



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Iowa Climate Smart Agriculture Work Group 2019

Jack Boyer

Jack Boyer with his wife, Marion, own and operate a Century Farm in Northern Tama and Southern Grundy counties of Iowa, near Reinbeck, IA. They produce corn, soybeans, and raise seed corn for DuPont-Pioneer. Boyer is a Commissioner for the Tama County, IA SWCD, CDI Region 7 Director, and on the Board of Directors for Practical Farmers of Iowa. In 2015, Boyer was named a “Soil Health Champion” by the National Association of Conservation Districts, for sharing his experiences with Cover Crops and promoting Soil Health, and he continues to speak to several groups each year on the benefits of cover crops and Soil Health. The Boyers are also Lifetime Members of Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Sarah Carlson

Sarah is the Strategic Initiatives Director with Practical Farmers of Iowa. She co-majored in Biology and Geography from Augustana College in the Quad Cities graduating in 2001 with a BA degree, following graduation Sarah joined the Peace Corps as an Ag-business and Ag Extension volunteer. She returned to the Midwest in 2004 and began her Masters program co-majoring in Sustainable Agriculture and Crop Production/Physiology in Iowa State’s Agronomy Department, graduating with an MS degree in 2008.

Senator Chris Cournoyer

Senator Chris Cournoyer was elected in November 2018 to the Iowa Senate, representing the northern part of Scott County and all of Clinton County. Prior to serving in the Senate, Chris served as President of the Pleasant Valley Community School Board. Chris is a self-employed website designer, a Reserve Sheriff’s Deputy and member of the North Scott Rotary Club. She lives north of LeClaire with her husband Kurt and has four children, Bennett (Senior at the University of Iowa), Sydney (Sophomore at Iowa State University) and Tanner and Chase, 12 year old twins that attend Pleasant Valley Junior High School.

Bill Couser

Bill is a cattle and grain farmer in central Iowa. Bill is a past winner of the NCBA’s National Environmental Stewardship Award and National winner of Beef Quality Assurance Award. He is Co-Founder and President of Lincolnway Energy Ethanol Plant; Past President Iowa Renewable Fuel, Bill has served on the on Environmental Defense Fund advisory board, Washington EPA Animal AG Discussion Group and many other state and national entities.

Jeremy Davis

Jeremy Davis is Regional Coordinator for the Northern Cornbelt (Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area) at USDA and in the past worked for over four years as Director of Grassroots at

National Pork Producers Council, strengthening NPPC's network of pork producers willing to weigh in on important federal legislative and regulatory issues. He earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in agricultural education and an M.Ed. in educational leadership and policy studies from Iowa State University, and his organizational affiliations include ISU Greek Alumni Alliance, the Story County Republican Central Committee, and the Iowa FFA. Jeremy grew up on a family farm in eastern Iowa.

Krystal Doolittle

Corn and soybean producer; Doolittle lives and works on a multi-generational family farm alongside her husband, Eric, in central Iowa where they are raising three children. In addition to working on the farm, Doolittle is an active voice for farming in legislative conversations and is passionate about agricultural education. She dedicates time to work nationally with American Agri-Women, and various agriculture groups at the state level. She has served locally through various roles in her community, including working to coordinate women's ministry efforts and volunteering at a local horseback riding camp, and has served as a board member on the Hamilton County Conservation Board.

Chris Doud

Chris is a corn and soybean farmer in Guthrie & Adair County. He has been an Agronomist for the past 20 years with Pioneer Field Sales and has been a certified crop advisor for 22 years. He is a cover crop user and advocate who graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a B.S. in Ag Business & Agronomy in 1997 and from Iowa State University with an M.S. in Agronomy in 2004.

Jeff Frank

Frank is a 4th generation soybean and corn farmer on our century farm. He is presently 4th District Iowa Soybean Association Director Research Advisory Council Chairman Supply Committee and Information and Education Committee Vice Chair. Sac County Farm Bureau Director. Past County USDA FSA President for 8 years.

Ray Gaesser

Corn and soybean producer; Gaesser is past Chairman and President, *American Soybean Association*, an active leader in the North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA); serves as Co-Chair, *Iowa Conservation Infrastructure Initiative*; and is an active leader in numerous Iowa agriculture and economic development boards.

Anna Gray

Public Policy Director, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; As a southern Iowa farm girl, Anna found her love for nature while picking wildflowers from the cow pastures, tromping through Shoal Creek and spotting wildlife in the timber. Using her education from Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Drake University Law School, she hopes to shape policy that promotes sustainable agriculture, preserves natural resources and connects people with the outdoors — providing all Iowans an opportunity to enjoy the state's natural wonders.

Neil Hamilton

Neil is the Director of the Drake Agricultural Law Center, Dwight D. Opperman Chair of Law, Professor of Law; he has been Drake Law School Professor since 1983. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Iowa National Heritage Foundation, past president of the American Agricultural Law Association, past chair of the Iowa Food Policy Council (2000-2007), past chair of the Agriculture Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools, and past vice chair of the USDA Small Farms Advisory Committee (1997-2000).

Jerry Hatfield

Director, USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment and Director of the Midwest Climate Hub; Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America; Past-President of the American Society of Agronomy; represents agriculture on the National Climate Assessment.

Kendall Lamkey

Professor and Chair, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University; provides long-term vision for the research, teaching, and extension mission of the department impacting Iowa and the world. Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America; a lifelong corn breeder and agronomist who loves agriculture.

Sara Lira

Sara has a BS in ecology and a MS & PhD in plant breeding from ISU, and has worked in corn breeding at Corteva (formerly DuPont Pioneer) for 15 years. Sara and her husband also manage a cow-calf herd on his family farm in Appanoose County, and Sara serves on the board of Susan G. Komen of IA where she hopes to help decrease breast cancer deaths in underserved areas of rural IA. She is committed to bettering the lives of farmers and rural Iowans and improving the health of the lands in Iowa, and is excited to have a chance to represent Corteva's renewed commitment to sustainable agricultural research, products and service.

Mike Naig

Mike is the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture. Before becoming Secretary, Mike had been active in agribusiness for over 13 years, serving in public policy roles for state and national trade associations and in the private industry. Mike served as the Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture under Bill Northey since September 2013. In this role, Mike was responsible for the operations of the department's policy, budget, and personnel. His experience working alongside Secretary Northey showed him the importance of being accessible to Iowans to better represent their interests and be responsive to their needs.

David Oman

David is a public policy and political strategist. He spent two decades as an executive in the cable television industry in Des Moines, IA and Denver, CO. David served as Chief of Staff for two Republican Iowa Governors, Robert Ray and Terry Branstad and chaired the Iowa 2010 Strategic Planning Council for Democratic Gov. Tom Vilsack. He is a past Chair and long-time board member of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and was a founding board member of the Iowa Environmental Council. Several generations of David's family farmed in Ohio and Iowa.

Kevin Reynolds

Kevin grew up on a small diverse farm in southern Iowa, graduated from ISU with a BS in Agronomy. Worked for the Soil Conservation Service/ NRCS for 36 years across southern Iowa and presently First Gentleman of Iowa.

Dean Dan Robison

Daniel Robison began his tenure as the Endowed Dean's Chair of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University in January 2019. He also serves as director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station. Following a national search, he was announced as the 11th dean in the history of Iowa State's agricultural college in October 2018.

Kevin Ross

Kevin Ross, a corn grower near Minden, Iowa, serves as president of the Corn Board of the National Corn Growers Association, a farmer-led trade association with offices in St. Louis and Washington. A sixth-generation family farmer, Kevin and his wife, Sara, grow corn, soybeans, alfalfa and run a 140-head cow/calf operation. Growing corn using no-till methods, they hope to someday pass the farm on to their four young sons, Hudson, Axten, Carver and Hollis.

In his capacity as NCGA President, Ross also serves as the president of the National Corn Growers Association Foundation, as the association's delegate to the U.S. Grains Council and on NCGA's Agri-Industry Council Executive Committee. Additionally, he serves at the association's liaison to the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus.

Previously, he has served as board liaison to the Food, Feed and Industrial Action Team, the Grower Services Action Team, the Production and Stewardship Action Team, and the Trade Policy and Biotechnology Action Team. He has also served as a member of NCGA's Finance Committee, the association's liaison to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and as 2017 Co-Chair of the Commodity Classic Joint Venture Committee.

Matt Russell

Fifth generation Iowa farmer, Russell farms with Patrick Standley in Marion County producing beef and growing specialty crops. He served 8 years on the Farm Service Agency state committee, worked for 12 years at the Drake University Agricultural Law Center, earned an MS in Rural Sociology at ISU, and currently is the executive director of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light where he leads their Faith Farms and Climate project.

Brent Schwenneker

Brent grew up on a row crop and cow/calf operation in southwest Iowa. He attended Iowa State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Business, and Kansas State University where he earned his Masters of Ag Business.

In 1995, Brent began his career with Monsanto in the soybean breeding organization. Since then he has held positions with technology development, integrated farming systems and currently, as the manager at The Huxley Learning Center for Bayer Crop Science.

Brent currently serves on the INREC board, Chairman of Dallas County Extension Council, Iowa Corn Grassroots Network Membership & Checkoff committee and recently finished the Iowa Corn Growers Leadership program.

Brent is a fifth-generation farmer in partnership with his brother and enjoys deer hunting, cyclone sports, and dabbling in a new agronomy podcast, Iowa Agronomy Update.

He lives in Adel with his wife, Samantha, and their 3 boys Bryce, Nolan and CJ.

Ernie Shea

President, Solutions from the Land; President and CEO, *Natural Resource Solutions, LLC.*; Formerly CEO, *National Association of Conservation Districts*; Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation, *State of Maryland*.

Bryan Sievers

Bryan operates a cattle feedlot in Stockton, Iowa. Bryan and his wife, Lisa, are enthusiastic environmental stewards of the land as such have been actively involved in implementing combined heat and power (CHP) anaerobic digester projects on their property. Bryan received his degree in Agricultural Business in 1982 from Iowa State University. His past experiences include being a 3-year letterman on the Iowa State University baseball team, leadership roles in the Iowa Farm Bureau, serving two terms in the Iowa Legislature (one term in the Iowa House and one term in the Iowa Senate), and current service as Chair of the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Biomass Conversion committee. Bryan and Lisa have two children and five grandchildren.

Bert Strayer

Bert graduated from Iowa State in 1986 with a degree in Ag Business with an emphasis in Agronomy. He was an active member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. As an FFA member, he was awarded the American Farmer degree and received a regional Agricultural Processing Proficiency Award. Upon graduation he served as the sales and marketing manager for Strayer Seed Farms, his family's seed business in Hudson which specialized in food grade soybeans and wholesale soybean and oat seed. He soon added wholesale grass seed to their portfolio. Bert sold his first winter rye for use as a cover crop 30 years ago. For the past 20 years, he has been with La Crosse Seed serving in such capacities as Regional Sales Manager, Location Manager, Forage Lead, and most recently serving as a Cover Crop Lead. In addition to providing forage, turf, and conservation seeds, La Crosse Seed is the nation's largest cover crops seed company. Bert has served in numerous leadership roles within the seed industry and the community of Hudson, where he and his family call home.

Dennis Today

Director of the USDA Midwest Climate Hub in Ames, IA. The hub delivers actionable climate information for agriculture in an eight-state region over most of the Corn Belt. He has worked on regional climate services in the Missouri River Basin and Midwest for over a decade partnering with NOAA, Regional Climate Centers, state climatologists and state extension. He also worked on issues of climate change impacts on all types of Midwest/Plains agriculture.