

2025 Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference

Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, Mankato, MN

June 16, 2025



9:30 AM	<i>Registration Begins</i>
10:00 AM	<i>Welcome and Introductions</i>
10:30 AM	<i>No Bad Days</i> Hunter Pinke
11:45 AM	LUNCH
12:15 PM	<i>BIG Dream Gathering</i> Mitch Matthews – Entrepreneur, Success Coach and Creator of the DREAM THINK DO Podcast

Inspiring big dreams, unlimited thinking and true connections! The BIG Dream Gathering got its start in 2006 when Mitch was about to give up on one of his own big dreams. Instead of throwing in the towel, he invited some friends to his house to dream together and see if they could help each other out. He called it a “BIG Dream Gathering.” It was supposed to last for a few hours, but it exploded and lasted for a full week! Mitch’s dream got back on track and others got the clarity and help they needed too! That first BDG launched a revolution of people giving themselves permission to dream big and help each other out. Now, Mitch hosts BDG’s around the country to inspire bigger dreaming, bigger solutions and bigger collaboration!

1:45 PM	BREAK
2:15 PM	<i>BIG Dream Gathering – Continued</i>
2:45 PM	Beyond the Handshake: Fueling Big Dreams with Real Relationships Micah Spike W. Craven – Integrity Communications
4:00 PM	BREAK
4:15 PM	Curiosity Lab: A Fresh Take on Networking

The *Curiosity Lab* is a reimagined networking experience designed to spark meaningful conversations between young adult leaders and seasoned professionals from across the ag industry. Rather than traditional “networking,” this session invites participants to enter a space of mutual curiosity, connection, and collaboration.

6:00 PM	DINNER
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June 17, 2025

7:00–7:45 AM BREAKFAST

7:45 AM Day 2 Kickoff

8:00 AM *HR Insights Panel Discussion*

Moderator:

Tim Fossen, VP of Human Resources, Christensen Farms

Tim Heiller, Key Account Director, PIC (Confirmed)

Erin Porter, Sr. Human Resources Business Partner, Compeer

Nicole Paulsen, Sr. Director of Human Resources, Pipestone (Confirmed)

9:15 AM The Future *IS* Animal Protein

Janette Barnard – Prime Future

Janette is bullish on the future of animal protein, and passionate about the intersection of animal agriculture and innovation. Janette is currently on the Ventures team at Merck Animal Health. She is the creator of Prime Future, a weekly newsletter for innovators in livestock, meat, and dairy while drawing from her background in agribusiness (Elanco, Cargill, McDonald's Global Supply Chain) and the startup ecosystem as a founder, then executive in a venture-backed company.

The Future *IS* Animal Protein: a look at the compelling reasons to believe animal agriculture is at the beginning of a new era, driven by consumer demand and innovation through the value chain. How will we make the most of it?

10:15 AM BREAK

10:30 AM Industry Leader Panel

Noon LUNCH

1:00 PM Google Your Brain! The Power of the Questions We Ask Ourselves

Mitch Matthews – Entrepreneur, Success Coach and Creator of the DREAM THINK DO Podcast

2:15 PM DREAM BREAK

2:30 PM Legislative Panel

Moderator:

MN Sen. Aric Putnam (14, DFL)

MN Rep. Luke Frederick (18B, DFL)

John Altendorf, Legislative Director, Congressman Brad Finstad (MN CD1)

3:30 PM Public Policy 101 / LEADR Training

5:30 PM *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.

6:15 PM *Depart for the Wow Zone*

6:30 PM *Wow Zone – Dinner, Bowling, Golf, and Laser Tag*

June 18, 2025

7:30 – 8:15 AM BREAKFAST

8:15 – 11:00 AM *Speakers & Closing Session (official end time to be announced)*