

INELIGIBLE

**FUGATE, MADDIE
LAW SCHOOL**

2025 NAFB Foundation Scholarship Application

Maddie Fugate

804 Jackson Street
Oregon, IL 61061
maddiefug8@gmail.com
5/28/1999

Parents/Guardians:

Eric and Julie Fugate
473 Juniper Lane
Petersburg, IL 62675
Eric: 217-898-0825, Julie: 217-521-6432
eric.fugate@merck.com and juliesf70@gmail.com

Background:

I am a seventh-generation agriculturist. My father grew up on a hog farm and my mother a row crop farm. Throughout my childhood we lived on a farmette where we raised pigs and cattle.

Farm Type: Hogs and cattle

Have you received an NAFB Foundation Scholarship in the past? No

College/University: University of Dayton, School of Law

Academic Classification: 2L

Vocation/Major: Law

Expected Graduation: 5/13/2028

GPA: 2.62

GPA Score:

Tuition & Expenses: \$40000

Expenses Include: Tutiton, Fees, Housing, and Books

Financial Support:

Merit Scholarship from USDL 7500

Total Scholarship/Financial Support: \$7,500

Financial Needs Score: 11

Describe your plans and career goals upon graduation.

After graduating with my Juris Doctor degree, I plan to enter the field of agricultural policy and succession planning. I see my future as one that consists of using my skills, education, and passions to "pave the road" and assist in making production agriculture possible for future generations to allow for transition from one generation to the next.

From a young age, my parents fostered my love and passion for agriculture. They always answered my "why" questions: why are pigs called bacon, or why do we ear-notch litters? Their candor and willingness to always let me question things helped me understand the importance of raising and caring for livestock. It instilled in me a sense of stockmanship from a young age, focusing me on finding ways to stay involved and make an impact in the field of agriculture.

Growing up, I always said that I wanted to be President of the United States, and I held on to that dream longer than most. However, as I got older, I realized my desire was not necessarily to be President but to make a difference in the lives of the people around me. Growing up, I learned that information I took for granted, such as how my food got from the field to the fork, was not commonly known. Beyond that, I found and experienced that misinformation regarding agriculture is widely spread. From the labels on the food we eat to animal welfare, people are willing to put a buzzword

on anything related to agriculture. While to most people, this subterfuge might mean a few fewer packages of meat on the shelves, to us involved in agriculture, it means our livelihood. The reality is that protein production isn't based on buzzwords and trending social media posts; instead, putting meat into the mouths of the world's inhabitants depends on the passion and sweat of dedicated farmers who come in all shapes and sizes.

My mission is to be an educated and fact-based voice for agriculture. My goal has been to provide accurate and unbiased information to those not involved in agricultural production and to assist producers in equipping themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive. This goal has motivated me to further my education and acquire additional tools to enhance my capabilities as a reliable information source. While I have known for some time that I wanted to pursue my passion for upholding the agricultural way of life, I also recognized that I needed a diverse skill set, as today's agriculturalists wear many different hats. My drive and questioning nature are best served by equipping agriculturist to compete and sustain their businesses through legal assistance. Farmers are traditionally very independent and struggle to ask for help until it is too late. I aim to be a reliable source of information and assistance, helping to keep these producers' traditions thriving for decades to come.

Describe what activities have been most meaningful to your personal development.

When I reflect on the activities I had the opportunity to participate in, three stand out for their impact on me. The first is my involvement in junior livestock associations, which impacted many facets of my life. My presentation skills and competitive mindset can be traced back to my years in these organizations. The events and opportunities afforded to me as a junior member undoubtedly made me a better and more effective communicator. This has opened many opportunities for me in both professional and social settings. My jobs are directly attributed to the skill set I developed as a youth, and nearly all of my mentors and current peer group are livestock enthusiasts. All of these people and experiences shaped who I have become.

The breed organizations also introduced me to competitive livestock judging, which was the second activity that had a significant impact on my personal development. To put into words the effect livestock judging has had on my life is nearly impossible. I have been fortunate enough to judge livestock competitively for most of my life and was able to pursue my passion in college. I learned decision-making skills, public speaking, networking, and evaluation. I was conditioned to find the positives and negatives in livestock and weigh these advantages against one another. Judging taught me decision-making skills. When giving reasons, I learned to convey my opinion correctly. Learning to communicate effectively has impacted how I interact in the workforce. I can accurately convey my opinion and learn from judging to stand by it, even when it's not popular. Judging also opened my eyes to the diversity and vastness of the livestock industry, allowing me to travel the country and interact with a wide range of producers.

Ultimately, it was my background in livestock that led me to cross paths with WYXY Classic. When I started my internship with WYXY, I had little knowledge of the radio industry and the technical aspects of creating a farm show. Initially, the only thing I had going for me was that I enjoyed talking and had some knowledge of several different areas of agriculture. Life came full circle years after my first interview with Gale, as he became my mentor. The most significant impact was when I delved deeply into reporting on the commodity markets and developed a passion for learning more about marketing. I was enthralled with the fast-moving pace of reporting the markets and farmers calling in to discuss why the markets were up or down. The passion blossomed into a major in agricultural economics and eventually led to a role as a commodity merchandiser. All of these activities have helped me refine my toolbox of life skills and provided me with invaluable life experiences. These activities helped me continue pursuing my goal of promoting the agricultural way of life, not only by communicating its stories but also by ensuring the continuity of rural America through sound business practices and advocating for favorable policies.

How did you learn about the NAFB Foundation Scholarship?

From a past scholarship recipient

MADDIE FUGATE

(217) 521-4292 | maddiefug8@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/maddie-fugate/

Sales & Marketing | Livestock Products & Solutions

Driven, customer-focused Sales and Marketing Professional focused on Animal Health and Livestock Products and Solutions. A highly effective communicator, natural relationship builder, and 7th generation Agriculturist with a passion for the swine industry and producers.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Account Management • Customer Education • Communication Skills • Cross-functional Collaboration • Customer Relationship Building • Data Analysis • Forecasting • Networking • Persuasion & Negotiation • Presentation Skills • Problem-solving • Public Speaking • Sales Planning & Execution

KEY PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Possesses a multi-generational, hands-on farming background and university degree in agricultural business that creates immediate credibility and connection with key stakeholders.
- Innately curious in understanding business models, and customer needs, allowing for the identification of business opportunities in existing and emerging markets.
- Comfortable serving as a key liaison and fostering ongoing trust with producers and consumers alike.
- Analyzes sales results on a regular basis and manages expenses within budget guidelines.
- Possesses the ability to identify customer needs when selling Animal Health and related products/solutions.
- Utilizes product and market knowledge and highly effective selling skills in order to influence customers.
- Communicates knowledge of products in ways meaningful and relevant to each individual customer; customizes discussions and interactions based on an understanding of each customer's needs.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

KEMIN INDUSTRIES | Remote

Jan 2024 – Present

Swine Associate Key Account Manager

Manages 80+ customers. Guides customers through the sales process from beginning to end.

- Identifies, develops, executes, and documents customer sales projects to exceed sales growth expectations for the territory.
- Creates and executes customer sales budgets, per product line and revises accordingly monthly.
- Implement customer acquisition and customer retention programs. Looks for growth opportunities to expand growth within territory.
- Collaborates with pricing, and marketing cross functional teams in developing and implementing a successful sales plan for each customer.

CARGILL | Greater Omaha, NE

July 2021 – Jan 2024

Merchant

Managed 60+ customers related to corn; actively engaged with agricultural markets, merchandising and procurement of corn.

- Helped provide top-notch customer service using CRM platform and presented to the broader group on improvements that can be made to serve the 2,000+ customers we do business with.

CARGILL (*continued*)

- Lead the office digitization efforts through onboarding new customers and working with existing customers on online platform management and usage.
- Strategized, created, and executed “whole farm plans” to help farmers better navigate volatile markets.
- Delivered accurate and timely reports through effective interaction with cross-functional teams.
- Analyzed supply and demand, surveys market conditions, and other economic forces in order to maintain and grow Cargill's position in the marketplace.
- Initiated, negotiated, and agreed on terms of commodity purchase/sale contracts, such as price, quality, quantity, transportation, timing, and payment.

INTERNSHIPS

THE WENDT GROUP | **Sales Intern** (Aug 2020 – May 2022)

Managed ad agency customers; addressed questions; and closed sales.

ILLINI RADIO GROUP WYXY CLASSIC 99.1 FM | **On-Air Broadcast Intern** (May 2019 – Aug 2020)

An on-air agricultural radio personality; advocated and served as a voice for agriculture to thousands of listeners; and conducted interviews with law makers, agricultural experts, farmers, and livestock enthusiasts.

THE PIG PLANET / PIGPLANET.COM | **Content Creation Intern** (Oct 2019 – May 2020)

Created social media content for multiple social media outlets.

FARM STORY MEATS | **Sales and Marketing Intern** (Sep 2019 – May 2020)

Cold-called leads, worked with new accounts, and managed existing customers.

EDUCATION

University of Dayton School of Law | Dayton, OH

JD | Candidate for Juris Doctor, May 2028

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY | Murray, KY

MBA | Master of Business Administration, Aug 2023

GPA: 4.00/4.00 Graduated Summa Cum Laude

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY |

BS | Bachelor of Science – Agricultural Business, May 2021

GPA: 3.77/4.00: Graduated Magna Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL AFFILIATIONS

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) | *Member; 2020 American Angus Ambassador • 4-H •*

National Junior Swine Association (NJSA) | *Member • National FFA Organization | Member •*

Illinois Junior Beef Association (IJBA) | *Member; Junior Board Secretary • Illinois Club Pig*

Association (ICPA) | *Member: Board Member • National Agricultural Marketing Association*

(NAMA) | *Competition Team*

HONORS

Livestock Judging | **Senior College All-American**

2020 FFA STAR over America | **Finalist: Agriscience**

FFA, 4-H, PAS, NJSA, NJAA, and FBLA | **Award-winning Public Speaker**

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

Adobe Creative Suite • Tableau • Salesforce • Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, & PowerPoint)



300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469

101831248 Madeline S. Fugate
Jun 02, 2025 11:55 am

Academic Transcript

This is not an official transcript. Courses which are in progress may also be included on this transcript.

[Institution Credit](#) [Transcript Totals](#) [Courses in Progress](#)

Transcript Data

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name : Madeline S. Fugate
Birth Date: 28-MAY

Curriculum Information

Current Program

Juris Doctor
Program: Juris Doctor
College: School of Law
Major and Department: Law, Law

***Transcript type:WEBU Web - Unofficial Transcript is NOT Official ***

INSTITUTION CREDIT [-Top-](#)

Term: Fall 2024

Term Comments: **ACADEMIC PROBATION**
After the Fall 2024 Semester

Academic Standing:

Subject	Course	Level	Title	Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points	R
LAW	5001	LW	Learning Community- MVP	CR	0.000	0.00	
LAW	5102	LW	Torts Doctrine & Skills I	C-	3.000	5.10	
LAW	5105	LW	Legal Profession I	C+	3.000	6.90	

Term Totals (Law)

	Attempt Hours	Passed Hours	Earned Hours	GPA Hours	Quality Points	GPA
Current Term:	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000	12.00	2.00

Cumulative: 6.000 6.000 6.000 6.000 12.00 2.00

Unofficial Transcript

Term: Spring 2025

Academic Standing:

Subject Course Level Title				Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points
LAW	5001	LW	Learning Community- MVP	CR	0.000	0.00
LAW	5104	LW	Real Property I	B-	4.000	10.80
LAW	5106	LW	Legal Profession II	B+	3.000	9.90
LAW	5805	LW	Elements of Legal Analysis I	A	1.000	4.00

Term Totals (Law)

	Attempt Hours	Passed Hours	Earned Hours	GPA Hours	Quality Points	GPA
Current Term:	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	24.70	3.08
Cumulative:	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	36.70	2.62

Unofficial Transcript

TRANSCRIPT TOTALS (LAW) -Top-

	Attempt Hours	Passed Hours	Earned Hours	GPA Hours	Quality Points	GPA
Total Institution:	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	36.70	2.62
Total Transfer:	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Overall:	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	36.70	2.62

Unofficial Transcript

COURSES IN PROGRESS -Top-

Term: Summer 2025

Subject Course Level Title				Credit Hours
LAW	5103	LW	Torts Doctrine & Skills II	3.000
LAW	5107	LW	Criminal Law	4.000
LAW	5806	LW	Elements of Legal Analysis II	1.000

Unofficial Transcript

Term: Fall 2025

Subject Course Level Title				Credit Hours
LAW	5101	LW	Civil Procedure I	3.000

LAW	5110	LW	Contracts I	3.000
LAW	5310	LW	Interviewing, Counseling & Neg	3.000

Unofficial Transcript

RELEASE: 8.7.1

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Maddie Fugate, an exceptional young woman and a true leader in the field of agriculture. From an early age, Maddie has been deeply immersed in the livestock and agricultural industries, and her passion for both swine and cattle has remained steadfast throughout her journey.

For over a decade, Maddie has successfully exhibited pigs and cattle at the local, state, and national levels. These experiences provided her with a strong foundation in agriculture, while also cultivating essential qualities such as leadership, discipline, and a tireless work ethic. She has consistently demonstrated a desire to deepen her knowledge of the industry and to develop the communication skills that will serve her well in a future career in agricultural communications. Throughout her junior show career, Maddie attended numerous conferences and delivered impactful speeches and presentations to agricultural audiences across the Midwest. She is a passionate and articulate advocate for agriculture, committed to ensuring that the real story of American agriculture is accurately and effectively shared with the public.

In addition to her communication skills, Maddie has excelled in a wide range of livestock show competitions—earning top honors in skillathon, public speaking, and judging at both regional and national levels. Locally, she has been an active and dependable member of 4-H and FFA, generously dedicating her time to community service projects and mentoring younger members.

Her list of achievements is extensive and impressive. Over the years, Maddie has been named a National FFA Agriscience Fair Winner and multiple-time finalist, a National FFA Finalist in both Prepared and Extemporaneous Public Speaking, a State Proficiency Award Winner in Agricultural Science—Integrated Systems, and a Star Over America Finalist. At the collegiate level, Maddie served as a student ambassador for Lake Land College, participated in numerous campus organizations, and was inducted into multiple honors societies for academic excellence. She went on to graduate with honors from Iowa State University, earn a master's degree while working full-time, and gain acceptance into law school—an impressive trajectory that reflects her drive and commitment to agricultural advancement.

Maddie's contributions to agricultural communications have already made a notable impact. Her work with WYXY as an on-air agricultural radio personality showcased her natural ability to inform and engage audiences—skills that are essential in the evolving world of farm broadcasting. Her professionalism and clarity as a communicator are complemented by a sincere passion for connecting people with agriculture.

Maddie Fugate is a true agricultural leader—an accomplished showman, a dedicated volunteer, a national FFA award recipient, and a mentor to countless agriculture youth. She is an outstanding role model for young agriculturalists across the country. Her decision to pursue a degree in agricultural law further demonstrates her commitment to being a voice for agriculture and shaping the future of the industry.

I offer Maddie my highest recommendation for this scholarship. She is an outstanding student, communicator, advocate, and citizen. In my 29 years of working with more than 3,500 youth, Maddie Fugate remains firmly in my "Top Five" of all the individuals I've had the honor to mentor. She is truly deserving of this recognition and support.

Sincerely,

Sue Schafer

Taylorville Agriculture Department Chairman

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Letter of Recommendation for NAFB Scholarships for Maddie Fugate

It is an honor and a privilege to highly recommend Maddie Fugate for the NAFB Scholarships. Maddie was one of the finest interns I ever had. Not only was she intent on sharing the stories of Farm families and their challenges and victories but doing it in a way that was honorable to the industry but did so in an honest welcoming voice on air. She also through her love of the livestock industry not only exhibited honesty through her broadcasts but through her daily life in and out of the swine show ring. So much so that she has been selected many times for judging and teaching young people about the top swine producers in the industry. Most recently being selected to be the Showmanship judge at the Illinois State Fair. An honor that most generally is held for only the highly respected swine leaders. Her ability, her personality, her love of telling the story of agriculture can honestly not be matched. It will serve any of the Scholarships very very well to name Maddie Fugate to be selected for its recipient.

Sincerely,

Gale Cunningham
Farm Director
WYXY Classic
NAFB Past President

LAKE LAND COLLEGE

Dear NAFB Scholarship Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure and a true honor to offer praise and recommendation for Maddie Fugate and her academic pursuits. Maddie is one of the most passionate and hardworking people I have ever encountered. Her dedication to her education is unrivaled, and her commitment to service and leadership impacts everyone she meets.

I first met Maddie during her college visit to Lake Land College. Her passion for academic success was unlike anything I had seen before. Maddie is totally committed to her studies. She possesses that extra level of dedication and is highly invested in her education. She was active in our Honors Program at the college. Not only did she complete our Honor's program, she also graduated with academic honors.

As a seventh-generation agriculturalist, Maddie has a passion for agriculture, the swine industry and Angus Cattle. She was a 10-year member of 4-H and a member of the FFA. Maddie has witnessed the rewards of hard work and dedication. This has instilled in her a strong work ethic and the highest level of dedication. She was selected both as a State FFA Swine Proficiency Award Winner and a National FFA Agri-science Winner for Animal Systems. She has won numerous State FFA Public Speaking Titles and was selected as a finalist at the National Contest. She was a Stars over America Finalist at the 2020 National FFA Convention in the area of Agri-Science. There are only four finalists in this award area each year.

Maddie was very active on the Lake Land College campus. She was selected as a Student Ambassador, assisting college staff with high school visits, conducting tours for prospective students and their parents and assisting with special events sponsored by the college. She also served as a member of the Livestock Judging Team, Phi Theta Kappa, Ag Transfer Club, PAS, and a member of our first Collegiate Farm Bureau. While at Iowa State University Maddie was a member of the Livestock Judging Team, where she was selected as one of thirteen Livestock Judging All-Americans.

Maddie's work experience includes working for agricultural industry leader Cargill. In this role she worked directly with over 60 customers focusing on merchandising and procurement of corn. Now, Maddie is with Kemin Industries where she is an Associate Key Account where she works with over 80 customers in the swine industry. Maddie was also involved in a wide variety of internships that helped strengthen her excellent communication and marketing skills.

Most recently, Maddie has finished her first year of law school. As we all know, we need more lawyers with a connection to animal agriculture. I have been an employee of Lake Land College for the past 30 years. In that time, I have had the opportunity to work with thousands of students. Every once in a while, a student comes along that sets themselves apart from the rest of the student body. Maddie Fugate is definitely one of those students and I proudly recommend her with no reservations and with the highest regard.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Jon Van Dyke
Dean of Admission Services
Lake Land College

Eastern Region Center
224 South Sixth St.
Marshall, Illinois 62441
217-826-8490

The Kluthe Center for Higher
Education and Technology
1204 Network Center Blvd.
Effingham, Illinois 62401
217-540-3555

Lake Land College
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Mattoon, Illinois 61938
217-234-5253
lakelandcollege.edu

Western Region Center
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Pana, Illinois 62557
217-562-5000

Workforce
Development Center
305 Richmond Ave. East
Mattoon, Illinois 61938
217-235-2222