



## 2024 Nominating Committee Candidates

### REGION 1 (Minnesota) Nominating Committee Candidates

**Richard (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 Midwest Forage Association. He is a volunteer at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza and a current supervisor on the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

**Eric Andersland** – Emmons, Minn. Eric and his wife Erin, along with their son Leo, are the next generation of their 1,700 acre corn and soybean farm in Freeborn County. Eric has been farming with his parents for ten years. Prior to returning to the farm Eric earned degrees in computer engineering from Iowa State and law from the University of Minnesota, and worked as an engineer and a patent lawyer. He is a member of Scarville Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**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 66 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.

**Russell Derickson** – Lamberton, Minn. Russ owns and operates a 900-acre corn and soybean farm in Cottonwood County. He has been farming for 34+ years and recently brought his son into the operation. Outside of farming Russ has worked for 25 years for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and works with the Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) and the Six-Inch Soil Temperatures Network. In addition, he serves on the board of directors at Highwater Ethanol LLC (founding member) and Renville Coop Oil, he served 9 years on the board at MNSP until his term expired, and is a life-long member of Highwater Lutheran Church having served as Council president, trustee, and currently as the cemetery sexton.

**Keith Fischer** – Plymouth, Minn. Keith works at an asset management firm in the Twin Cities and farms on the side with his family. The farm is a true family-run operation which includes row crops and a variety of pastured animals including bison, pigs, and chickens. He focuses primarily on row crops and growing the business utilizing his 10+ years evaluating companies and investment opportunities. That professional experience, blended with his ag background, brings a unique perspective to Compeer. He participates in Compeer's Client Advisory Counsel and Groundbreakers programs and supports a variety of organizations outside of work including church and 4-H.

**Sandra (Sandy) Foust** – Pierz, Minn.

**Melinda Groth** – Houston, Minn. Melinda and her husband, Glen, farm in Winona County growing corn, soybeans, hay, and cattle. They have three daughters, Ellery, Addison and Kendal. Melinda is the Vice Chair of the Winona County Extension Committee and a local 4-H club leader. She currently serves on the Minnesota Farm Bureau Resolution Committee and is a former committee member of the American and Minnesota Farm Bureau Association Promotion and Education Committees. She is a member of Winona County Farm Bureau, Minnesota Corn Growers and Minnesota Soybean Growers Associations. She is also involved in her local elementary school through its parent teacher association group, RPAC, fundraising and supporting elementary educational programs and opportunities for students of Ridgeway Community School.

**Steven (Steve) Johnson** – Windom, Minn. Steve has been farming for 42 years and is now the landlord of the farmland where he assists his son growing corn and soybeans (750 acres row crop / 25 CRP). He is a member of Windom American Lutheran Church, Windom Area Health Foundation Board, and Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp Endowment Board.

**David (Dave) Marquardt** – Howard Lake, Minn. (Incumbent). Dave has been farming for 30 years and grows corn, soybeans, wheat and hay on 1,000 acres. He also raises 400 head of dairy steers. Dave has served on Compeer Client Advisory Council and is a member of the Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership Class 5. He's a director of the Minnesota Beef Council, Wright County Farm Bureau and Wright County Corn Growers Association. He is also a member of the Cattlemen's Association and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. Finally, Dave is a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and a member of the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association.

**Chris Middendorf** – Freeport, Minn. Chris and his wife Deana have been farming since 2000 running a 700 cow robotic dairy along with over 1,600 acres of corn and alfalfa.

**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 400 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. (Incumbent). Tami and her husband Jim farm 1,800 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 attending Lake Area Technical College. 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.

**Julie Sievert** – Gibbon, Minn. (Incumbent). For the past 22 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 75 ewes that are lambled 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 a senior 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.

**Diane Stenzel** – New Richland, Minn. (Incumbent). Diane and her husband have 32 years of farming experience, running a grain operation with their children 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, past finance council member, fundraising chairman, 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 nine years of experience serving on the Compeer Financial nominating committee.

**Rhonda Toquam** – Blooming Prairie, Minn. Rhonda and her husband, Roger, run a farming operation raising 5,000 acres of corn and soybeans and 10,000 custom finish hogs per year. She grew up on a dairy farm and has been farming with her husband Roger for 36 years. Over the past 15 years they have welcomed back their three sons into the operation. Together as a family, and with other professionals, they continue to work on transition and future planning for their business. Rhonda's role has been on the financial end of the business. Outside of farming Rhonda is a member of the Claremont Chamber, Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, Faith Church in Austin, and board member/treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Youth Club. She also serves as a Dodge County Commissioner and serves on the Compeer Financial Client Advisory Council.

**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 (Wisconsin) 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 is semi-retired and watches her grandchildren five days a week, and also helps out at local area community festival.

**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.

**Mitchell (Mitch) Braskamp** – Fox Lake, Wis. Mitch has been farming since 1994 and currently runs 550 acres of grain, has a 250 beef steer operation, and does 700 acres of custom planting and harvesting. In addition to farming, Mitch is involved with Waupun Area Cadets, is an active member of Bethel Christian Reform Church, Farm Bureau member, and volunteers at Central Wisconsin Christian School.

**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 Gibbsville 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.

**Craig Carncross** – Lodi, Wis. Craig, who has been farming for 25 years, currently operates a dairy farm consisting of 450 registered Holsteins, as well as 40 head of beef cattle. In addition to farming, Craig is a member of Holstein Association USA, past president of Wisconsin Holstein Association, a member of the Lake Wisconsin Farmer-Led Watershed Group, member of Concordia United Methodist Church, and serves as a coach with the Sauk Prairie Strikers Soccer Club.

**Mackenzie Clark** – Sun Prairie, Wis. (Incumbent). Mack works for Statz Bros. Inc. farming 9,500 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa. He is also part of the crop operation crew for planting and harvesting where he operates nearly all types of equipment. Mack has always had a very strong passion for farming and was involved with FFA throughout high school. He has three young children who also love spending time on the farm.

**Steven (Steve) 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 850 registered Holsteins and grows corn and alfalfa on 1,500 acres. Steve and his wife, Kathy, have three children, Cassandra, Elizabeth and Zach. He is a member of St. Martin Catholic Church.

**Jacob (Jake) Gehring** – Hartford, Wis. Jake and his wife, Molly, are part owners of the family farm, Gehring's Stone House Dairy, which is a robotic milking facility where they milk 220 cows. Prior to starting his own mechanic business in 2022, Jake worked for Mid-State Equipment.

**Karen Gibbs** – Fox Lake, Wis. Karen and her husband, Jonathan, operate 1,200 diversified crop acres - growing corn, processing sweet corn, food grade soybeans, commodity soybeans, winter wheat, canning peas and lima beans. They also have 15 beef cows, 10 replacement stock, and 40 Holstein steers. In 2011 Karen and Jonathan took over his family's cropping enterprise and later added the small livestock enterprise in 2013. Outside of farming Karen is newly elected to the Waupun School Board, she serves as the Beaver Dam Rotary President, Waupun Kiwanis Board Member, Journey to the Light (Veterans, EMT, and Service member support non-profit) Board Member, Beaver Dam Chamber Ambassador, Waupun FFA Alumni Board Member, Fox Lake Chamber Secretary, and a Member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Other past areas of servant leadership - 10 years on governing board for the School for Agriculture and Environmental Studies, BD Rotary President, Waupun Kiwanis President, Juneau Chamber Secretary, and other various community outreach.

**Timothy (Tim) Hager** – Chippewa Falls, Wis. Tim went into partnership with his father in 1990 and purchased the family farm in 1996. He is married to his wife Becky and they have three children, Alex, Rachel and Michael. Tim farms around 1,000 acres of corn, soybeans and hay. He is currently serving on the Chippewa County Farm Bureau Board. Tim served on the River Country Co-op Board for 15 years and has served two terms on the advisory committee for Compeer.

**Carla Kastenschmidt** – Markesan, Wis. Carla and her husband Glen, own and rent 1,000 acres where they grow corn, alfalfa and soybeans. They recently transitioned the dairy part of the farm to their son, Chad. Carla has been farming for 48 years. In addition to her son, Carla also has three daughters and eight grandchildren. She currently serves on Compeer's Nominating Committee, 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 ages six, three and two. Ross is a member and treasurer of Norden Church and a member of the Mondovi Conservation Club. He is also a former member of Compeer's Client Advisory Committee and attended Compeer's Groundbreakers seminar in 2018, 2019, and 2022. Ross graduated college with a BS in ag business in 2011.

**Jeffrey McNeely** – Brooklyn, Wis. Jeff, who has lived and worked on the farm his whole life, has been in partnership for the past 17 years on a diversified multigenerational farm with his father and brother -

"Rollin' Green Dairy Farms". He milks 220 Holstein dairy cows and farms approximately 1,800 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa. They finish out all of the steers born on the farm. Jeff's wife, Nicole, also farms on her family's farm nearby and is a field representative for a milk coop. Jeff and Nicole have two children, Maysen (5) and Charlie (3). Outside of farming Jeff serves as a supervisor for the Town of Brooklyn board, President of the Albany FFA Alumni, and previously served on the Compeer Financial Client Advisory Council.

**Christina Meylor** – Darlington, Wis. (Incumbent). Christina and her husband Bart farm with their families at Meylor Farms and Silver Creek Family Farms (Berget Farms swine division). Meylor Farms is a 180 cow dairy, and grow a combined 6,000 acres of hay, corn and soybeans. Christina and Bart, together with their children, also have a 50 cow beef herd. They are part owners in Silver Creek which is a 1,500 head sow unit that sells the piglets at wean. The farms believe in exceptional animal husbandry, efficiency, and sustainability. They feel blessed to be growing their children in multigenerational farms. Christina and Bart have four children, ages 21, 19, 17 and 12, that help out in every aspect of the farms. Currently Christina is the President of the Wisconsin Pork Association, Lafayette County.

**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 400 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 at Texas A&M. Brian and his wife, Renee, have two children, Michael (2) and Ashley (16), 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.

**Theresa Schluter** – Watertown, Wis. Theresa is involved with a 2800-acre crop farm in Jefferson County. She manages the financial, lending, accounting, payroll, insurance, and marketing of the farm. Also, including any other odd job that needs a helping hand. She manages the five rental houses and any real estate transactions. Before retirement in 2021, her career gave her experience in non-profit fundraising, grant writing, and business administration. In her younger years, she graduated from UW-Platteville and was employed as an auditor with the Federal Milk Marketing Administration for six years. After that she raised confinement and loose housed veal, started dairy beef and heifer calves while raising her two daughters at home. While working on her homestead, she managed three labor lease barns that housed her calves. In retirement, Theresa keeps busy serving her local community. She currently works with City of Watertown Community Garden, is President/Secretary the non-profit fundraising entity (Friends of the Library) of the Watertown Public Library, Vice President Catholic Women's Club, member of St. Mary's, AARP tax preparation volunteer, Farm Bureau Fair food tent volunteer, team member of Compeer Collective, attendee of Compeer Women's, Grain Advantage and Leadership conferences and an attendee at WINFIELD conferences.

**Emily Sleik** – Omro, Wis. Emily is the general manager and part owner of her family's farm which raises corn, soybeans, wheat and Holstein steers. They also have a seed agency and agronomy services. Outside of farming she served on Compeer's Client Advisory Council, was the 2018-220 President of Omro FFA Alumni, and currently serves as group coordinator at Grace Lutheran Church. Emily graduated from UW-Madison with a bachelor's degree in life sciences communication and received her master's degree from UW-River Falls in agriculture education.

## REGION 3 (Illinois)

### 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 2,850 acres, producing corn, soybeans and hay. Chad also raises dairy heifers for two 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.

**Fred (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 10, 13 and 15 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 Forreston Grove Church.

**Zachary (Zach) Henkel** – West Brooklyn, Ill. (Incumbent). Zach has been farming for 19 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 (11) and Cashen (9), and a daughter Collins (5). 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.

**Ryan Kufalk** – Garden Prairie, Ill. Ryan began farming full time as part of a multi-generation family grain farming operation in 2010. Along with his stepfather Larry and brother-in-law Jeremiah, they currently farm approximately 3,700 acres of corn and soybeans. Ryan also serves as the Supervisor for Spring Township since 2013. Before becoming a full time farmer, he taught middle school in Belvidere, IL for five years. Ryan, his wife and children are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Belvidere, IL.

**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.

**David (Dave) Mool** – Lexington, Ill. Dave and his wife farm in partnership with his wife's parents in McLean County in central Illinois where they operate 1,900 acres of corn and soybeans as well as a 100+ head angus based cow calf operation. Dave has been farming for 20 years and currently serve as a director/vice president for the Illinois Angus Association, board member on McLean County Farm Bureau, and writes weekly crop reports as a crop watcher for Illinois Farm Bureau's weekly publication *FarmWeek*.

**Adam Olin** - Alexis, Ill. Adam is a 6<sup>th</sup> generation farmer who farms with his dad on their family row crop operation located in Mercer County. Prior to transitioning to full-time farming in 2021, he worked several years for a company involved in fertilizer manufacturing. Adam also works part time for a local home building contractor and is a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Alexis, and a volunteer member of the Alexis Fire Department.

**Elmer Rahn** – Mt. Carroll, Ill. Elmer and his wife, Annette, farm with two of their sons, Correy and Mitchel. Their operation consists of approximately 5,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and hay. They also have three feedlots that hold 1,250 head in which they feed out two batches of yearlings each year. Elmer is currently on the Pearl Valley Coop board.

**Kathy Reinhardt** – Seaton, Ill. (Incumbent). Kathy and her husband, Ken, have been farming for 30+ years. They own and rent approximately 2,300 acres where they produce corn, soybeans and hay in Western Illinois. Kathy currently serves as a director and officer of the Farm Financial Standards Council. She has also served on various other boards, including director of 1<sup>st</sup> Farm Credit Services, a director and officer on the Mercer County Farm Bureau, and a founding director and officer of the Mercer County Farm Bureau Foundation. Kathy is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society.

**James (Jim) Spradlin** - Morton, Ill. Jim retired as CEO of GROWMARK in 2022, following a four-decade career in the GROWMARK System. Jim has actively contributed on numerous boards, including Chairman of the National Council Farmer Cooperatives, the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership Board of Trustees, and Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture Advisory Council, among others. Today, Jim finds fulfillment serving on the Illinois College Board of Trustees and the Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Board of Directors.

**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 (Jake) 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 (11) and Kyle (9). In their spare time they enjoy traveling and camping.

**Jacob Zumwalt** – Delavan, Ill. Jacob, together with his father and brother, Dillon, farm 2,100 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).