

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



Life hits you and how you respond determines your path forward. Draw from North Dakotan Hunter Pinke's experience of going from Division I football player to a chest-down paraplegic at age 22. Pinke gives tangible examples on how to choose joy and live out your dreams with no bad days.

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!

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

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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Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference
Presented by Minnesota Pork Board and Compeer Financial

June 17, 2025

7:00–7:45 AM BREAKFAST

7:45 AM Day 2 Kickoff

8:00 AM *HR Insights Panel Discussion*

Moderator:

Tim Heiller, Key Account Director, PIC

Erin Porter, Sr. Human Resources Business Partner, Compeer

Nicole Paulsen, Sr. Director of Human Resources, Pipestone

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

12:45 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 **Advocacy in Action: Public Policy 101**

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

7:15 – 8:00 AM **BREAKFAST**

8:00 AM **Discover Your Working Genius**
Dr. Emily Lehning, Roots and Legacies

Ever wonder why some tasks fire you up and others wear you out? This session introduces the *Working Genius*—a simple tool to help you understand how you work best. You'll discover what energizes you, what drains you, and how to work better with others. Whether you're leading an organization, tackling group projects, or thinking about your future career, this workshop will help you play to your strengths and show up with confidence.

10:00 AM **Taste What Pork Can Do**
Neal Hull, Director Domestic Market Development, National Pork Board

11:30 AM **A Work in Progress Story:**
The Realities of Building Blondies Butcher Shop
Lindsey Loken, Blondies Butcher Shop

A Midwest farm girl turned meat-loving maven! Raised by a long line of powerhouse farm women, Lindsey's roots run deep in agriculture and farm-to-table traditions. Her journey has taken her from emergency medicine to wrangling cattle on one of Montana's largest ranches, but it was her love for blending old-school butchery with modern meat science that truly set her on fire. Now, she's the proud owner of Blondies Butcher Shop in Wanamingo, MN – the only pink meat locker this side of the Mississippi! Lindsey's all about making butchery fun, approachable, and educational, helping folks connect with their food in a whole new way.

Whether she's on TV, in the kitchen, or behind the butcher block, she's on a mission to bring farm-fresh goodness straight to your table – with a side of fun and a whole lot of passion!

12:15 PM

Closing Comments