekstrom, 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 Christine McClintic, and to Samantha Kilgore and Courtney Jackson of the AAEA staff for strong support of the award programs throughout the year.