

A LETTER FROM THE LEADER



Woven into the pages of this magazine is the story of agriculture. Maybe it is not the obvious one or the most popular tale, but it is our industry's story. My earnest hope is that this issue shines a light on the diversity within agriculture. The industry can be broken down into three main categories – food, fuel and fiber – and though we took a different approach to these topics, we tried to keep our roots in mind. Whether it is the ever vigilant livestock guard dogs in "Collared," gaining insight into just what inspires our equestrian team members in "Then and Now" or traveling to the distant land of Botswana in "Land of the Elephants" – agriculture is on every page.

My journey in agriculture began with Oreo and Cookie. In this instance, I am not referring to milk's best friend, but the two pigs that were my first county fair project. When my dad first mentioned raising pigs, I was horrified at the thought of waking up to feed the stinky, messy animals. Yet, the minute I walked into the breeder's barn and saw the little guys, I knew my dad was right. These piglets quickly nuzzled their way into my heart and like any responsible eight-year-old, I spent days coming up with the perfect names for them. Over the course of that summer, Oreo and Cookie taught me a lot about life – everything from being accountable to frolicking in the mud. Even though my boots were always dirty and my cheeks occasionally tear-stained, I would not trade those moments for anything in the world.

Fast forward to 2016 – those two little piglets had a lasting effect on my life. Oreo and Cookie sent me down a path to my major, my university and my passion. It is my hope that this magazine will remind you of our roots in agriculture and encourage you along your journey.

I know that wherever you turn in this issue, my staff's devotion to making this the best AgriLeader yet will show in each blot of ink. On behalf of the Fall 2016 AgriLeader staff, I hope this issue resonates with you and inspires you to find the agriculture in your story.

- Emily Foreman

Emily Foreman

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Front: Sarah Bockholt, Debra D'esposito, Ashley Seidenberger, Emily Foreman, Tracy Rutherford, Ph.D., Stephanie Covarrubias, Ally Hancock, Rachel Kaplan, Sarah Kate Grider, Larson McQuary. Back: Eva Vigh, Emmali Pankonien, Jacob Langhamer, Remington May, Luke Lamb, Michael Catarineau, Andi Vetter, Madison Gramling, Kara Slaughter.



Michael Catarineau, Debra D'esposito, Remington May.



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