

Maci Behrnes, Hannah Cryer and Rheo Dykstra Receive 2024-2025 CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarships

November 20, 2024 (MANHATTAN, Kan.) – Maci Behrnes of Horton, Kansas, a senior in agribusiness, Hannah Cryer of Wichita, Kansas, a senior in agribusiness; and Rheo Dykstra of Chappell, Nebraska, a junior in agribusiness, 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.

Maci Behrnes is an active member of several organizations including Wheat State Agronomy Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau and Kansas Sheep Association. She is also a catechist at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Maci works for the Kansas Department of Agriculture while going to school and completed an operations internship with Central Valley Ag. She hopes to work with the financial side of an agribusiness upon graduation in May 2025.

Hannah Cryer is actively involved in National Agribusiness Marketing Association team (NAMA) and Christian Challenge, holding leadership roles in both. She is a part of Helping International Students (HIS) and traveled to Morocco with OneLink International to study language and culture. Hannah works as a Ford Hall Resident Assistant, as a Teaching Assistant for the College of Agriculture and is an owner of Red Doodle Ranch, a Goldendoodle breeding business. She completed an internship with Koch and plans to pursue a master's degree in agricultural economics upon graduation in December 2024. The Cryer family is affiliated with Rural Water District No. 1 of Sedgwick County.

Rheo Dykstra is an active member of Alpha of Clovia 4-H Cooperative Leadership House and has held the role of treasurer. She is also involved with Collegiate 4-H and St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center. Rheo spent two summers working for Frenchman Valley Co-op as a scale operator during wheat harvest and has also worked as a coffee barista/cashier. She plans to pursue a master's degree in accountancy after graduating in May 2026. The Dykstra family is affiliated with Select Sires.

“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 \$126,625 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 2025-2026 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 77,000 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 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://accc.k-state.edu/>

Photo caption: Maci Behrnes and Tobias Carson, Vice President - Senior Relationship Manager, CoBank Regional Agribusiness Banking Group