



2021 AAEA Annual Awards Contest Winners

2021 Writing Winners

W01: Breaking News

- 1st: Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, "EPA Re-registration Moves Dicamba Forward"
- 2nd: Katie Dehlinger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Spring Crop Insurance Guarantees Set at \$4.58 for Corn, \$11.87 for Soybeans"
- 3rd: Katie Dehlinger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Mississippi Delta Braces for Another Hurricane as Cotton Bolls Open, Soybeans Await Harvest"

W02: Economics and Management

- 1st: Kasey Brown, Angus Media, "Lemons into Meat Sticks"
- 2nd: Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, "Risk-free Farming (Sort of)"
- 3rd: Betsy Freese, Meredith, "Passing Down the Farm"

W03: Editorial Opinion

- 1st: Brent Olson, Independently Speaking, "Color"
- 2nd: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Building Immunity in our Communities"
- 3rd: Jennifer Latzke, High Plains Journal, "Lack of child care makes the rural house of cards wobbly"

W04: Human Interest

- 1st: Sierra Dawn McClain, Capital Press, "Beauty out of dust: 75 years later, Japanese-Americans remember World War II incarceration"
- 2nd: William DeKay, The Western Producer, "Old grain elevator ready to rock"
- 3rd: Martha Mintz, The Furrow, "Conditioned to Cloudwatch"

W05: Humorous Article

- 1st: Martha Mintz, The Furrow, "Unexpected Homecoming"
- 2nd: Brent Olson, Independently Speaking, "Hole"
- 3rd: Urban Lehner, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "China's Magic Pill Leaves World in Shock"

W06: Issues

- 1st: Emily Unglesbee, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"
- 2nd: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Uncharted waters"
- 3rd: Steve Werblow, The Furrow, "Pandemic Fighters"

W07: On-Farm Production

- 1st: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "What's Left Behind"

2nd: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Making Peanuts Pay"

3rd: Mindy Ward, Missouri Ruralist, "Hemp is happening"

W08: Personality Profile

1st: Sierra Dawn McClain, Capital Press, "Flying farmer: One man's journey to reach new heights on the farm and in the clouds"

2nd: Mike Rankin, Hay and Forage Grower, "A lifetime of building better haying mousetraps"

3rd: Debra Davis, Alabama Farmers Federation, "Brenda Gantt: Cooking That's Good For The Soul"

W09: Regular Column

1st: Holly Spangler, Prairie Farmer, "When the ramps give way"

2nd: Martha Mintz, High Plains Journal, "Taking Up the Baton"

3rd: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Country Corner: Life lessons in social graces"

W10: Technical Feature

1st: Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, "Pay Dirt"

2nd: Dave Mowitz, Meredith, "The virtual auction now rules the world of iron"

3rd: Dean Houghton, The Furrow, "Abstract Agriculture"

W11: Team Story

1st: Pamela Smith, Gregg Hillyer, Des Keller, Emily Unglesbee, Matthew Wilde, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Gene Revolution Turns 25"

2nd: Todd Neeley, Matthew Wilde, Chris Clayton, Todd Hultman and Bryce Anderson, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Derecho Impact: Trail of Destruction"

3rd: Emily Unglesbee and Katie Dehlinger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "DTN 2020 Digital Yield Tour"

2021 Story of the Year

"Pay Dirt" by Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming

2021 Writer of the Year Honorable Mention

Steve Werblow

The Furrow

2021 Writer of the Year

Gil Gullickson

Successful Farming

Master Writer Program

Level 1

Abbie Burnett

Katie Haggith

Karen Hiltbrand

Jacqueline Holland

Mary Kennedy

Jaclyn Krymowski

Michelle Miller

Marlee Moore
Jennifer Schlecht
Megan Silveira

Level 2

Abby Bauer
Sarah Haugen
Katy Holdener
Sierra Dawn McClain

Level 3

Debra Davis
Todd Hultman
Courtney Leeper
Joel Reichenberger
Steve Thompson

Level 4

Katie Knapp

Master Writer

Kasey Brown
Mike Rankin

2021 Photography Award Winners

P1: Portrait/Personality

1st: Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute, "Russ Jackson"

2nd: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Me and My Kids"

3rd: Katie Knapp, Prairie Farmer, "Pig Farmer"

HM: Martha Mintz, The Furrow, "Cowboy Corral"

HM: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Young Rancher"

P2: Pictorial

1st: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Storm Coming"

2nd: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Irrigated"

3rd: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Fall Haul"

HM: Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, "Drapenet"

HM: Matthew Putney, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Wind Towering"

P3: Feature

1st: Matthew Putney, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Farming in Town"

2nd: Adam Hester, Colle McVoy, "Montana Harvest"

3rd: Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute, "Peptides"

HM: Katie Knapp, The Furrow, "Madison Counting Soybeans"

HM: Katie Knapp, The Furrow, "Loading Bales"

P4A: Nuts and Bolts: Livestock

1st: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Meal of Milo"

2nd: Katie Knapp, The Furrow, "Turkey Farmer"

3rd: ShayLe Stewart, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Cattle Pens"

HM: Mike Rankin, Hay and Forage Grower, "Above the Bovines"

HM: Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, "Bee Covered in Pollen"

P4B: Nuts and Bolts: Crops

1st: Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, "Picking Coffee"

2nd: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Hay Lines"

3rd: Gil Gullickson, Successful Farming, "Sky High Corn"

HM: Dean Houghton, The Furrow, "Clear Water"

HM: Martha Mintz, The Furrow, "Hemp Collection"

P5: Picture Story, Photo Sequence or Photo Essay

1st: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Custom Cutters"

2nd: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Frigid Farming"

3rd: Adam Hester, Colle McVoy, "Farm Winery"

HM: Martha Mintz, High Plains Journal, "Hillside Harvest in the Palouse"

HM: Brent Warren DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Christi Bland"

P7: Emerging Photographer

1st: Joy Crosby, Southeastern Peanut Farmer, "Jenkins Family"

2nd: Morgan Marley Boecker, Certified Angus Beef, "Hillside"

3rd: ShayLe Stewart, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Roundup"

HM: Joy Crosby, Southeastern Peanut Farmer, "Drone Video of Spraying Peanuts"

HM: Joy Crosby, Southeastern Peanut Farmer, "Capturing Video while Spraying Peanuts"

P8: Photo Illustration

1st: Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute, "Christmas Gift"

2nd: Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, "Beans"

3rd: Martha Mintz, The Furrow, "Variable Seed Harvest"

HM: Lorne McClinton, The Furrow, "Borealait"

P9: Unpublished Photos

1st: Joel Reichenberger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Combine Under the Clouds"

2nd: Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute, "Liftoff"

3rd: Harlen Persinger, Hlensphotos, "Unattended"

HM: Katie Knapp, The Ag Photographer, "Working Late in the Shop"

HM: Joy Crosby, Southeastern Peanut Farmer, "Spreading Landplaster"

P10: Advertorial Photos

1st: Jamie Cole, Red Barn Media Group, "Legacy with the Land"

2nd: Alex Lowery, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, "Providing for Our Family and Yours"

P11: Rotating Theme – Joy

1st: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Soda Sweethearts"

2nd: Allison Jenkins, MFA Incorporated, "Grandpa's Sidekick"

3rd: Rob Mattson, Noble Research Institute, "Always Time for Jokes"

HM: Martha Mintz, The Furrow, "Grandma's Joy"

HM: Katie Knapp, The Furrow, "Ag in the Classroom"

P12: Digitally Enhanced Photos

1st: Katy Holdener, American Angus Association, "Staring Back at You"

2nd: Martha Mintz, The Furrow, "Palouse Prairie Vista"

2021 Photo of the Year

"Storm Coming"

Joel Reichenberger

DTN/The Progressive Farmer

2021 Photographer of the Year Honorable Mention

Rob Mattson

The Noble Research Institute

2021 Photographer of the Year

Joel Reichenberger

DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Master Photographer

Level 1

Megan Silveira

Level 2

Morgan Marley Boecker

Alex Lowery

Level 3

Joy Crosby

Allison Jenkins

Matthew Putney

ShayLe Stewart

Level 4

Brent Warren

Master Photographer

Joel Reichenberger

2021 Design Award Winners

D01: Cover Page Design Commercial

1st: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "SF Alternate Cover Dec 2020"

2nd: Lisa Lynd, Farm Progress, "Will the Middle Matter?"

3rd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "The Carbon Crunch"

D02: Cover Page Design Custom

1st: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "C Mag Fall 2020"

2nd: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "C Mag Spring 2020 Cover"

3rd: Nate Werner, Mod Op, "The Furrow Cover, December 2020"

D03: Single-Paged Editorial Design Commercial

1st: Brent Warren, Barry Falkner, and Dan Miller, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Handy Devices"

2nd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "Sustainability Focus May Benefit Canola"

3rd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "SF Mid-Nov Digital Page"

D04: Single-Page Editorial Design Custom

1st: Nate Werner, Mod Op, "Bits & Pieces, March 2021"

2nd: Nate Werner, Mod Op, "On Life and Land, January 2021"

3rd: Catherine Ross, Ross Creative Works and Rachel Peabody and Betsy Osman, Illinois Soybean Association, "Illinois Soybean Association Beef Ad"

D05: Opening Page or Spread Design Commercial

1st: Sean Burris, Irrigation Today Magazine, "Looking into the Future"

2nd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Robots on the Rise"

3rd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Cultivating Soil Health Opener"

D06: Opening Page or Spread Design Custom

1st: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "Digitally Driven"

2nd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Ag 101 Summer 2021"

3rd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "FFA A Future for All Fall 20 Opener"

D07: Two-Page Plus Design Commercial

1st: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Pollination Goes High Tech"

2nd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "Snowbirds Get Their Wings Clipped"

3rd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Cultivating Better Health"

D08: Two-Page Plus Design Custom

1st: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "Master Marketing Materials"

2nd: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "Digitally Driven"

3rd: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "Strength in Action"

D09: Special Editorial Section Design

1st: Rachael Davis, Noble Research Institute, "Legacy DIY"

2nd: Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "Reader Insights 2020"

3rd: Brent Warren, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, "America's Best Young Farmers and Ranchers"

D10: Overall Magazine Design Commercial

1st: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "Saskatchewan Seed Guide 2021"

2nd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "Yield Saskatchewan 2021"

3rd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "GrowPro (Summer 2020)"

D11: Overall Magazine Design Custom

1st: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "C Mag Fall 2020"

2nd: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "C Mag Spring 2020"

3rd: Rachael Davis, Noble Research Institute, "Legacy"

D12: Overall Magazine Design Special Issues

1st: Nate Werner, Mod Op, "The Furrow, January, 2021"

2nd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "The Ripple Effect: How COVID-19 has Changed Canadian Agriculture"

3rd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "Successful Farming Mid November, 2020"

D13: Special Publication Design Annual Reports

1st: Katy Holdener, Karen Hiltbrand, Whitney Whitaker, Holly Martin, American Angus Association, "Moving Forward – American Angus Association Annual Report"

2nd: Rachael Davis, Noble Research Institute, "2019 Annual Report"

3rd: Jennifer Blackburn, National Sorghum Producers, "National Sorghum Producers 2020 Annual Report"

D14: Web Design, Electronic Newsletter/Magazine

1st: Jamie Cole, Red Barn Media Group, "myFarmLife.com"

2nd: Morgan Marley Boecker, Certified Angus Beef "Roundup"

D15: Best Use of Typography

1st: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "FFA Shelter from the Storm"

2nd: Rachael Davis, Noble Research Institute, "Why Grazing Lands"

3rd: Matt Strelecki, Successful Farming, "28248 Robots on the Rise Opener"

D16: Best Use of Chart and Graph Material

1st: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "Strength in Action"

2nd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "How the Omniprocessor Works"

3rd: Lisa Lynd, Farm Progress, "Record Demand Can't Consumer Record Supplies"

D17: Best Use of Photography in a Print Periodical

1st: Nate Werner, Mod Op, "The Furrow, Dec 2020, Jan, Feb, Mar 2021"

2nd: Amy Gohman, Colle McVoy, "C Magazine"

3rd: Michelle Houlden, The Western Producer, "Harvest 2020"

2021 Designer of the Year Honorable Mention

Amy Gohman

Colle McVoy

2021 Designer of the Year

Rachael Davis

Noble Research Institute

2021 MarComm Award Winners

MC1: Advertorial – One-Page

1st Place: Annie Spencer, Corteva Agriscience; Doreen Muzzi, Bader Rutter, “Uncovering an Underground Menace”

MC2: Advertorial – Multi-Page, Series or Special Section

1st: The Mosaic Company and broadhead, “The Mosaic Company Challenges Ag Retailers to Rethink Balanced Crop Nutrition”

2nd: Kurt Lawton and Nutrien, “Smart Sulfur Strategies”

3rd: DTN/The Progressive Farmer and Nutrien, “Ask the Agronomist”

MC3: Media/Special Event: For-Profit

1st: G&S Business Communications, “2020 Virtual Syngenta Media Summit”

2nd: Eric Hodson, Mod-Op, “John Deere CES Ag Ag Media Event”

3rd: Eric Hodson, Mod-Op, “John Deere X9 Media Event”

MC3: Media/Special Event: Not-For-Profit

1st: American Soybean Association, “#CoverCropChristmas Campaign”

2nd: Georgia Peanut Commission, “March – National Peanut Month Promotions”

3rd: Georgia Peanut Commission, “2021 NASCAR Promotion”

MC4: Feature Article

1st: Jamie Cole and Red Barn Media Group, “Legacy With the Land”

2nd: Rhea + Kaiser and the Indiana Soybean Alliance, “Concrete Durability Enhancer Strengthens Indiana Infrastructure and Demand for Soybeans”

3rd: DTN/Progressive Farmer Custom Publishing and Bayer, “Building The Corn Hybrid of the Future”

MC5: News Article

1st: Boehringer Ingelheim Cattle Health and broadhead, “Boosting Consumer Confidence in Beef Through Proper Vaccine Administration”

2nd: CHS and broadhead, “Soy Circle”

3rd: Filament, “ESTROTECT Beef Management Tip”

MC6: Print News Release

1st: Eric Hodson, Mod Op, “John Deere 7R 8R Tractor News Release”

2nd: National Sorghum Producers, “Single Week U.S. Sorghum Sales Shatter Previous Records”

3rd: Adam Calaway, Noble Research Institute, “Noble Research Institute Focuses on Regenerative Agriculture”

MC7: Technical Writing

1st: Filament, “Purina Equine Modern Equine Vet Columns”

2nd: Jamie Cole, Red Barn Media Group, “Waste Not, Want Not”

3rd: Boehringer Ingelheim and broadhead, “The BRD Treatment Backed by Research”

MC8: Publication – Print or Electronic: For-Profit

1st: Syngenta and G&S Business Communications, “Thrive Magazine”

2nd: Jamie Cole and Red Barn Media Group, “FarmLife Summer 2020”

3rd: Eric Hodson, Mod Op, “John Deere Leadership Newsletter”

MC8: Publication – Print or Electronic: Not-for-Profit

1st: National Sorghum Producers, “Sorghum Grower Magazine”

2nd: Adam Calaway, Rachael Davis, Courtney Leeper, Rob Mattson, Robyn Peterson, Tim Woodruff, Noble Research Institute, “Legacy”

3rd: Adam Calaway, Rachael Davis, Courtney Leeper, Rob Mattson, Tim Woodruff, Noble Research Institute, “2019 Annual Report: The Road to Renewal”

MC9: Media Materials/Kit

1st: Boehringer Ingelheim Cattle Health and broadhead, “Fueling Editors to Write About Respiratory Disease”

2nd: Georgia Peanut Commission, “2021 Southeastern Peanut Farmer Media Kit

MC10: Speech/Write Paper

1st: Laura Svec, Corteva Agriscience; Cass Bergemann, Bader Rutter; Karli Pryor, Bader Rutter; Erik Johnson, Bader Rutter; John Wallace, John Wallace Communications, “Disrupting Pasture Management: The Profit-per-Acre Approach”

MC11: Writing for Special Projects

1st: Courtney Leeper, “2019 Annual Report: The Road to Renewal”

2nd: Filament, “Filament Activity Pages”

3rd: Corteva Agriscience and Bader Rutter, “Instinct NXTGEN Nitrogen Stabilizer Book of Inspirational Retailer Quotes”

MC12: Audio News Release

1st: Boehringer Ingelheim Cattle Health and broadhead, “Bovine Respiratory Disease in Cow-Calf Herds”

2nd: Eric Hodson, Mod Op, “John Deere See & Spray Select Audio News Release”

3rd: Filament, “HeartBrand: Dos Equis polled genes”

MC13: Marketing Video

1st: Shaun Smith, Ryan McNeill, Adam Calaway, Noble Research Institute, “Regenerative Agriculture: The Key to Improving Land and Soil Health”

2nd: Filament, “Purina Sheep & Goat: Sales Hype Video”

3rd: DTN/Progressive Farmer Custom Publishing and Bayer, “Science Behind the Seed”

MC14: Collateral Piece

1st: Filament, “Pharmgate Animal Health Aivlosin Mixing Toolkit”

2nd: Filament, “Purina Cattle Purina® Wind and Rain® ProCycle® Mineral Sales Piece”

3rd: Dawn McKenzie, “Evofactor Results Snapshot”

MC15: Communicator of the Year

1st: Jamie Cole, Red Barn Media Group

Master of Communications Program

Level One

Chris Harrell
Kasey Heath
Jason Jenkins
Jordan Lunsford
Ryan McNeil
Bryan Tucker
Tim Woodruff

Level Two

Erica Ballmer
Heather Manhardt
Dawn McKenzie
Shaun Smith

Level Three

Jessie Bland
Joy Crosby
Courtney Leeper

Level Four

Wendy Brannen
Adam Calaway
Pam Caraway

Level Five | Master of Communications

Jamie Cole
Eric Hodson

2021 Digital and Social Media Winners

Publishing Division

DP1: Podcast

- 1st: Sarah Mock, Brent Glory and David Widmar, Ag Economic Insights, “Escaping 1980”
- 2nd: Jacqueline Aenlle, “From Urban to Agriculture Podcast”
- 3rd: Jodi Henke, Successful Farming, “Dry Corn with Ground Heat”

DP2: Blogs

- 1st: Mindy Ward, Missouri Ruralist, “Show-Me Life”
- 2nd: Ed White, The Western Producer, “Percy and Me”
- 3rd: Katie Dehlinger, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Minding Ag’s Business”

DP3: Websites

- 1st: Red Barn Media Group, “myFarmLife.com”
- 2nd: Irrigation Today Magazine, “Irrigation Today Website”
- 3rd: Angus Media, “Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA”

DP4: Webinars

- 1st: Hoard’s Dairyman, “The Implications of High Pregnancy Rates on Reproductive Strategies”
- 2nd: Hoard’s Dairyman, “Feeding and Management for Robotic Milking System Success”
- 3rd: Hoard’s Dairyman, “Calcium and the Transition Cow”

DP5: Social Media

- 1st: AGDAILY, “AGDAILY”
- 2nd: American Angus Association, “Angus Journal Social Media”

DP7: Multimedia Story

- 1st: Dean Houghton, The Furrow, “Ag Data is Beautiful”
- 2nd: Morgan Marley Boecker, Miranda Reiman, Abbie Burnett, Certified Angus Beef, “A Rare Breed 2021”
- 3rd: Jamie Cole and Red Barn Media Group, “Think Pink for Women in Agriculture”

DP8: Video Production

- 1st: FFA New Horizons, “FFA is One Big Ohana”
- 2nd: Elaine Shein, Dan Miller, Nick Scalise, DTN/The Progressive Farmer, “Reporter's Notebook: America's Best Young Farmers and Ranchers”
- 3rd: Laurie Bedord and David Ekstrom, Successful Farming, “Farmer Grows Hemp for the First Time for CBD Oil”

Marketing and Communications Division

DM1: Podcast

- 1st: Bryan Tucker and Georgia Peanut Commission, “Georgia Peanuts Podcast: ‘2021 Look Ahead with Dr. Scott Monfort”
- 2nd: The Mosaic Company and broadhead, “Farmers Tell All in The Mosaic Company ‘Beyond the Field’ Podcast”
- 3rd: Corteva Agriscience and Bader Rutter, “The Growing Debate”

DM2: Blogs

1st: Granular and broadhead, "Arming Farmers with Insightful Ways to Use Data on the Granular Blog"

2nd: Corteva Agriscience and Bader Rutter, "Corn Herbicides HQ"

DM3: Websites

1st: Joy Crosby and Georgia Peanut Commission, "Georgia Peanut Commission Website"

2nd: The Mosaic Company and broadhead, "The Mosaic Company and CHS partner to Encourage Growers to 'Unlock Your Phos'"

3rd: Leigh Ann Cleaver and Mod Op, "Norbrook Norfenicol Product Landing Page"

DM4: Webinars

1st: Boehringer Ingelheim Cattle Health and broadhead, "The Business of Bovine Summit"

2nd: Corteva Agriscience and Bader Rutter, "Enlist Weed Control System A Step Ahead Webinars"

3rd: Illinois Soybean Association, "ILSoyAdvisor Webinars"

DM5: Social Media

1st: Filament, "GEA U.S. Facebook Launch"

2nd: Boehringer Ingelheim Cattle Health and broadhead, "The Cattle Call Show: Building Connections Between Veterinarians and Farmers"

3rd: Ohio Poultry Association and Inspire PR Group, "Ohio Egg Farmer Image Campaign"

DM8: Video Production

1st: American Dairy Association Mideast and Inspire PR Group, "Sustainability-It Matters For All of Us"

2nd: United Sorghum Checkoff Program and XR Global "Consulting Seeing is Believing"

3rd: Rhea + Kaiser and Illinois Soybean Association, "Illinois Soy Stories"

2021 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.

Betsy Freese

Betsy Freese began her groundbreaking journalism career at Successful Farming as a recent college graduate. Her determination opened the door to a full-time role – among the earlier generations of females covering production agriculture in the United States.

This achievement is easy to overlook in today's diverse journalism industry. At the time, Betsy faced daily challenges of covering agriculture in a male-dominated industry but thrived in her initial role as one of several swine editors. It was a hint of her dogged efforts to not only survive but to thrive. It also reflected her upbringing on a family farm in Maryland.

For more than 25 years, Betsy has been the sole author of one of the seminal regular features in Successful Farming's coverage: Pork Powerhouses, an annual compilation of the top hog producers in the United States.

Betsy has been a leader in our industry for over 30 years. She has served on several committees of AAEA, including serving as its president in 2004. She has also served as the North American Agricultural Journalists President in 2008.

2021 AAEA Distinguished Service Award

Each year AAEA honors an individual who is a leader and gives something back to the agricultural community with the AAEA Distinguished Service Award. The AAEA Distinguished Service Award is presented to non-members of AAEA who have demonstrated outstanding efforts in education, science, or public affairs relevant to agriculture. The person selected generally should be currently active in their field, rather than the recent past.

Kevin Folta

At three years old, Kevin Folta was asking his dad about atoms and the scientific makeup of the universe. In kindergarten he entered his first science fair. These days, the University of Florida horticulture professor has a litany of scientific accomplishments. He's well known for his understanding which genes control flavor in strawberries, or how light can slow down mold in blueberries.

He also has paired his knowledge of biotechnology with a flair for communicating the merits of agricultural science. Or, as he prefers to say, he is a science communicator.

Jerry Hatfield

When it comes to outstanding, distinguished service efforts in science and education, Dr. Jerry Hatfield has devoted a lifetime to raising the bar on soil and water conservation research and education--and linking all components to a changing climate. With a background in agricultural climatology, Dr. Jerry Hatfield has focused his research on soil-plant-environment interactions and quantifying the effect of weather and climate on crop productivity. As a thought leader, research leader and prominent speaker on the subject, he has built his climate resilient cropping systems vision by creating a whole new understanding of the genetics X environment X management interactions. He speaks out, nationally and globally, about the tools within the reach of farmers and ranchers to decrease crop production variation--by ensuring their soil is in the best health possible to supply water and nutrients to the crop.

2021 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.

Megan Schilling

Successful Farming

Since graduating from the Iowa State University, Megan Schilling has worked for Workiva, Inc., Iowa AgriTech Accelerator and Successful Farming as the Agronomy & Technology Editor.

“When this award was established more than 10 years ago, its goal was to honor a young person who embodied the youthful vigor, energy, passion, dedication, and creativity shown by Andy. There is no better candidate for this award than Megan,” said Laurie Bedord. “From the moment she became a member of the Successful Farming team in February 2019, this young woman has impressed me. While she may not have come from an agricultural background, her passion for the industry is evident.”

In her application for the Andy Markwart Horizon award, Schilling wrote, “My goal is to fuel this momentum into the future and create stories with diverse voices that can be adapted across platform. To pursue knowledge and put that knowledge to work. To become a leader amongst journalists and agricultural professionals.”

Schilling currently serves as the chair of the Future Ag Communicators Committee with AAEA.

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.”

Callie McClay University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

As the recipient, McClay is being recognized for her excellence in academics and leadership, and for exemplifying the dedication and commitment of the outstanding individual for whom this award is named.

“I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Evans on several occasions at the University of Illinois,” McClay says. “Receiving the Dr. James Evans Scholarship is completely humbling and an absolute honor.”

Heather Miller, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, says “Callie is an outstanding candidate for this scholarship because of her commitment to academic excellence, impeccable work ethic, and her desire to give of herself through volunteer activities,”

2021 AAEA/ACT Past Presidents’ Scholarship Recipient

- **Bobby Marchy, Oklahoma State University**

2021 AAEA Interns

Sarah Meghrian was selected to be the AAEA editorial communications intern with Illinois

Soybean Association. She is a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is majoring in agricultural communications.

Baylee Hogan was named the AAEA marketing communications intern broadhead. She is a student at Oklahoma State University.

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

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

Joy Carter Crosby, 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

Kerri Reynolds Lotven, Chair

AAEA Legacy Committee

Larry Dreiling, Chair