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KETELSEN JOINS BROADCASTING GIANTS IN MINNESOTA – Lynn Ketelsen, owner of Linder Farm Network in Minnesota, will be inducted into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame later this year.

Ketelsen has been in the broadcasting business for 45 years and has been called the “Voice of Minnesota Agriculture” for his efforts in the greater farm-broadcasting community of Minnesota.



“Some of the best broadcasters in the country are in that Hall of Fame,” Ketelsen said. “Being recognized for what I’ve done over the years is wonderful. I’m honored to join it with a great group of people in the industry.”

The Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame normally has inducted broadcasters in the local mainstream media, so Ketelsen will be one of the first farm broadcasters noted with this high distinction.

“Typically, they have not looked at farm broadcasters,” Ketelsen added. “They’ve looked at TV people, personalities, anchors, and radio people in the Twin Cities, so it’s nice to be recognized in that way.”

Ketelsen thinks Linder Farm Network changed the face of farm broadcasting in Minnesota, which has thousands of listeners throughout the state.

“When I started, I literally went to an event every night of the week because no one had heard of our farm network,” Ketelsen said. “We started at zero, and now we’re well over at 70% of the farmers in the southern part of Minnesota who listen to our network.”

Ketelsen encourages young, aspiring broadcasters to follow their passion.

“If you’re passionate about something, you work hard and you get good at it,” Ketelsen concluded. “And by working hard, good things, lucky things, happen to you.”

DAVIDSON AFFECTING CHANGE THROUGH BROADCASTING – Avery Davidson, communications director for Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation and farm broadcaster on the Voice of Louisiana Agriculture Radio Network, covered the damage of Hurricane Ida, something many farm broadcasters do not get the chance to cover.

This detrimental hurricane tore through Louisiana at the end of August 2021.

“Hurricane Ida really packed a punch,” Davidson said. “It was every bit of a category-four storm.”

Several hurricanes have hit Louisiana since the 1990s, and Davidson said this storm was comparable to a hurricane that is infamous for wind damage.



“Like Hurricane Laura, the type of damage Ida brought was a very strong windstorm,” Davidson said. “It was not as strong with the deluge of rain as we’ve seen with other storms.”

The strong winds resulted in damage to multiple sectors of Louisiana agriculture, including the sugarcane industry.

“We knew with where it was going, in southeast Louisiana, it was going to impact the Louisiana sugar industry at one of the worst possible times – right before harvest,” Davidson said.

At the time of the hurricane, the sugarcane was already tall, lush, and a month away from harvest. The storm affected about a quarter of the entire sugarcane crop for the state.

“It had the potential to be really, really bad,” Davidson added. “Fortunately, sugarcane is resilient, so the storm only damaged about 25% of the crop.”

While the hurricane was detrimental to the crops in the state, Davidson mentioned it was not the only focus of his coverage. Hurricane Ida destroyed docks and almost wiped out several fisheries.

According to Davidson, there were very few buildings escaped the wrath of the hurricane.

“We knew going in that this was going to be more than a story about crops, it was going to be a story about people . . . people who were losing their homes and people who were possibly losing their livelihoods,” Davidson added. “

Alongside the sugarcane operations and fisheries, the forestry industry also was affected by the storm.

“There are still trees down all along the wooded areas,” Davidson noted. “It looks like someone came and toppled them over with their hands as if they were giants.”

Many people don’t think of the trees as an agricultural product, but Davidson emphasized they are still a large sector of the industry.

“That’s the forestry industry we have here,” Davidson said. “Someone’s investment made 20 to 40 years ago was destroyed before it could even be harvested.”

Livestock ended up being scattered throughout the state because fencing was destroyed due to falling trees

and downed power lines.

“A number of ranchers had to sell off their herds, not because they were in extreme financial stress, but because they did not have the ability to repair their fences fast enough to keep those herds in place,” Davidson said.

His experience with covering similar storms gave Davidson an idea of what to expect, but this storm also took a toll emotionally.

“There were power lines all over the roads, light poles snapped, and homes and buildings damaged or destroyed,” Davidson said. “I’ve known a particular farmer for years, and his home was a total loss. Those are the kinds of things you really carry with you after.”

Davidson’s coverage of this detrimental event served as a resource for the Louisiana Farm Bureau to help make federal disaster funds available to farmers and ranchers.

“Covering the damage of this hurricane showed me a little more about how agriculture and farm journalism can shine a light on the needs of those in the farming and ranching communities,” Davidson said. “It gave me a better idea of how going out and telling someone’s story can affect change for many.”

He spread awareness of the conditions and hardships Louisiana farmers and ranchers were going through to help make a change.

“You always want to do more to help, but the best you can do as an ag journalist is make sure everyone else knows what’s going on,” Davidson concluded. “Don’t let it be forgotten.”

MORGAN HONORED WITH HOMETOWN HALL OF FAME INDUCTION – Tyne Morgan, host and executive producer of *U.S. Farm Report* for Farm Journal Media, was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame for Career Achievement in her hometown of Lexington, Missouri.

“I’m both honored and humbled to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for Career Achievement in Lexington,” Morgan said. “I was fortunate enough to grow up in a community where the teachers and administrators not only provided valuable lessons and pushed us to excel in academics but also coached me outside the classroom.”

Morgan noted Lexington is a small town but has produced many well-known individuals who have left to do big things. She was honored to be a part of such an accomplished group.

“I saw the list of who was being inducted, and I was definitely humbled,” Morgan said. “Others being inducted were a late congressman and the composer of music on *Looney Tunes*. I had no clue these individuals even lived in Lexington or graduated from my high school.”

Morgan also graduated from the University of Missouri, where she studied agricultural journalism. She encouraged college students who are entering agricultural communications and journalism to go the extra mile.



“Hard work pays off,” Morgan said. “I am proof that you don’t have to be valedictorian of your class. I networked hard after high school, went to college, worked extremely hard, and put in the time.”

While Morgan continues to work in her dream job, she is most proud to carry the title of “mom” to two daughters and “wife” to husband James. They recently moved back to Missouri, where she gives back to the rural communities that influenced her broadcasting career.

IOWA FARM BROADCASTER BOASTS UNIQUE PASSION FOR HISTORY – Dustin Hoffmann is a farm broadcaster at Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network with a unique passion for U.S. Civil War history.

His love for history started when he was in grade school, when his dad bid on an unlikely pile of items.



“At the end of an auction, they threw a bunch of items in a pile and whoever gave them 10 bucks would get it,” Hoffmann said. “My dad immediately bid on it and won it. Just about everything went into the garbage pit, except for the 1863 Springfield musket.”

His father cleaned up the gun, and it stood in their living room for many years.

“That was my entrance into the history of the Civil War, and it just grew from there,” Hoffmann noted.

The Civil War that greatly affected the United States in the 1860s can still be seen through people who keep the history alive, like Hoffmann.

“Now I collect several historical artifacts, and I’ve been to battle sites across the country,” Hoffmann added.

Some of the history is close to home, quite literally for Hoffman.

“The Dakota War that happened in 1862 started just 3 miles north from my farm,” Hoffmann said.

Out of all the battlefields Hoffmann has visited, Gettysburg is his favorite.

“There is just something about Gettysburg that, when you are there, it’s almost like it’s talking to you. It’s just a surreal experience,” Hoffmann said.

One event that took place at Gettysburg is known as the defense of Little Round Top. Union forces fended off an attack from advancing Confederate troops, and some historians credit it as a monumental moment in the overall three-day battle.

“Little Round Top is my favorite place on earth,” Hoffmann said. “During the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2013 I got to go out there and cover the ceremony and the celebrations for my radio station.”

Experiencing Civil War history firsthand is a passion that was instilled in Hoffmann at a young age, and that passion will not fade anytime soon.

“One morning, I got the chance to go into Gettysburg before it opened to set up. I got there right before dawn, and there was nobody up there. The sun was coming up, the fog was lifting, and the mist was coming off the battlefield . . . I will never forget how it looked, and that hooked me,” Hoffman concluded.

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