

## Director Candidates: Region 2 – Wis. (4-year term), Candidate 2 of 2



**Joshua (Josh) Hiemstra**

47 years old  
Brandon, Wis.  
(920) 948-5132  
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Farm Credit Member since: 1999

**Family:** Wife Bobbie, and children Mason and Cassandra.

**Brief description of agricultural operation and employment/business experience over the past five years:** Own and operate Hiemstra Dairy LLC. We milk 150 cows and finish 175 Angus cross steers. We also operate 800 acres of cropland. We do some custom farming including planting, chopping and manure hauling. In addition, we farm biologically and use min till and cover crops.

**Boards or committees you currently serve on and boards or committees you have served on in the past five years:** Past President of St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Past Board member of Agri-land Coop. Served on the Laconia FFA Alumni Board.

**Community involvement/government service:** Member of Edge Coop, DBA, PDPW, and Practical Farmers of IA. Served on the FDL County Land and Water Conservation planning committee. Past presenter at WI Cover Crop Conference, WI Water and Soil Conference, presenter and host at numerous soil health field days and events.

**Education:** Laconia High 1995, Fox Valley Technical College 1997.

**What is your vision for the future of agriculture?** My vision is to return to the basics of life. I farm with a vision of working with nature. As world events, the climate, and many other things are out of our control I want our farm to be prepared. It is our responsibility to take care of our resources so that future generations can continue to reap the bounty this earth provides us. Managing the soil I've been entrusted with in a manner that will make it resilient to whatever weather we get, conserve the nutrients it has, cleanse the water that flows from it and provide food, fiber and energy for the world no matter what is our future.

**What do you believe are the primary issues facing agriculture and Compeer Financial?** Each day consumers of our products are farther removed from our operations. A tremendous gap exists in knowledge of what farm production is and what farm production is perceived to be. As our operations evolve to keep up with a changing world we often fail to keep up with consumer education.

An issue facing our operation is generational transfer. Navigating an increase in capital values, tax structures and outside influences has made this a big hurdle for many current farmers.

**Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors at Compeer Financial?** I believe it is my responsibility to be involved with Compeer. In order for bottom up organizations to thrive, they need to reflect the members who own them. It is important to have diverse representation on any board. I am now at a time in my farming career that will allow me to give time back to this organization or another. I have been through trials and errors in building the farm we have today. And much like Compeer, our farm is diverse. I believe the past years I have spent shaping our farm will translate well into shaping the future of Compeer.

I would like to commend the current board for their leadership and dedication to the Compeer members. However, for any organization to be strong, from time to time new leaders need to be chosen - akin to the roots of last year's crop making way for the next years roots to grow, prosper and outyield the previous. It is my hope that if elected, while serving alongside fellow board members, I can leave Compeer in a more prosperous position for future leaders and Compeer members.