

## **Investing in the Future: Madeline Drake and Aidan Yoho Receive 2025-2026 Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship**

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University is proud to recognize Madeline Drake of Turon, Kansas, a senior majoring in agricultural communications and Aidan Yoho of Yates Center, Kansas, a senior majoring in agricultural economics, as the 2025-2026 Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship recipients.

Madeline Drake has been active in Collegiate Farm Bureau and served as a College of Agriculture Ambassador. She was also part of the Ag Comm Action Team which supports and recruits for the agricultural communications major. Madeline participated in and completed the Disney College Program and also completed an internship with Kanza Cooperative Association. She had an international experience in Ireland and learned about the positive impact of the cooperative system for their farmers. Her connection to cooperatives is strong as her dad worked as a location manager and both grandfathers have been board members for Kanza Co-op. Madeline worked for the KSU Beef Cattle Institute while going to college. She completed her undergraduate degree in December 2025 and hopes to work for a cooperative or agribusiness in communications after pursuing additional educational opportunities. The Drake family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: American AgCredit and Kanza Cooperative Association.

Aidan Yoho believes in giving back to his local community. He served as a State FFA Officer and is a member of the Program Development Committee for Southwind 4-H. Aidan assists with the Southwind 4-H Livestock Judging Team each summer, developing learning material and mentoring youth in their livestock evaluation skills. He works with his great-grandpa on the family cattle operation and owns two businesses of his own, Yoho Cattle and Hay Company and Black Pearl Livestock. Aidan was not only a high achieving student but was also involved with the following campus organizations: Kansas State Collegiate Farm Bureau, Kansas State Block and Bridle and K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. He graduated in December 2025 and plans to return to Woodson County and grow his businesses. Additionally, he hopes to get involved with local organizations and his local co-ops. Aidan is a member of Leroy Cooperative Association and Piqua Farmers Cooperative and his parents are also members of Leroy Cooperative Association.

The Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship has awarded \$131,000 in scholarships since its establishment in 2005. “The scholarship was established to honor and perpetuate the memory of the

contribution of Otis and the late Mary Lee Molz and to encourage an interest in the formation, operation, management, leadership and economics of and participation in all types of cooperatives, including agricultural, financial, electric, telephone, housing and consumer cooperatives,” states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. “It’s also to provide significant financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in educational programs emphasizing these areas of study.”

To be eligible for the Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship, a student must be either a junior or senior in K-State’s College of Agriculture at the time the scholarship is received and be affiliated as a member or as a child or dependent of a member of a Kansas agricultural marketing, supply or service cooperative that is a member of the Kansas Cooperative Council. Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application to be included in the university scholarship process.

The Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship is funded by contributions made to the KSU Foundation. Contributions have been made by Otis and the late Mary Lee Molz, their family and friends in the cooperative community. “Additional contributions by those who want to honor Otis and the late Mary Lee Molz and support the purposes of the scholarship are welcome,” Dr. Briggeman said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/Molz” and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Kansas State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

### **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:** Adain Yoho, Dr. Brian Briggeman - KSU AGEC Professor and ACCC Director, and Madeline Drake