



2017 NAFB Young Professionals Participants



Caroline Anton

Cal Poly SLO

Sophomore

Ag Comms

Career Goal: Undecided

Bio: I am a forward thinker. I am extroverted and thrive in social situations. I enjoy spending time outdoors, such as swimming, skiing, sailing, etc. My passion for agriculture started from my grandparents growing all sorts of fruits and vegetables in their yard. I loved being able to eat the fresh food and seeing the progress from the seed to the full growth. Likewise, I hope to better my agriculture background in this convention.



Emily Berger

Texas A&M University

Senior

Poultry Science, Agricultural Communications & Journalism

Career Goal: I'm pursuing a career as an ag journalist so that I can combine my loves for writing, people and agriculture!

Bio: My passions include chickens, people, and writing, though not necessarily in that order! For the first half of my undergraduate career, I focused on conducting poultry behavioral research and developing foundational skills in research writing, editing and journalistic writing. Following my summer internship through the American Agricultural Editors' Association, I'm now freelancing for Farm Journal's Top Producer magazine. I'm also still conducting research,

though now it is focused on the human elements of social media, professional development, and project management. With graduation fast approaching, I'm excited to see where my interests might take me!



Julie Choate

Missouri State University

Senior

Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: To advocate for the agricultural industry by owning my own communications business, focusing on writing, design and photography

Bio: Choate is a senior, agricultural communications major at Missouri State University. She will graduate with her bachelor's degree in December and begin working toward her master's degree in January. Currently, Choate is the Graduate Advisor of the Missouri State University ACT Chapter and served as the vice-president last year. She grew up on her family's farm near Pleasant Hope, Missouri, raising beef cattle and working in her parent's poultry operation.

Choate has shown registered Hereford cattle for the past 14 years at a local, state and national level. She is a new member of NAFB, but excited to see what the organization has to offer in her future career as an agricultural communicator.

**Taylor Clark**

Texas A&M University

Senior

Agricultural Communications and Journalism

Career Goal: Music Business - I would love to move to Nashville, TN and work in the music industry!

Bio: I am from Navasota, Texas, a small town just out of College Station. I will receive a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communications and Journalism from Texas A&M University. I am focusing on going into the music business industry and would love to learn as much as possible in regards to broadcasting and business. I hope to move to Nashville, Tennessee after graduating in May of this upcoming year. I have a heavy background in

agriculture. I was involved in 4H and FFA for as long as I can remember and showed lambs at the local and major show levels. I was also involved in livestock judging, wool judging, chapter conducting and ag advocacy. I am currently involved with Texas A&M's radio station, Fusion FM. This semester I am in the Advanced Radio class emphasizing in production. My team of classmates is currently working on launching a streaming country radio station. The station should be up and running in the early months of 2018.

**Brianna Gwartz**

The Ohio State University

Senior

Agricultural Communication

Career Goal: Communications for an Agribusiness

Bio: I am a senior at the Ohio State University studying Agricultural Communication. I will be graduating in May 2018. While attending OSU, I have completed internships with Ohio Ag Net and Ohio's Country Journal, Lynd Fruit Farm, the American Dairy Association Midwest and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences' marketing and communication department. Some organizations I am involved in are the Ohio State chapter of ACT, Buckeye Dairy Club and Towers Agricultural Honorary. I grew up on a small grain farm where I raised

goats and cattle for 4-H and FFA projects.

**Macey Hurst**

Missouri State University

Junior

Agriculture Communications and AgriBusiness

Career Goal: Consumer Education and Agriculture Policy

Bio: I am from Wardsville, Missouri, where my mother, sister, and I operate a cattle operation called Lady Livestock Company. I am currently pursuing degrees in Agriculture Communications and Agriculture Business, minor in Spanish, and pre-law. I also intern for the Missouri Beef Industry Council and serve as the Missouri Beef Queen. I am new to the farm broadcast family, but I hope to become involved and active in the organization!



McKenna Johnson

Texas Tech University

Junior

Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: Communications Director

Bio: I will graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Communications from Texas Tech University in 2019. I am currently the videography intern with Picador Creative, a student-lead communications firm operated from Tech's Ag Comm program. Johnson grew up in a rural agriculture-heavy community, Floydada. Her family runs an irrigation service providing water to area farmers. Although a new National Association of Farming Broadcasting member, she is eager and excited to network and make life-long connections.



Evan Johnson

Texas Tech University

Senior

Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: events coordinator, graphic designer, communication work in the music industry

Bio: Growing up in Floydada, Texas, a passion for agriculture was instilled in Johnson through working at her family's irrigation business and programs like 4-H. She graduated from South Plains College with an Associate of Applied Arts in May of 2013 and is now a senior agricultural communications major at Texas Tech University and will graduate in May 2018. Evan Johnson serves as an intern at Picador Creative, where she designs quality communications products through Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign for businesses in the West Texas region. Johnson

is excited for the opportunity to strengthen her skills and gain experience for a career in agricultural communications.



Catherine Jones

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Junior

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Communication

Career Goal: I do not have a specific job I am looking for. I want to make a difference in the lives of consumers and producers.

Bio: Hi! I am an Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Communication major from Bellevue, Nebraska! I grew up in an urban community which really spiked my interest in helping consumers and producers have open conversations. I am the current intern for the Nebraska Corn Board and have loved every minute of it. I have really learned a lot about the industry and how to be a strong communicator in person and in the media. Ask me about myself! I would love to share or tell me a little about you!



Corryn La Rue

Utah State University

Junior

Agriculture Communications and Journalism

Career Goal: Work for RFDTV

Bio: Corryn is dual majoring in Agriculture Communications and Journalism, with an emphasis in broadcast journalism. She also has a minor in Animal Science. She has completed two industry internships, held a summer job with Ag Net West and has also had two different radio shows. Corryn is currently a Utah Public Radio Intern, as well as a Radio Reporter in the newsroom for the National FFA Convention and Expo this year. Corryn attended NAFB her freshman year of college and received three internship opportunities, one she took and

completed the next semester. Corryn loves the NAFB and is excited to return this year to expand her knowledge and meet successful industry broadcasters.



Jackie Leeuw

Purdue University

Graduate Student

Agriculture Communication

Career Goal: To work in a field where I can promote agriculture and make sure that everybody is educated about agriculture

Bio: I received my Bachelor of Science Degrees in Business Administration and Communication in May 2017 from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. While attending St. Joe, I was an active member of our Radio Club and TV Broadcasting. I was on the air three times a week as a radio DJ and was talent on a weekly news broadcast where we went live each week. Before coming to Purdue, I interned with Indiana Farm Bureau where I was active

on their social media pages, as well as editing videos and taking pictures during county fairs. I raise Holstein Feeder Steers with my dad in Northeast Indiana and am an active member of both county and state fair.



Kelsey Litchfield

University of Illinois

Graduated May 2017

Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: Start-up my own digital storytelling agency

Bio: Kelsey Litchfield is a small-town girl from Rio, Illinois. With a passion for agriculture and serving others, she received a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Communications from the University of Illinois this past May. Litchfield is a former RFD Radio Network intern. She is a proud 4-H and FFA alumna and has also served as national president of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. Currently, she is a freelance digital media strategist and loves to be behind the camera as a photographer and videographer. Litchfield also works as a social

media marketing coordinator with Colleen Callahan Consultancy, an experience that has influenced Kelsey to be a mentor to others. She credits NAFB for giving her the tools to have a successful career in agricultural communications.



Chelsea McQueen

Texas A&M University

Senior

Agricultural Communications and Journalism

Career Goal: Communications professional in the radio industry

Bio: Chelsea McQueen is graduating from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Communications and Journalism in December 2017. McQueen grew up in Fairfield, Texas raising animals such as horses, goats, and pigs with her brother Cody, who is now the Texas State FFA President. Currently, she works at Rosenthal Meat Center at Texas A&M University as well as working with her professor to launch a new, streaming radio station. She is very active in her on-campus radio station, Fusion FM. She has experience in

on-air broadcasting, sales, promotions, and other communication channels. She hopes to become a communications professional in marketing and radio following graduation.



Mary Moening

Texas Tech Univeristy

Junior

Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: Inspire consumer confidence and trust in agriculture and food production practices through innovative communication.

Bio: I grew up on a crop and livestock farm in Hayfield, Minnesota. My family grows corn and soybeans, and raises Simmental Cattle. After high school, I received my Associate Degree in Science from Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois in 2017. While at Lake Land, I was a member of the Livestock Judging Team and served as a Lake Land College Ambassador. Currently, I am a junior studying Agricultural Communications at Texas Tech University in

Lubbock, Texas. I am a member of Block and Bridle, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and will be a member of the 2018 Livestock Judging Team. My career goal is to inspire consumer confidence and trust in agriculture and food production practices through innovative communication initiatives.



Morgan Perkins

Utah State University

Freshman

Ag Communication & Journalism, Ag Education, Agribusiness

Career Goal: To become an Agricultural Communicator

Bio: I am a 4-H State ambassador and a Beef ambassador for the state of Utah. I have been showing livestock since I was five years old and I have a true passion for this industry. I have shown steers, heifers, lambs, hogs, and horses. I have competed in 4H and FFA programs at the county, state, and national levels, along with rodeoing and queening. I have been in many leadership positions at school along with the FFA and the 4H programs. I love to go on spontaneous adventures and hang out with my family and friends in my spare time.



Katelyn Rindlisbaker

Utah State University
Senior
Agricultural Communications and Journalism

Career Goal: Agricultural Journalism

Bio: Katelyn Rindlisbaker has been studying Agricultural Communications and Journalism at Utah State University with a minor in Political Science and Animal Science. Rindlisbaker grew up on a small farm in Preston, Idaho, where her and her family raised beef cattle, horses and hound dogs. Rindlisbaker plans on going into agricultural journalism after graduating. When she is not at school she works at Home Depot and boxes.



Corie Ritter

Texas A&M University
Senior
Agriculture Communications and Journalism

Career Goal: Digital Media Manager

Bio: I am currently finishing my Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Communications and Journalism at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, with a focus on digital media creation. I work under a branch of Texas AgriLife Extension Services called RanchTV University. I film and edit videos that are then used to build online courses over different aspects of the agriculture industry. In addition, I am the social media director for RanchTV. I also have on-air radio experience on our agriculture communications department's radio station, Fusion FM. I

grew up in a rural community on a cattle ranch in Weimar, Texas.



Alyssa Rockers

Missouri State University
Senior
Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: Consumer Relations with an agricultural company.

Bio: Rockers attends Missouri State University, where she will graduate with her bachelor's degree in December 2017. Following her graduation, she intends to begin her master's degree at Oklahoma State University in January 2018. She is originally from Carthage, MO, where she was active in 4-H and FFA, exhibiting meat goats.



Thomas Shaw

The Ohio State University

Senior

Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: Marketing and Communications within a Youth Development Organization

Bio: Shaw is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Communications with a minor in Agricultural Business from The Ohio State University. During high school, Shaw worked for a local radio station, WTGR 97.5-FM, as their Farm News Director where he wrote, recorded, edited daily farm news segments. Shaw has also worked with the Ohio Ag Net during his time at WTGR. During college, he has interned with the National FFA Organization where he has served as a radio broadcast intern for their annual national conventions. Shaw

grew up near Greenville, Ohio on his family's dairy farm where they also raise diversified crops. Shaw has been a student member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting since 2013.



Bronson Teichert

Utah State University

Junior

Agricultural Communications

Career Goal: Radio or Television Journalist

Bio: I am a junior at Utah State University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Communications with an emphasis in broadcast. I currently work for Utah Public Radio as the agriculture, business and economics reporter. I grew up on a cow/calf operation in Cokeville, Wyoming and hope to eventually return to work with my family after gaining professional experience and do freelance work from home.



Josh Bradley Theurer

Utah State University

Senior

Agriculture Communication and Journalism

Career Goal: United States Secretary of Agriculture

Bio: Theurer is in the final stages of his Agriculture Communication and Journalism degree, with a minor in Political Science. In 2017 he was named chemical manager and public relations specialist for Intermountain Miniature Truck, a company that manages private and commercial properties. Theurer experienced many parts of agriculture growing up on his family's farm in Northern Utah. Along with farming, Theurer has been active in the horse racing industry, where he holds racing licenses in 5 states and is a member of the American

Quarter Horse Association. In 2015 Theurer was honored at the AQHA Racing Champions Night as that year's World Champion Chariot Team.



Katlyn Uhart

Utah State University

Sophomore

Agricultural Communication and Journalism

Career Goal: I'd love to be a communication link between federal land management agencies and agricultural businesses.

Bio: I am a sophomore at Utah State University, where I am heavily involved with two of my favorite clubs. I am the secretary of the range club as well as the co-social media chair of the agricultural communications club. I grew up on a cow-calf operation in northern Nevada where I learned how to rope and ride. It was through my childhood experiences that I realized what a large gap there is in communication between agricultural businesses and federal land

management agencies. In five years it would be my dream to bridge that gap.



Jessica Wesson

University of Arkansas

Freshmen

Agricultural Communications and Leadership

Career Goal: Broadcasting or Public Relations

Bio: I am a freshman at the University of Arkansas. I grew up in Searcy, Arkansas, with a traditional agricultural background. I raised multiple species of livestock throughout my lifetime including cattle, sheep, goats, horses, hogs, broilers, and rabbits. I was very involved in FFA throughout high school. During this time, I judged horses, served three years as a chapter officer, participated in public speaking contests, and advocated for agriculture. I am

double majoring in Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Leadership. I plan to graduate with two undergraduate degrees and work toward a Master's in Agricultural Communications. My future aspirations include a career in broadcasting or public relations in the agricultural industry.