

Alexis Hansen, Kinsey Harlan, and Ellie Schwertfeger Receive 2021-2022 CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarships

November 8, 2021 (MANHATTAN, Kan.) – Alexis Hansen of Belleville, Kansas, a sophomore in agribusiness; Kinsey Harlan of Madison, Kansas, a senior in agribusiness; and Ellie Schwertfeger of Turon, Kansas, a senior in agricultural economics have each been awarded the CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

Alexis Hansen is an active member of Alpha Chi Omega and St. Isadore's Student Center. She volunteers for Common Table and Meals on Wheels. She is passionate about agriculture and works on the family farm when not in school. Alexis plans to graduate in May 2024 and would love to return to north central Kansas to work and be part of the family farm and ranch operations. The Hansen family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Central Valley Ag Cooperative, Cloud County Cooperative, and Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative. In addition, Alexis' father worked for AgMark, LLC.

Kinsey Harlan is a member of Alpha of Clovia and has served in several leadership roles, including secretary and new member trainer. She is a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics-Agribusiness Club and has served as a delegate to the Agriculture Future of America Leader's Conference. Kinsey works as a student assistant in the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) in the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics and completed an internship as a Credit/Finance Intern for CoBank. In 2019, she participated in a K-State Agricultural Economics study-abroad program to the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Upon graduation in December 2021, Kinsey plans to attend graduate school. The Harlan family is affiliated with 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative.

Ellie Schwertfeger is a member of the K-State Collegiate Farm Bureau and works at Dillon's while going to school. She is a transfer to Kansas State University from Hutchinson Community College where she was actively involved in campus activities. Ellie completed an internship with Kanza Co-op in 2019 and completed a Financial Analyst Internship Rabo AgriFinance this summer. Upon graduation in May 2022 she plans to work in agricultural finance. The Schwertfeger family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Farmers Coop. Grain Co. (Abbyville), High Plains Farm Credit, Kanza Cooperative Association, Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, SCTelcom and Skyland Co-op.

“The CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarships are one way CoBank contributes to the education of future agricultural leaders, especially those with an interest in careers in finance or banking,” states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. This scholarship has awarded more than \$104,000 since 2006. To be eligible for a scholarship, students must be a sophomore, junior or senior in high academic standing in K-State’s Department of Agricultural Economics at the time the scholarship is received. Preference is given to students who are studying agricultural economics or agribusiness, who have demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career in banking or finance, have taken accounting or finance classes and are residents in one of the following states: CA, CO, CT, IA, KS, KY, MO, MN, NE and TX. Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application by March 15th to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The awarding of the CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarships is coordinated through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. “Additional contributions by those who want to support the purposes of cooperative scholarships are welcome,” Dr. Briggeman said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/ACCC” and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 66506.

About CoBank

CoBank is a \$155 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 75,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

About the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center provides research-based information, education and assistance to people with and interested in cooperative businesses, including cooperative members, directors, managers and employees. The Center also works with students and faculty at educational institutions, the general public and public officials as well as owners, directors, managers and employees of agribusinesses. Further information can be obtained about this scholarship or about establishing additional scholarships by emailing Brian Briggeman at bbrigg@ksu.edu or visiting the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center website at <http://acc.k-state.edu/>.

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K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county extension offices, experiment fields, area extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan. For more information, visit www.ksre.ksu.edu

Story by: Arthur Capper Cooperative Center
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K-State Research & Extension

Photo caption is as follows: (left to right) Dr. Brian Briggeman, ACCC Director and KSU AGEC Professor, Ellie Schwertfeger, Kinsey Harlan and Alexis Hansen at the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, September 17, 2021.