

## **Hannah Ballard, Riley Buss and Ely Eslinger Receive 2022-2023 CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarships**

November 14, 2022 (MANHATTAN, Kan.) – Hannah Ballard of Madison, Kansas, a senior in agribusiness; Riley Buss of Grantville, Kansas, a junior in agricultural economics and math; and Ely Eslinger of Attica, 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.

Hannah Ballard has been actively involved in campus organizations while maintaining high academic standards. She served as president and house manager of Alpha of Clovia 4-H Cooperative Leadership House. She is also a member of K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness club, Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy, Alpha Zeta and First Christian's Church Project Christmas. Hannah has completed internships with Frontier Farm Credit and Cargill. While going to school, Hannah is a student worker in the department of agricultural economics for academic programs and is also a teaching assistant. Hannah will graduate in December 2023 and begin her career with Frontier Farm Credit.

Riley Buss serves as a K-State College of Agriculture Ambassador and is involved in the K-State Honors Program. She is a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness club, Alpha Zeta Fraternity and has been a regular on the semester honors recognition for academic performance. She was also selected to be a student fellow for the Center for Risk Management Education and Research. Riley continues to help out with the family cow-calf operation while going to school. She hopes to manage and forecast agricultural commodities after she graduates in May 2024. The Buss family is affiliated with AgMark LLC, Cloud County Cooperative Elevator, Free State Electric Cooperative and Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative.

Ely Eslinger is actively involved in his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, and served in leadership roles as president and recruitment chair. He also served as a student senator representing the K-State College of Agriculture and was the director of operations for the Interfraternity Council. He is a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness club and has completed an internship with NRCS. Upon graduation in May 2023, Ely hopes to work in ag finance or commodities and in the future would like to either serve on the board or pursue a management career with a cooperative. The Eslinger family is

affiliated with the Anthony Farmers Cooperative and Ely's dad has served eight years on their board of directors.

"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 \$111,625 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 to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2023-2024 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 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 76,000 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 also 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](mailto: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](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu) K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

Photo caption is as follows: (left to right) Hannah Ballard, Tobias Carson – CoBank Senior Relationship Manager and Riley Buss at the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, September 30, 2022. Not pictured: Ely Eslinger