

Clay Patton was born and raised on the short grass of Eastern Colorado. Both of Clay's grandparents operated commercial cow calf operations while his folks worked as a state brand inspector and deputy county treasurer. It was in helping the family that Clay developed a passion for agriculture and rural America. After graduating from Genoa-Hugo high school Clay served as the State FFA Sentinel for Colorado FFA. During that year of service Clay and his officer team had the opportunity to travel to Vietnam. That is where Clay learned that those involved in agriculture have common values and goals no matter where they reside on the globe.

Following his year of service with Colorado FFA Clay went on to become a certified auctioneer at the World Wide College of Auctioneering in Mason City Iowa. While not full time employed as an auctioneer Clay still helps with many local and regional fundraising auctions. He also helps several auction companies during production seedstock sales and farm sales.

For higher education Clay studied agricultural economics; along with farm and ranch management at Colby Community College. While at Colby Community College Clay was a member of the livestock judging team, presidential scholars and Collegiate Farm Bureau. Clay's speaking ability helped him to secure a top reasons set at every national contest judging contest his sophomore year.

During his time at Colby Community College is when Clay had the opportunity to go to work for KXXX and Kansas Farm and Ranch Radio part time. Clay started as a board op for high school baseball games and then the following summer progressed to helping gather wheat harvest reports. It was after his graduation from Colby Community College that the Vice President of Rocking M Media Sacha Sanguinetti offered Clay his first full time farm broadcaster job with Kansas Farm and Ranch Radio. Since those first days as a board op Clay has since found a career that he hopes to continue long into the future. He has also found a slogan. Many people may recognize Clay's reports by his closing statement, "Keep A Straight Row."

Currently Clay is a farm broadcaster for KRVN and the Rural Radio Network based out of Lexington NE. He also hosts a daily ag update for the Maryland News Network.

Clay still holds that inborn fondness for agriculture and has found his niche in talking with producers and consumers alike through the power of radio. One of the biggest pieces of advice Clay felt he has got in the broadcast business came from former KXXX and KRVN farm broadcaster Rich Hawkins who said, "talk a little say a lot and always let the ag producer tell their story."

Speaker Intro:

Clay Patton was born and raised on on the short grass of Eastern Colorado. Agriculture is the family business, but during his senior year Clay soon learned that he would have to forge his own way in the world as the family ranches couldn't support everyone. In the years following high-school Clay has served as a State FFA officer, competed as a collegiate judging team member and worked as an auctioneer. It was through these life experiences that he was able to find his niche in the agriculture community. That niche was farm broadcasting. Today Clay is a farm broadcaster for KRVN and the Rural Radio Network based out of Lexington NE. He also hosts a daily ag update for the Maryland News Network that airs on Maryland and Delaware. You may recognize his reports by his ending slogan, "Keep A Straight Row".

One of the biggest pieces of advice Clay felt he has got in the broadcast business came from former KXXX and KRVN farm broadcaster Rich Hawkins who said, "talk a little say a lot and always let the ag producer tell their story." Please help me in welcoming to the stage Clay Patton.