

# 2024 Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference

Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, Mankato, MN



**June 17, 2024**

- 9:30 a.m.**                    ***Registration Begins***
- 10:00 a.m.**                   ***Welcome and Introductions***
- 10:30 a.m.**                   ***Show Your Ink: Unleashing the Power of Authenticity***  
Dr. Todd Drewett – Best Selling Author and Speaker

Show Your Ink is a colorful take on the importance of authenticity at work and in life. At its core, authenticity is about being “more.” More real. More honest. More credible. Above all, more human. Get ready for a thought-provoking emotional ride as you learn to embrace the relationship levers that drive you to new levels of productivity and success. Positive change and innovation are not mysteries. They result from actions taken by teammates with strong trust and rapport. Show Your Ink is about being a professional who knows how to build that capacity. One that knows how to learn from mistakes, get humble, and how to shape positive perspectives. It all starts with authenticity. Let’s talk about what it means to Show Your Ink.

- 12:00 p.m.**                   ***LUNCH***
- 12:45 p.m.**                   ***Show Your Ink: Unleashing the Power of Authenticity—continued***  
Dr. Todd Drewett – Best Selling Author and Speaker
- 2:15 p.m.**                    ***BREAK***
- 2:30 p.m.**                    ***Engaging in the Career Market with Confidence***  
Kevin Paulsen – Newport Group

Through the Newport Group’s extensive engagement in the current job market, you will be equipped with information about compensation and benefits benchmarks that will allow you to engage in the job market confidently and realistically as an entry level applicant with internship experience.

- 3:30 p.m.**                    ***HR Insights Panel Discussion***  
Moderator: Anika Hansen and Samantha Moser, MN Pork  
Amanda Case, HR Director, Christensen Farms  
Tim Heiller, Key Account Director, PIC  
Erin Porter, Sr. Human Resources Business Partner, Compeer  
Kelsey Schwartz, Talent Acquisition Business Partner, Agropur

**5:00 p.m.                      *Networking Social Hour***

Continue the conversation with invited guests during the social hour – use this opportunity to expand your network and discuss industry issues.

**6:00 p.m.                      *SUPPER***

**June 18, 2024**

**7:00 – 8:00 a.m.            *BREAKFAST***

**8:00 a.m.                      *Animal Health / Veterinary Panel***

Moderator: Dr. Tom Wetzell, Veterinarian, For His Kingdom, LLC.

Dr. Henry Johnson, Veterinarian, Swine Vet Center

Dr. Brian Hoefs, State Veterinarian, Minnesota

Dr. Michelle Kromm, Veterinarian, Food Forward, LLC

Dr. Gordon Spronk, Veterinarian, Pipestone

**9: 15 a.m.                      *A New Frontier: Driving Domestic Demand***

Neal Hull, Director Domestic Market Development, National Pork Board

Domestic Demand of pork has remained at approximately 50 pounds per capita for decades. Funded through investments in the Pork Checkoff, learn about the innovative, multi-pronged approach the industry is taking to address both opportunities and challenges related to the domestic demand of pork.

**10:15 a.m.                      *Revolutionary Technological Advancements: Gene Editing***

Dr. Lindsay Case, Director of Product Sustainability and New Product Commercialization, PIC

Consumer expectations for animal care standards, antimicrobial stewardship, and sustainable practices are impacting the food industry. Innovative solutions and technologies are emerging to meet these demands. One of those technologies is gene editing.

Does gene editing play a role in enhancing animal health? Could it lead to the reduction of antimicrobial use in livestock? How could gene editing support industry sustainability goals? Through hearing more about the PRRS Resistant Pig, we are provided a unique opportunity to hear about PIC's journey in gene editing. Recognizing there are diverse perspectives across the industry, YLAC attendees are encouraged to have a curious mind. Ask questions during the presentation and seek perspectives from other guests throughout the day including farmers and veterinarians.

**11: 15 a.m.                    *LUNCH***

**12:30 p.m.                    *Skills for Building Bridges in a Time of Polarization and Division***  
Bill Doherty, PhD, Co-Founder Braver Angels

Our communities and nation are more divided now than in generations. Leaders for the future will need to understand what is happening and skills for bridging divides. This interactive presentation will explore the sources of polarization and offer tools for dealing with differences and finding common ground.

**3:00 p.m.                    *BREAK***

**3:15 p.m.                    *Farmer Panel***  
Moderator: Jill Resler, CEO, Minnesota Pork  
Tim Schwartz, Schwartz Farms – Sleepy Eye, MN  
Erica Sawatzke, Oakdale Farm – Kensington, MN  
Rita Vander Kooi, Ocheda Dairy – Worthington, MN  
Dana Allen-Tully, Gar-Lin Dairy – Eyota, MN

**4:15 p.m.                    *An Unfiltered Journey Where an Ag Career Intertwines with Real Life***  
Brooke Clay Taylor, Founder  
Rural Gone Urban and the Rural Gone Urban Foundation

Join Brooke Clay Taylor, founder of Rural Gone Urban and the Rural Gone Urban Foundation, and discover the raw truth behind her remarkable career in strategic communications and entrepreneurship in the agricultural industry, intertwined with the personal struggles of battling cancer and raising a family. Get ready to laugh, cry, and be inspired as Brooke shares the real-life challenges and triumphs that shaped her journey from rural roots to business success.

**5:15 p.m.                    *Service Project – Ronald McDonald House Upper Midwest Snack Bags***

Since 2020, the Ronald McDonald House – Upper Midwest has been a charitable partner of choice for Minnesota pig farmers. With the mission of keeping families close to each other and the care and resources they need, RMH-UM provides a warm welcoming community of support and respite for families with seriously ill or injured children. Through our YLAC service project, we will help the RMH-UM put the needs of children and family first.

**6:00 p.m.                    *Depart for the Wow Zone***

**6:15 p.m.                    *Wow Zone – Bowling, Golf, and Laser Tag***

**June 19, 2024**

**7:30 – 8:15 a.m.      *BREAKFAST***

**8:30 a.m.                      *Unlock the Power of Communication***  
Micah Spike W. Craven, Integrity Communications

Communication is a vital skill for all dynamic leaders. This session will equip you with the essential tools to intentionally grow as both effective communicators and leaders. Through exposure to key tools and skill sets you will be empowered to deliver well-articulated, complete, and concise messages that captivate your audience and drive meaningful conversations. You will enhance your communication prowess and understand how to confidently communicate in any situation. Whether in boardrooms, classrooms, team meetings, or everyday interactions – you'll no longer just communicate, you will lead with conviction!

**11:30 a.m.                      *BREAK***

**11:45 a.m.                      *Making an Impact***  
Dr. Rick Rigsby, President & CEO Rick Rigsby Communications,  
Motivational Speaker and Best-Selling Author

We live in an era of astonishing technology, instant information, and rampant social networking. Despite the epidemic advances that ushered in a new millennium, cultural critics argue that society has never been shallower in communication and more superficial in appearance. In fact, Dr. Rigsby argues that for many organizations, appearance- or what he refers to as impression- has become the new corporate wardrobe.

Attendees are invited to rediscover what is really important and meaningful - not only in your professional career but in your personal life as well. Join Dr. Rigsby as he shares the wisdom of past generations- wisdom that will inspire, motivate and empower you to make an impact rather than an impression!

**12:45 p.m.                      *CLOSING COMMENTS***