

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer
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**Lindsay and Eric Baneck named 2025 Wisconsin
Outstanding Young Farmers**

Jefferson County farmers honored for outstanding commitment to agriculture.

MARSHFIELD, Wisconsin [Jan. 18, 2025] – The Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) program is pleased to announce Lindsay and Eric Baneck, Helenville, Wisconsin, were selected as the 2025 Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmers during the 71st Annual Awards Weekend Jan. 17-18, sponsored by Riesterer & Schnell and Northside Elevator, Inc.

Lindsay Baneck did not know she wanted to be a full-time farmer until her senior year in college when her parents asked her to consider joining them in their successful cash crop, beef and produce business at Helenville. Her parents started Maple Mound Farms after they graduated from college and growing up on that farm she helped feed calves, gather eggs from their chickens, clean pens and help with their produce business. She and her husband Eric own 80 acres of their own, using her parents' equipment to run their land. Her husband Eric has his own business but he helps out on the farm with repair work and other tasks.

In 2019 Lindsay made the decision to step up to become the full-time manager of Jelli's Market. She quickly assumed 100% of the management duties involved with the day-to-day operations. She oversees the planting and harvesting of their 40 acres of fresh produce, hires, trains and supervises 20 seasonal employees, and does most of the bookwork and finances for Jelli's Market.

Jelli's Market has always provided a good way to promote agriculture to the non-farming community but sharing her knowledge about agriculture has always been Lindsay's interest. Every summer and fall the farm hosts hundreds of students from summer camps, daycares, classrooms and youth organizations by providing farm tours. She believes when customers and youth interact with a farmer they develop trust and appreciation of farmers.

The Baneck's are sponsored by: Gallitz Grading Inc.; Pioneer Seed – Jim Cowan; Rural Mutual - Tim Finger; Stoddard's Marketing & Catering

Additional winners

- Sam and Brittany Olson, Chetek, Wisconsin, were named the Speak Up for Ag Winners, which is sponsored by Agri-View. Olson's farm is in Barron County and are the fifth generation to run the farm. Sam and Brittany were sponsored by Barron Veterinary Clinic; Chippewa Farm Services; Dairy Farmers of America; Hoff Financial Services, LLC; Poskin Feed Store; Synergy, and Vita Plus Corporation.

- Adam and Marie Vanden Wymelenberg, De Pere, Wisconsin, were named the First Runners Up. The Vanden Wymelenberg's were sponsored by Cornette Farm Supply/Vita Plus Corp; Country Visions Cooperative; Eastern WI DHI Cooperative; Schmidt Building & Equipment.
- Kyle and Janessa Olson, Shiocton, Wisconsin, were named the Second Runners Up. They were sponsored by Equity Livestock; Foremost Farms USA, Much Crop Consulting Inc; Seymour Flour Mill; Valley Vet Clinic S.C.

Other finalists

- Matthew Holub, Boyd, Wisconsin, sponsored by HarvTech; River Country Cooperative; Yaeger Seed.
- Patrick & Katie King, Edgar, Wisconsin, sponsored by Aring Equipment Co. Inc; Calumet Dryer Services, Inc., CLAAS; Midwest Welding, LLC; Nicolet National Bank; Northside Elevator, Inc., Partnership for Progressive Agriculture, Pioneer Hi-Breeds; Purina Animal Nutrition; S.D. Ellenbecker, Inc., Service Motor Company; Wipfli; Wisco Feeds.
- Megan and Kyle Zeman, Luxemburg, Wisconsin, sponsored by Blazei Hooftrimming; CentralStar Cooperative; Country Visions Cooperative; Dhuey Insurance Agency; Ebert Enterprise; Genex Cooperative; GreenStone; Jorgensen Seed Sales; Kewaunee County WI OYF; Luxemburg Bank; Miesler Farms; Nicolet Bank; Otto's Meats; Paulie's Chop Shop; Salentine Homestead Dairy LLC.

Judges for the event included:

- Steve Bodart, Dairy Business consultant with AgriGrowth Solutions
- Matthew Lippert, Regional Dairy Educator with UW-Madison Division of Extension in Clark, Marathon and Wood Counties
- Sam Zimmerman, Crop and Livestock Farmer and the 2017 WI OYF Winner and 2018 National OYF Winner

Our Emcee for the Saturday evening Awards Banquet was Bob Meyer, retired farm director for Goetz Farm Radio Network, and 2023 inductee to the Wisconsin Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

In addition to the important networking events and the awards portion of the program, OYF finalists participated in ag forums learning hands-on training on Farm Safety and Farm Mapping, which was led by Pittsville Fire Department Chief Jerry Minor and Scott Heiberger, communications manager with the National Farm Medicine Center at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute.

They also toured Food+Farm Exploration Center in Plover, WI. The tour concluded in the Cooking Lab at Food+ Farm Exploration Center. Our session was lead by Sarah Agena a representative of the Wisconsin Beef Council, where they prepared an appetizer and meal for their lunch.

The 2025 event was held at Holiday Inn Conference Center, Marshfield, Wisconsin. The Hosts for this year's event were Jake and Jennifer Hoewisch, Fremont, Wisconsin. Next year, Baneck's will host the Wisconsin OYF Awards Weekend in January 2026, location TBD.

Sponsors for the 2025 Wisconsin OYF event included:

- **Premier:** Riesterer & Schnell and Northside Elevator, Inc.
- **Diamond:** CLAAS, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, S.D. Ellenbecker, Inc., USAgNet
- **Platinum** Agri-View, Cheery's Creative Crafts, Compeer Financial, Cornette Farm Supply/Vita Plus, Corp, Finger Family Farm, LLC, Midwest Welding & Manufacturing, Mullins Cheese, Nicolet National Bank
- **Gold:** Aring Equipment, BelGioioso, Blazei Hooftrimming LLC, BMO, Calumet Dryer Services, LLC, Chippewa Farm Service LLC, Dairy Business Association, Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, Foremost Farms, GreenStone, Herrmannsdale Farm, Daphne & Loyd Holterman, Kuhn North America Inc., Harold & Cindy Matton, Much Crop Consulting Inc., Partnership for Progressive Agriculture, Pioneer Seeds, Poskin Feed Store, Purina Animal Nutrition, Ken & Ann Reckelberg, Ron's Cheese/Pagel's Ponderosa, Service Motor Company, Seymour Flour Mill, Wisco Feeds, and Wisconsin Farmers Union Foundation, Inc.
- **Silver:** AMPI, Barron Veterinary Clinic, LTD, Country Visions Cooperative, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Dudkiewicz Farm, Durst-Larse Farms, Inc., Equity Coop Livestock Sales Association, Farm Stapels, Gallitz Grading Inc., HarvTech, Jauquet's Hillview Dairy LLC, Marieke Gouda, Milkinaire Dairy, Nasonville Dairy, Pioneer Seed-Jim Cowan, River Country Cooperative, Rural Mutual-Timothy Finger Agency, Schmidt Building & Equipment, Stoddard's Market & Catering, Thrivent Financial, Valley Veterinary Clinic, S.C., and Vita Plus Corporation.
- **Bronze:** Adell Cooperative, CentralStar, Dairy Diaries LLC, Eastern WI DHI Cooperative, Heeg Farm's Inc., Hoff Financial Service, LLC, Jorgensen Seed Sales, Kewaunee County WI OYF, Lakeshore Farm Management, Luxemburg Bank, Miesler Farms, Otto's Meats, Paulie's Chops, Inc., Pertzborn Farms, Salentine Homestead Dairy LLC, Wipfli, Yeager Seeds & Service LLC
- **Supporter:** Dairy Farmers of America, Dhuey Insurance Agency, Ebert Enterprises, Genex, and Nicolet Bank

About Wisconsin OYF:

The Outstanding Young Farmer Program began in 1954 as a National Program for the US Jaycees. Wisconsin's first winner was named in 1952 and 71 state programs have been held since. Wisconsin has had 24 national winners during the program's history. Visit www.wi-oyf.org to learn more or submit a nomination or an application form.

WI OYF Winner - Baneck phone # 920-988-1428

Speak Up for Ag Winner - S. Olson phone # 715-977-1060

First Runner Up - Vanden Wymelenberg phone # 920-819-2944

Second Runner Up - K. Olson # 920-213-8734

Please reach out if you need one of these photos, as files may be too large to send all. Thank you!

Photo IMG_0067 Winners: All 2025 WI OYF Winners

Lindsay, Eric & Tatum Baneck, 2025 WI OYF Winners; Adam & Marie Vanden Wymelenberg, 2025 First Runner Up; Kyle & Janessa Olson, 2025 Second Runner Up; Titus, Sam & Brittany Olson, Speak Up for Ag Winners

Photo IMG_0077: 2025 WI OYF Winners

Lindsay & Eric Baneck, Helenville, WI

Photo IMG_0101: 2025 Speak Up for Ag Winners
Sam & Brittany Olson, Chetek, WI

Photo IMG_0084: 2025 WI OYF First Runner Up,
Adam & Marie Vanden Wymelenberg, DePere, WI

Photo IMG_0091: 2025 WI OYF Second Runner Up
Janessa & Kyle Olson, Shiocton, WI

Photo IMG_9444: 2025 WI OYF Finalists
L-R: Janessa & Kyle Olson, Katie & Patrick King, Lindsay & Eric Baneck, Adam & Marie Vanden Wymelenberg, Megan & Kyle Zeman, Brittany & Sam Olson and Matthew Holub.