



## 2022 Nominating Committee Candidates

### REGION 1 – Nominating Committee Candidates

**Rick Alberts** – Pine Island, Minn. (Incumbent). Rick has been in partnership on the family farm since 1980 as a dairy and grain operator. Rick and his family run 1,700 acres plus woodlands and wetlands, and have 600 cows. Rick is a member of the Holstein Association, Dodge County Feedlot Advisory Committee, Compeer Financial's Nominating Committee, and is a Board member for the Midwest Forage Association. He is a volunteer at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza and a current supervisor on the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

**Rosanne Caughey** – Fort Ripley, Minn. Rosanne and her husband, Bruce, farm in partnership with their two sons and their families, one being a dairy farm and the other crops and beef. She has been farming for 65 years, starting with her parents on a diversified farm, then later on a dairy farm after marrying her husband in 1977. Although dairy was their main commodity, they also grew by diversifying with beef and cash crops of rye and leftovers that were not fed to their livestock. Rosanne's community involvement includes membership in the Farm Bureau, American Dairy Association, Council of Catholic Women, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, FFA Alumni, and County Fair Association. She is also a caregiver for her elderly aunt.

**Isaak Hinnenkamp** – Melrose, Minn. Isaak farms 1,200 acres of corn, alfalfa, beans and Kernza. He also milks 140 dairy cows and has a 2,100 hog finishing barn. Isaak has been farming for 13 years.

**David Marquardt** – Howard Lake, Minn. (Incumbent). Dave has been farming for 26 years and grows corn, soybeans, wheat and hay on 1,000 acres. He also raises 400 head of dairy steers. Dave serves on the Compeer Client Advisory Council and is a member of the Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership Class 5. He's served as director of the Minnesota Beef Council, Wright County Farm Bureau and Wright County Corn Growers Association. He is a member on the Ridgewater College Adult Farm Business Management Advisory Committee and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. Dave is also a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and a member of the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association.

**Ron Mohr** – New Ulm, Minn. (Incumbent). Ron has been farming for 45 years and has a grain and dairy operation, milking 45 cows and farming 340 acres. He raises all replacements and does custom harvesting in the fall. Ron is a member of St. John's Church in Searles. He is currently on the Nominating Committee for Compeer Financial and served two years on the AgStar Financial Nominating Committee. Ron also served on the Brown County ADA Board.

**Tami Nelson** – Pipestone, Minn. Tami and her husband Jim farm 1800 acres in Pipestone County, growing corn, and soybeans. They have been farming for 30+ years. They have 2 daughters. Oldest is an agronomist married to an EMT and small engine repair shop owner. Youngest will be a freshman at South Dakota State University. All active with the family farm as time and commitment allows. Tami is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and serves as a 4-H and FFA volunteer.

**Mark Portner** – Sleepy Eye, Minn. Mark has been farming for 32 years and has a grain and dairy operation consisting of corn, soybeans, small grain and cover crops, as well as 270 cows and 250 youngstock in partnership with his brother, Tom. He has 800 acres of owned and rented farmland. Mark is a member of St. Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye and served on the school board for St. Mary's School, he's also a member of the Minnesota Brown Swiss Association and Minnesota SFA.

**Matt Purfeerst** – Faribault, Minn. Matt, together with his dad and brother, have a corn and soybean operation in south central Minnesota. They also have a small herd of Black Angus cows and calves that they exhibit and sell to 4-H families. Matt is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer who has been farming for 11 years. In August of 2021 he left his job at Cargill to be back on the farm full-time. Outside of farming, Matt is an adult volunteer for Rice County 4-H, including the livestock judging job, he is active with Dakota/Rice Corn & Soybean Growers Association, a member of Divine Mercy Catholic Church, and is involved with the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Tyler Rath** – Belgrade, Minn. Tyler has been farming for six years and grows 1,600 acres of corn, soybeans, peas, kidney beans, sweet corn, organic peas, organic sweetcorn, and alfalfa/grass hay. He also has a 70- head Black Angus cow/calf operation. Outside of farming Tyler is a full-time engineer for Polaris Industries.

**Lyle Rollag** – Beaver Creek, Minn. Lyle runs an 800-acre grain operation as well as 65 head of cows in Rock County. He has been farming for 43 years. Lyle is a member of Palisade Lutheran Church, MN Corn Growers, MN Soybean Growers, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union and Rock/Nobles Cattlemen.

**Julie Sievert** – Gibbon, Minn. (Incumbent). For the past 20 years, Julie and her husband, along with their children, Cody and Nicole, have run a beef, sheep, grain and hay operation on 240 acres, growing corn, alfalfa, barley and soybeans. They own a flock of 100 ewes that are lambed out annually, along with a 30-beef cow-calf herd. Julie has a bachelor's degree in agricultural education, with an applied economics minor from the University of Minnesota and works as an account manager for Ecolab Food and Beverage. In addition, Julie is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church where she previously served as a church council member, she is longtime volunteer for the Sibley County 4-H, a member of the Minnesota and National Corn Growers Association (2014 New Leader Program), the Nicollet and Sibley County Corn Growers Association and the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers.

**Flinton Stehr** – Zumbrota, Minn. Flinton and his wife, Amanda, together with his brother Grady, operate an 800-acre farm in Goodhue County growing corn, soy, oats and hay, along with raising 150 feeder cattle. He has been farming for 14 years. In addition to operating a trucking business, Flinton is a board member of the Goodhue County Corn and Soybean Growers and is also a member of Holden Lutheran Church.

**Diane Stenzel** – New Richland, Minn. (Incumbent). Diane and her husband have 32 years of farming experience, running a grain operation with family on 1,000 acres of owned and rented land, growing corn and soybeans. Diane is a lifetime member of St. Joe's Catholic Church in Waldorf where she is a lector, a finance council member, fundraising chairman, past CCW president, secretary/treasurer and guild promoter. She is a board member and secretary for the New Richland Area Food Shelf, a full-time employee and volunteer at the New Richland Care Center and has also served on Compeer's Client Advisory Council, SWCE nominating committee, and also has seven years of experience serving on the AgStar Financial and Compeer Financial Nominating Committees.

**Adam Weckwerth** – Arlington, Minn. Adam and his family farm 2,000 acres of corn, soybeans, peas and sweet corn. They also raise 4,000 head of wean-to-finish hogs and 240 Black Angus steers. Adam has been farming for 10 years and also manages a 2,500 head hog finishing site.

**Brent Ziegler** – Green Isle, Minn. (Incumbent). Brent has been farming since 1996 and owns a dairy and grain operation. He milks approximately 300 cows and raises primarily heifers, with some steers on 600 acres. Brent is on the Bongards Creameries Board of Directors.

## REGION 2 – Nominating Committee Candidates

**Dorothy Anderson** – Cambridge, Wis. (Incumbent). Dorothy crop farms with her sister, Carol, on 163 acres. She has a small flock of chickens and houses abandoned animals. Dorothy helps out at local area community festivals.

**Andy Bensed** – Dallas, Wis. Andy was born and raised on a dairy farm and has been farming since 1980. His operation consists of three separate businesses. The farm is about 5,000 acres of corn for grain and silage, food grade soybeans for export, winter wheat, and hay for neighboring dairy interests. AB Ag Services, Inc. is a custom farming services company that does planting, harvesting and application for area producers. AB Seed & Consulting, Inc. is being transitioned to former employees, providing agronomy sales and consulting services for area producers with Corteva/Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Titan Pro ag chemicals. Andy currently serves on the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Soy and Specialty Grains Alliance Board, Farmers of Barron County Watersheds executive committee and Red Cedar Water Quality Partnership. He is a past board member of the Wisconsin Soybean Association.

**John Bertram** – Malone, Wis. (Incumbent). John was born and raised on his family's farm. While attending college, he worked for his parents on the farm part-time, and continued to do so for several years while working full-time as an accountant. John transitioned to farming full-time in 1974, along with his wife, Janet, and they have never looked back. Currently, they grow corn, soybeans, oats and winter wheat on 400 owned and 40 rented acres. They also harvest corn silage and alfalfa haylage which is contracted to a dairy. John is a member of St. John the Baptist Church, is a lifetime member of the New Holstein FFA Alumni. John considers it a privilege to have served on the Compeer Financial Nominating Committee these past four years. Previously, he served as an assessor and a supervisor for the Town of Calumet.

**Marc Boettcher** – Bloomer, Wis. (Incumbent). Marc operates 1,500 acres of corn, beans, alfalfa and small grains, and owns a 100-animal cow/calf operation. He also does approximately 2,000 acres of custom work. Marc has farmed all of his life in partnership with his parents, wife and children. He is a member of St. John's Catholic Church, is a River Country Coop board member and a WIAA official. Marc is also a Bloomer High School football coach and a 1991 University of Wisconsin-River Falls graduate.

**Mark Breunig** – Sheboygan Falls, Wis. (Incumbent). Mark has been farming for 38 years. He operates a dairy farm and owns 475 cows. He also rents and owns 1,000 acres of cropland, growing corn, wheat, soybeans and alfalfa. He is a member of Gibbville Reformed Church, is a 4-H leader including co-general leader, is a 4-H shooting sports air rifle leader and serves as a coordinator for the food stand at the county fair. Mark is also on the advisory board for the Dairy Herd Management course at Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Wis. and a member of Compeer's Client Advisory Council and Nominating Committee.

**Mackenzie Clark** – Sun Prairie, Wis. Mack, who has been farming for 13 years, works on a dairy farm consisting of 4,000 milking cows.

**Ronald Cutler** – Menomonie, Wis. Ron has been farming for 38 years and runs a grain operation on 1,400 acres and raises 65 beef cattle. He is a member of New Hope Lutheran Church.

**Steven Endres** – Waunakee, Wis. (Incumbent). Steve owns and operates a dairy operation in partnership with his two brothers, Jeff and Randy. Steve and his brothers' families are also active on the farm. The farm milks 740 registered Holstein cows and grows corn, alfalfa and wheat on 1,300 acres. Steve and his wife, Kathy, have three children, Cassandra, Elizabeth and Zach. He is a member of St. Martin Catholic Church, and currently serves as president on the Wisconsin Holstein Board.

**Max Flaig** – Sparta, Wis. Max was born and raised on the family farm and is a fourth-generation farmer. Max owns and operates a dairy farm in partnership with his dad, George. The farm milks 70 Holstein cows and grows corn, oats, barley, peas, and alfalfa on 265 tillable and 500 pasture acres. In addition to his farming activities, Max has been working for Organic Valley for the past 12 years managing the cooperative's active base/quota supply management program. A perk of his position was traveling semi-annually to cooperative regional meetings visiting various types and sizes of farms across the country, even internationally to England. He serves on Compeer's Client Advisory Council and attended the Groundbreakers seminar in 2019. Max is a member of the Ontario Gospel Hall and is a graduate of Luther College with a degree in Business Management.

**Carla Kastenschmidt** – Markesan, Wis. Carla and her husband Glen, along with their son Chad and his wife Cally, operate a dairy farm consisting of 475 milk cows and 400 young stock. They also own and rent 1,000 acres where they grow corn, alfalfa and soybeans. Carla has been farming for 48 years. In addition to her son, Carla also has three daughters and eight grandchildren. She was a member of Compeer's Client Advisory Council for three years and is a member of Zion Lutheran Church.

**Ross Kruger** – Mondovi, Wis. Ross was born and raised on the family farm and is a third-generation farmer. He spent his childhood learning and working side-by-side with his parents and brother. Ross has been working full-time for ten years on 1,200 acres growing alfalfa, corn, soybeans and rye. Along with his family he owns a herd of 70 dairy cows and a 5,000 head breed-to-wean contract sow farm producing 3,000 wean pigs per week and also operates five over-the-road semi trucks hauling ag products, steel and general freight. Ross' wife Becky works with him on the operation, together they have three children, four, two, and a newborn. Ross is a member and treasurer of Norden Church and a member of the Mondovi Conservation Club. He is also a member of Compeer Financial's Client Advisory Council and attended Compeer's Groundbreakers seminar in 2018, 2019, and 2022. Ross graduated college with a BS in ag business in 2011.

**Dale Macheel** – Randolph, Wis. Dale, together with his son, Jon, operate a 2,400 cash grain farm in Dodge County which they have transitioned to no-till and 100% covers. After receiving a BS in Ag Engineering from UW Madison in 1972, Dale and his wife, Perle, started a dairy farm while also partnering in a cash grain farm with his father and his brother. In 2000, they sold the cows and concentrated on cash grain farming. Dale was elected to the Dodge County Board of Supervisors where he currently serves on the Highway, Land Resources and Parks, Fox Lake Inland Lake District, and Land and Water Conservation committees. He was also elected to the Dodge County FSA COC, is a supervisor for the Town of Westford, and a member of the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil & Water.

**Brian Schaal** – Burlington, Wis. (Incumbent). Brian owns and operates a dairy and grain operation growing corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat on 700 acres. He also milks 350 cows and raises young stock. He is the third generation on his family farm. Brian earned a bachelor degree in animal science, with a minor in ag business from University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He continued his education by attending the PDPW Managers Academy and attended two years of TEPAP. Brian and his wife, Renee, have two children, Michael, 18, and Ashley, 14, who also help on the farm. He is active in his church, is a board member for the Racine County Farm Bureau, is the president of the Racine County Dairy Promotions and is active in 4-H.

**Brody Stapel** – Cedar Grove, Wis. Brody, together with his brother and father, operate 1,000 acres of cropland, 250 dairy cows, and 600 head of feeder/fat cattle. Brody has been farming for 10 years. In addition to his farming activities, Brody is the president of Edge Dairy Farmer Coop, supervisor of the Town of Holland, president of Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers, and serves as treasurer of the US Farmers and Ranchers Alliance.

**Peter Stern** – River Falls, Wis. Pete and his wife, Ruth, own a small grain and hay operation consisting of 59 acres of winter wheat and 58 acres of alfalfa and grass hay. In addition to his 28 years of farming, Pete worked for Compeer Financial (Farm Credit) for 39 years before retiring in 2021. He is a member of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church and River Falls Lions Club.

**JoAnn Wingers** – Randolph, Wis. (Incumbent). JoAnn and her husband Don, along with their son, farm 2,000 acres, growing corn, sweet corn, alfalfa and wheat. She is Board Chair for the Town of Courtland. JoAnn is a former Director of Badgerland Financial.

## REGION 3 – Nominating Committee Candidates

**Chad Bremmer** – Pearl City, Ill. (Incumbent). Chad is married to Deb and they have three sons, Ben, Ethan and Eli. Chad and his brother, Ross, own and operate Bremmer Farms, Inc. They own and rent land for a total farming operation of approximately 2,700 acres, producing corn, soybeans and hay. Chad also raises dairy heifers for a large dairy operation. He received the 2008 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Achievement Award. Chad is currently serving as President of the Pearl City School Board.

**Tyler Burke** – Sublette, Ill. Tyler and his wife Aubrey have three daughters, Mila, Isabel, and Abigail. He has been farming for 16 years with his father and brother growing corn and soybeans. Tyler is a Sublette Fire Department Trustee, a Lee County Farm Bureau Director, and a member of St. Patrick's Church in Maytown. He is a 2009 graduate from Western Illinois University where he studied Ag Science.

**Ken Fornoff** – Bloomington, Ill. (Incumbent). Ken farmed for 45 years and retired in 2020. He ran a specialty crops operation on irrigated sands where he grew popcorn, seed corn, green beans, commercial corn, soybeans and wheat on 1,800 acres and was a Pioneer seed salesman. Ken is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He previously served on the Tazewell County Farm Bureau, Illinois FBFM and the Illinois Irrigated Growers Association. For 20 years Ken served as a trustee for Spring Lake Township. He also served a term as a board member for 1<sup>st</sup> Farm Credit and served on the nominating committee.

**Keith Gonnerman** – Geneva, Ill. Keith owns and operates a 3,900-acre grain farm in and around Ashton, Illinois with his brother, Brian. He grew up on a dairy farm and has been farming as an owner/operator for 18 years. Keith is a member of Compeer Financial's Client Advisory Council and Innovation Team. He is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Batavia, Illinois, Illinois Farm Bureau, Lee County Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association, Illinois Corn Growers Association, and is the Platform VP of Operations for RRD Marketing Solutions in St. Charles, Illinois.

**Rob Gunderson** – Shannon, Ill. Rob and his wife, Kelli, started farming in 2010 with the purchase of a dairy herd and machinery and rental of crop ground from his long-time employers and mentors. He had worked as a herdsman for 17 years prior to his own operation. They milk approximately 200 cows – mostly Holsteins and a few Jerseys at two farms. About 120 cows are milked by robots at a new facility and the remainder are milked at the original facility. They also custom house dry cows for a Wisconsin dairy. They grow corn, alfalfa, and rye on 380 acres and most of it is used for feeding the herd. Rob and Kelli have three children, ages 9, 12 and 14 that help out where needed and they have two full-time and two part-time employees. Rob is a member of the Northwest Illinois Holstein Club, an Elder and Trustee at Forreton Grove Church.

**Zach Henkel** – West Brooklyn, Ill. (Incumbent). Zach has been farming for 17 years, raising corn and soybeans on 1,400 acres. He owns a custom farming business and is a Pioneer Seed dealer. Zach is married to Emilee and they have two sons, Greyson, 9, and Cashen, 9; and a daughter, Collins, 4. He is a 2006 graduate of the University of Illinois with a concentration in farm and financial management. Zach is a board member for the West Brooklyn Farmers Coop and is a volunteer for the Sublette 365 organization.

**Scott Lake** – Rio, Ill. Scott grows 2,150 acres of corn and soybeans in Knox County. He started farming with his dad in 1998, however, prior to taking over the farming operation fulltime, Scott worked for 15 years at Deere and Company in their global supply management division. Outside of farming, Scott serves as president of ROWVA CUSD #208 Board of Education, is a ROWVA FFA Alumni, Illinois Corn Growers Association member, Knox County Farm Bureau member, Rio Fire Protection District trustee, Director of Tri-County Ambulance District, and attends Immanuel Lutheran Church.

**Jenny Mennenga** – LeRoy, Ill. (Incumbent). Jenny and her husband, Eric, have been farming for 20 years in McLean County where they grow corn, soybeans and seed beans, and have a small cow-calf herd. They also have a custom farming business and own and operate a trucking company. Jenny was an at-large director for the Illinois Soybean Association and was the treasurer/director for the Nutrient Research and Education Council. Jenny has also been a Certified Crop Advisor since 2004.

**Kathy Reinhardt** – Seaton, Ill. (Incumbent). Kathy and her husband, Ken, have been farming for 30 years. They own and rent approximately 2,200 acres where they produce corn and soybeans. Kathy is a member, director and officer of the Mercer County Farm Bureau. She is also a director and officer of the Mercer County Farm Bureau Foundation and is a member, director and officer of the Farm Financial Standards Council. She is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Center Presbyterian Church and the Illinois CPA Society.

**Lynn Stoller** – Gridley, Ill. (Incumbent). Lynn is the vice president and co-owner of Stoller International. He farms over 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans. Lynn previously served on the 1st Farm Credit Services Nominating Committee and currently serves on the Compeer Financial Nominating Committee. He has served as president of the Midwest Equipment Dealers Association. Lynn has also been the superintendent of Sunday school at his church and is involved in numerous community activities. Lynn serves in the prison ministry, providing services at Lincoln Correctional Center. In his free time Lynn enjoys hunting and shooting.

**Jacob Streitmatter** – Sparland, Ill. (Incumbent). Jake, of rural Sparland, is a grain farmer in both Peoria and Marshall County. He farms 1,500 acres of corn and soybeans. Jake is a member of the Peoria County Farm Bureau and is a former chair of the Peoria County Farm Bureau Young Leaders. Jake participated in the Leaders to Washington Trip through the Illinois Farm Bureau, where he met with congressmen and representatives from the USDA, EPA and White House to advocate for agricultural issues. Jake and his wife, Mary, have two children, Kayla, 9 and Kyle, 7. In their spare time they enjoy traveling and camping.

**Chris Von Holten** – Walnut, Ill. Chris, who has been farming for 42 years in Bureau County, has a 1,420-acre crop operation consisting of corn, soybeans and wheat. He is a member of the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Corn Growers, Illinois Soybean Association, Walnut United Methodist Church, and Walnut Chamber of Commerce. Chris also serves as a board member of Citizens First State Bank, Kasbeer Farmers Elevator, and Nutrient Stewardship of Northern Illinois.

**David Westerlund** – Osco, Ill. (Incumbent). Dave has been raising corn and soybeans for 30 years on his 450 acres. He worked for Farm Credit Services for 11 years prior to returning to the farm. Dave is the fifth generation operating the family farm. Dave is a Wyffels Seed representative. He currently serves as treasurer of the Henry County Farm Bureau and is a former chairman of the Henry County FSA COC. He has served as the Osco Township Clerk since 2007. Dave previously served as a volunteer for the Osco/Andover Fire Department. He is a member of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Dave's other interests include sports, golf, cars and motorcycles.

**Jacob Zumwalt** – Delavan, Ill. Jacob, together with his father and brother, Dillon, farm 1,600 acres in Tazewell and Mason counties. Included in their row crop operations are both irrigated and non-irrigated corn and soybeans. He has been farming for six years and is a sixth-generation on his family's farm. Jacob is a graduate of The University of Illinois-College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), majoring in Technology Systems Management with a double minor in Crop Science and Ag Safety. In addition to serving on Compeer's Client Advisory Council, Jacob is also a board member of the Tazewell County Farm Bureau and a member of the United Citizens of Tazewell County IL (UCTC).