

Investing in the Future: Samantha Bonifas, Eli Brunk, Korben Clawson, Sydney Heller, Rylan Karr, Madelyn King, Audrey Jones, Coy Stamm, Kylie Temple and Sage Toews receive 2025-2026 CHS Foundation Scholarships

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University is proud to recognize Samantha Bonifas of Roseland, Nebraska, a junior in agricultural economics; Eli Brunk of Windom, Kansas, a junior in agricultural economics; Korben Clawson of Meade, Kansas, a senior in agricultural economics and animal sciences and industry; Sydney Heller of Hunter, Kansas, a sophomore in agribusiness; Coy Stamm of Washington, Kansas, a senior in agronomy; Kylie Temple of Hermiston, Oregon, a sophomore in agribusiness and global food systems leadership; and Sage Toews of Canton, Kansas, a junior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, as the 2025-2026 CHS Foundation Scholarship upperclassmen recipients. Three freshmen were also awarded CHS Foundation Scholarships through the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University: Rylan Karr of Saint Charles, Illinois, freshman in agribusiness; Madelyn King, North Java, New York, freshman in agribusiness; and Audrey Jones of Wichita, Kansas, freshman in agribusiness.

Samantha Bonifas is a highly involved student who has been active in Food Security Scholars, College of Agriculture Ambassadors, Student Alumni Board, Pre-Law Ambassadors and Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy. She is also a Flinchbaugh Kansas Agriculture and Food Policy Fellow. Samantha has interned with the Kansas Department of Agriculture as well as at a congressional office in Washington D.C.. She has also worked as a research and teaching assistant for Dr. Jason Bergtold in the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics. Samantha plans to pursue an ag law degree after graduation. The Bonifas family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Aurora Cooperative, CHS, CPI, Fairfield Non Stock Cooperative and Glenwood Telephone Cooperative.

Eli Brunk was raised on a fifth-generation family farm where he learned the value of hard work. He applies that farm work ethic to his studies and commitments at K-State. Eli is an active member of the Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club and Student Mobilization. While going to school, he works for K-State Athletics and also on the family farm. Eli is interested in a future career with cooperatives or ag banking. At some point, he'd like to be involved in production agriculture as part of the family farm. The Brunk family is affiliated with the Ark Valley Electric Co-op.

Korben Clawson is actively involved in the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University. He serves as a K-State College of Agriculture Ambassador and as an Animal Science Mentor. Korben has helped with Cattleman's Day as part of Collegiate Cattlemen's Club and has represented K-State College of Agriculture at the National FFA Convention. He completed the Kansas State Beef Cattle Leadership Experience and the Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy. Korben is a member of Farmhouse Fraternity and is a Center for Risk Management Fellow.

Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a master's degree at Texas Tech University and in the future plans to return to the family farm and ranch. The Clawson family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Alliance Ag & Grain, CMS Electric Cooperative, MKC, Pioneer Electric Cooperative and Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Sydney Heller serves as a KSU College of Agriculture Ambassador and as a College of Ag Senator. She has been part of the University Honors Program, Quest Freshmen Honorary and Christian Challenge. Sydney completed a banking internship and plans to explore the many offerings within agriculture through internships before settling on a future career path. The Heller family is affiliated with Central Valley Ag Cooperative, Midway Cooperative and Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative.

Coy Stamm is a member of FarmHouse Fraternity and serves on Ag Council. He is a College of Agriculture Ambassador and a Center for Risk Management Fellow. Coy participated in the Feedlot Bootcamp and the Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy. He has also done missionary work in Guatemala. Coy works for the family farm and also farms with his brother. He completed internships with Central Valley Ag Cooperative, Beck's Hybrids and Winfield Solutions. He's also worked for Corteva on their test plots while going to school. Upon graduation Coy hopes to work in the commercial agronomy sales industry while remaining active on the family farm. The Stamm family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Central Valley Ag Cooperative, Cloud County Cooperative Elevator Association and Farmers Cooperative.

Kylie Temple has been active in FFA and served as a state officer. She also received the National FFA American Degree. Kylie is a volunteer for HandsOn K-State Mobile Food Distribution and served as the Oregon FFA State Officer Nominating Committee Coordinator. She works as the Global Food Systems Leadership program's Public Relations Manager while maintaining high academic standards. Kylie's future career interests are in risk management and ag law with a goal to focus on co-op policy.

Sage Toews grew up on a family ranch in rural Kansas and continues to work as a ranch hand. She's been involved at the state and national level of FFA and serves as a Flinchbaugh Food and Agriculture Policy Fellow. Upon graduation, she hopes to work in the agricultural policy or food systems sector. The Toews family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Mid-Kansas Credit Union and Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"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 \$251,850 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 2026-2027 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.

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: Coy Stamm, Korben Clawson, Sage Toews, Dr. Brian Briggeman - KSU AGECE Professor and ACCC Director, Samantha Bonifas, Sydney Heller and Kylie Temple