

## Get to Know Us

'Get to Know Us' is a feature of some of our Farm Bureau Young Leaders and volunteers. We hope to share what agriculture means to those featured, share the variety of agricultural jobs/careers in our surrounding areas, and have our communities get to know us a little better! This month's feature is on: Jon Strickler.



### Tell us about yourself:

Born and raised in the greatest township in the world (Point Pleasant). In addition to being involved with the Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau and Young Leaders I am also Treasurer of the Warren County Fair Board and a member of the Tri-County Cattlemen's Association. I work on the family farm and was recently hired on by Case IH as a Livestock Product Specialist.

### Did you grow up in agriculture?

Yes, as a child I still remember tromping through hog lots and learning a few choice words during the process whenever I was seemingly in the way. Even lost a shoe one time in the muck. I was also involved in FFA and 4-H, where I notably was run over by my 1,300ish pound steer at the Warren County Fair circa 2002. The farm currently consists of a beef feedlot and cow calf operation as well as raising corn and soybeans on the row crop side.

### Where did you go to college? What is your degree in?

I attended Western Illinois University from which I graduated in 2013 I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with a minor in Agricultural Technology Management.

### How many years of experience do you have in agriculture? What areas of the industry have you worked?

Aside from helping on the farm during my youth, I have worked 10 years in the Ag Industry. A majority of those years have been in the seed industry working with Channel and most recently, Wyffels. Prior to that I worked as an Insurance Claims Adjuster for 3 years with John Deere Insurance Company and Farmer's Mutual Hail after they purchased JDIC. When I was in college I completed two internships – one being with Lindell Aerial Ag Service and the other being with West Central FS as a Crop Specialist Intern.

### What advice would you give students considering a career in an agriculture related field?

Networking is huge. The connections you make and what you learn from those people will take you equally as far if not farther than anything you will learn in a classroom. I like using the phrase it's what you know AND who you know. Regardless, there's tons of opportunities in the ag industry right now and will continue to be as innovation and technology continue to grow and thrive.

### What benefits do you get from the Farm Bureau Young Leaders?

It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. In addition to meeting others it's a great way to learn more about the way others operate their line of business and the issues they face. In all it's an extremely diverse and fun group of people that you can learn a lot from.

If anyone has any questions or comments for Jon, or would like to learn more about Farm Bureau and our Young Leader committee, please give us a call at 309-734-9401 or email [whfb@whfarmbureau.org](mailto:whfb@whfarmbureau.org).

