

## 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: Kendall Shimmin.



### **Tell us about yourself:**

I am a fourth generation farmer on our family farm. We raise cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry as well as grow corn and soybeans. Shimmin Farms is a diverse farm, one may say we're what used to be a 'traditional' farm with the various livestock we raise.

### **Did you grow up in agriculture?**

Yes, I grew up on our family farm outside Roseville. From a young age, I was involved in 4-H and later FFA in high school. One of my favorite memories of 4-H was going to a Nationals event for two years in Lafayette, Indiana in the categories of Tractor and Welding.

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

I attended the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and graduated with a degree in Animal Science in 2015.

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

I have been involved with agriculture my entire life, as I have been working on our family farm for as long as I can remember. I have heard the story many times that shortly after I was born, my dad was holding me in one arm, while planting and driving the tractor with his other. When I was younger, I started off doing chores with bottle calves and chickens, as I grew older my responsibilities on our farm grew as well. In college I also worked at the U of I's meat locker for two years.

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

Do it! The agriculture industry has a wide variety of job opportunities and I feel the people in the industry are the best to work with. There are so many ways to work in the ag industry without directly being tied to a farm. You don't have to work livestock or grow crops to contribute to ag, there are lots of jobs that the industry needs to succeed. For example, if you're interested in research and science, you could work to develop the seed farmers grow. People in ag fields are generally friendly and welcoming, so I encourage everyone to give the industry a thought when thinking of future careers.

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

It is a great group of people to be able to spend time advocating for agriculture with, we get along well and are able to share ideas and news with each other. I also enjoy taking the educational trips we've been on, and most of all having fun while doing so.

If anyone has any questions or comments for Kendall, 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).

