

**Stephanie Atkinson, Hanna Bailey, Korben Clawson, James DeRouche, Brooke Hilgenkamp, Jayla Johnson, Kash Kiddeke, Hannah Macke, Seth Meyer and Grace Walenta awarded 2024-2025 CHS Foundation Scholarships**

November 20, 2024 (MANHATTAN, Kan.) – Stephanie Atkinson of Huntington, Indiana, a senior in agribusiness; Korben Clawson of Meade, Kansas, a junior in agricultural economics and animal sciences and industry; James DeRouche of Wamego, Kansas, a junior in agribusiness; Jayla Johnson of St. Marys, Kansas, a senior in agribusiness; Kash Liddeke of Norwich, Kansas, a senior in agricultural economics; Hannah Macke of Baileyville, Kansas, a senior in agribusiness; and Grace Walenta of Peoria, Illinois, a senior in agricultural economics have each been awarded a CHS Foundation Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. Three freshmen were also awarded CHS Foundation Scholarships through the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University: Hanna Bailey, Girard, Kansas, freshman in animal sciences and industry; Brooke Hilgenkamp of Arlington, Nebraska, freshman in animal sciences and industry; and Seth Meyer of Bern, Kansas, freshman in animal sciences and industry.

Stephanie Atkinson is a high achieving student who is working two jobs while pursuing her degree. She is a student worker in the college of Veterinary Medicine and also works for Edward Jones. Stephanie transferred from Purdue University to Kansas State University in 2023. While at Purdue, Stephanie was active in her sorority and was also an AgEcon Envoy. She completed an internship with Cargill and her future plans include working as either a Purina feed sales representative for Land O'Lakes, a financial advisor or accountant.

Korben Clawson serves as a K-State College of Agriculture Ambassador, is a member of Farmhouse Fraternity and holds a leadership position with the Collegiate Cattleman's Club. He was selected to be part of the Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy, Kansas State Beef Cattle Leadership Experience and the Kansas State University Feedlot Bootcamp. Korben completed an internship with Deseret Cattle Feeders and has a part-time job working with cattle while going to school. He plans to work within the ag industry upon graduation with the ultimate goal of returning to the family farm and ranch. The Clawson family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Alliance Ag & Grain, CMS Electric Cooperative, DFA, MKC, Pioneer Electric Cooperative and Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

James DeRouche is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and has served in several leadership roles. He is a KSU Powercat Financial Peer Counselor, works for Fink Farms and has also had experience as a teaching assistant for an agricultural economics class. James serves as a K-State College of Agriculture Ambassador, a Financial Well-Being Ambassador and also serves on the junior board of directors for the National Junior Swine Association. He has had a variety of career job shadow experiences as well as leadership development training and is on track to complete both a bachelor's and a master's degree. Upon graduation, James plans to obtain his

Certified Financial Planner credential which will enhance his career path as a financial advisor. The DeRouche family is affiliated with the Bluestem Electric Cooperative.

Jayla Johnson is a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Club. She has completed internships with Central Valley Ag Co-op and KanEquip and works part time at Vanderbilt's while going to school. Jayla plans to graduate in December 2024 and hopes to grow into a management position as she moves through her career working for an agribusiness. The Johnson family is affiliated with Central Valley Ag Cooperative.

Kash Liddeke is a member of the Wheat State Agronomy Club. He has an agriculture background and not only is a part of the family custom swathing and baling business but helps out neighbors and friends when they need an extra hand. Kash works on campus as an undergraduate management assistant at the Derby Dining Center while going to school. Upon graduation, he's considering a career in rural appraising or insurance. The Liddeke family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Farmers Cooperative Grain Association (Conway Springs) and Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative.

Hannah Macke is an active member of the K-State Collegiate Cattlemen's Club and Sacred Heart Parish. She completed an internship with Ag Partners Co-op which led to a part-time job that she holds while going to school. Hannah's passion is cattle and she hopes to pursue a career as a livestock nutritionist or feedlot manager in her hometown area. The Macke family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: AgPartners Co-op, Blue Valley Technologies, and Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative.

Grace Walenta serves as a K-State College of Agriculture Ambassador and is a residential financial specialist with Powercat Financial. She is a member of the K-State Bakery Science Club and the Farm Club. Grace is part of the RUF student leadership team and volunteers at HandsOn K-State, Flint Hills Discovery Center and the Midwest Food Bank. She has completed an internship with The Andersons and works as a K-State College of Agriculture research assistant while going to school. Upon graduation in December 2025, Grace plans to pursue a career in grain merchandising and work her way into cooperative management. The Walenta family is affiliated with CEFCU.

"The CHS Foundation Scholarships are one way the CHS Foundation is giving back to future agricultural leaders at Kansas State University," states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. The CHS Foundation, funded by gifts from CHS Inc., the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative, has awarded \$231,900 in scholarships through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University since 2006.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the students must be U.S. citizens or legal residents properly enrolled as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior during the current academic year majoring in an agriculture-focused or ag-related STEM undergraduate program. Recipients must demonstrate academic ability and exhibit leadership qualities through the university, community or ag industry involvement. Priority is given to students demonstrating an interest in agriculture-based cooperatives. Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The awarding of the CHS Foundation 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 CHS Foundation**

The CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., is focused on developing agriculture leaders for life-long success. Together with our partners, we are advancing understanding of the ag cooperative business model, cultivating student success through university partnerships, and growing high impact ag leadership programs. For more information on our programs, visit [chsfoundation.org](http://chsfoundation.org).

### **About the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center**

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center is a public-private partnership in the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics that 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. <http://acc.k-state.edu/>

### **Photo caption:**

back row (l to r): Stephanie Atkinson, Korben Clawson, James DeRouchey, Kash Liddeke

front row (l to r): Hannah Macke, Grace Walenta, Jayla Johnson and Dr. Brian Briggeman, KSU AGECE Professor and ACCC Director