

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: Justin Allaman.



Tell us about yourself:

I grew up a mile from where I currently live, graduating from West Central High School in 2009. After college I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work on the family farm. I met my wife Bobby (Dean) in 2014 and we were married in 2017. We have a daughter, Sophia, who is 8 months old.

Did you grow up in agriculture?

Yes, my family farms in the Rozetta area in Henderson County. My dad Bill had hogs until the early 2000s, when I was younger I enjoyed doing chores with him and riding along in the truck. West Central has a great FFA program and I was involved in it during high school.

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

After high school, I received my Associate's degree from Southeastern Community College in Burlington, IA. From there I transferred to Western Illinois University in Macomb, getting a degree in Ag Business.

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

I have been exposed to agriculture my whole life on the family farm, but started taking a more active role throughout high school. Dad ran summer detasseling crews for 30 years, so I helped with that every summer until he retired from it 2016. We currently raise corn and soybeans.

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

Just like pursuing a career in any field, enjoy what you do and make it your passion. I recently read that life is like an all you can eat buffet--millions of opportunities are available to you to choose from, but you'll have to make some decisions about what you say "yes" to and what to decline. Setting aside personal ego, being willing to ask questions, and seeking constructive criticism is crucial and will help you excel. Failure is an opportunity to learn and get better. Surround yourself with people who know more than you do and who will help you achieve your goals. Never stop learning!

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

The biggest benefit I have experienced is meeting new people and networking. There's a lot of talk about how the average age of farmers keeps rising. Especially in our area, it can be hard to get connected with like-minded young adults involved in agriculture. Joining the Young Leaders Committee has introduced me to ag producers and others involved in ag business that are at the same stage of life I am. Attending the IFB Young Leaders Conference in Peoria was also a great opportunity.

If anyone has any questions or comments for Justin, 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.

