

UWRF CAFES Alumni News 'n Notes October 2021

A first for the Wisconsin FFA Hall of Fame and an honor for UWRF! **Paul Larson** (1987) and his dad **Charles Larson** (1951) are the first father/son inducted into the Wisconsin FFA Hall of Fame. Both are long-time agricultural educators. Paul recently retired after 33 years with the Freedom Area School District, Charles taught for 39 years first with Cuba City and then Waupaca. Both were interviewed in this Midwest Farm Weekly report from Green Bay:

<https://www.wearegreenbay.com/midwest-farm/father-and-son-inducted-into-wisconsin-ffa-hall-of-fame/>

Congratulations to two Agricultural Education alumni! **Mary Hoffman** ('95), who teaches in Sleepy Eye, MN, was named the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher for Region III (IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI) by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). Last month Mary received the Minnesota Agricultural Educator of the Year Award, only the 2nd female agriculture teacher in Minnesota to receive that award. And **Roger King** ('84), long time agriscience educator for the Holmen School District, now retired, was awarded the Outstanding Service Citation by NAAE. This citation honors current and retired NAAE members who have made significant contributions to agricultural education at the state, regional and national levels. Both will be recognized at the NAAE Convention in New Orleans in December.

Congratulation to **Tari Costello** ('88) honored by the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE) with the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher of the Year Award!

https://www.wisfarmer.com/story/news/2021/08/04/tari-costello-waupun-honored-waae-outstanding-ag-educator/5477001001/?fbclid=IwAR3J4fpro_K4-SLigiCetluzSiW3PPpn8ym5ckbTC3ttZkReNn2sJ5KNE8g

Aliesha Crowe is the new Vice President of Academic Affairs for Northwood Technical College. Aliesha is a 1998 graduate of the Animal Science program, and returned to UWRF for her MS in Agricultural Education in 2004.

A story in the LaCrosse Tribune highlighted 1999 Animal Science graduate **Valerie (Kriesel) Pierzina**. She and her husband Brian own Grains and Manes Farm in Trempealeau and have been raising an Ethiopian small grain, teff, which makes a good hay for horses with metabolic issues. Valerie is also certified equine massage therapist.

https://lacrosetribune.com/news/local/on-galesville-farm-teff-finds-a-home/article_0d9f06f9-71f9-508f-a1d8-0b4f6f2632bb.html?fbclid=IwAR0hjxKCNqP4OitgdwPk_MlnB12R2iDvUNK2ij9wESUq_d70zywc44mpKbk

Kellie Claflin (Ag Education 2011) joined the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership at The Ohio State University as an assistant professor of agriscience

education. Kellie taught at both Suring and Gillett before electing to continue her education Oregon State University where she earned her PhD in 2020. Prior to joining OSU Kellie was an assistant professor at Virginia Tech.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation recently profiled **Walter Taylor** (Ag Education 2011), the Agricultural Education teacher at Oconto Falls:

<https://wfbf.com/member-profiles/meet-walter-taylor/>