

## 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: Josh Dean.



### Tell us about yourself:

I've lived my whole life a few miles north of Monmouth on Highway 67 at the Gerlaw turnoff. I was homeschooled by my parents so I had many experiences to develop hands-on skills in areas I was interested in. In 2018, I had an opportunity to launch a new business with Justin Allaman and Nathan Defenbaugh: Kirkwood Crates. We are located at 602 W 4th Ave in Monmouth and build custom lumber shipping crates for local manufacturers. Our number is (309) 536-0424, more information can be found at [kirkwoodcratesllc.com](http://kirkwoodcratesllc.com). 2018 was an eventful year--that year I also met my fiancé Amber Vance and we will be getting married in the near future.

### Did you grow up in agriculture?

I was actively involved in 4H from age seven up until I was eighteen. During that time I was involved in woodworking/carpentry, welding, and other activities. My older sister Sarah showed Boer goats and helped me get involved with them. I currently have about 20 goats that I breed and sell. My family also has geese, chickens, rabbits, a turkey or two, and a peacock.

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

After I was finished with high school, I wasn't sure what field I wanted to pursue and wasn't wild on taking on thousands of dollars of debt for a degree. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to start Kirkwood Crates shortly after high school so that takes up quite a bit of my time currently. I may take classes on down the road, but don't have any plans as of now.

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

Through junior high and high school I worked on a neighbor's cattle farm, which was a very valuable educational experience for me. Additionally, over the last couple years I've been able to spend some time with family members on their farm. I've enjoyed being involved in the spring tillage/planting and being exposed to the technology used in that process. I also enjoy lending a hand during the harvest season running the grain cart.

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

There are many, many opportunities in agriculture today. Even if you aren't directly involved in production agriculture there are other ways to participate. Pursue what you're interested in, think creatively, and work hard to succeed.

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

Being involved with Young Leaders has given me a lot of opportunities to build relationships and learn valuable information about agriculture.

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



