

**Josephine  
Ammons**



I am extremely, extremely grateful to receive this award to continue my education at University of Wisconsin-Madison. As an out-of-state student, tuition is an important factor to my future and success in undergrad, and this Renk Scholarship will lighten the load of tuition. The Renk Scholarship means so much to me this will encourage my goals as an Agricultural and Applied Economics Major and my goals at UW-Madison and in the field of agriculture. This has a tremendous impact on myself and my education since it will allow me to continue studying what I am passionate about.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

I chose to attend UW-Madison for many different professional and career advantages this school has to offer. Not only does UW-Madison have an amazing connection of alumni, but also great opportunities for internships, co-ops, and scholarships like this one. I chose to attend UW-Madison for these opportunities and to study agricultural and applied economics at a widely known, world class research institution. I am extremely grateful to be studying what I am passionate about at this university.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

I am studying Agricultural and Applied Economics with a certificate in Public Policy. I hope to support farmers and those who work with farmers to communicate better with the government. I am interested in multiple different careers, including government agricultural agencies, agricultural commodity trading, or agricultural real estate management. A degree from UW-Madison in Agricultural and Applied Economics will give me opportunities to explore these different career paths.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

An achievement in my life that I am most proud of is being accepted into UW-Madison and successfully completing my first year. I feel proud of my work at UW-Madison this year and the way I have immersed myself into clubs like Association of Women in Agriculture, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and Saddle & Sirloin. Furthermore, I had never moved in my life before moving to college in another state, which makes me proud of how well I adjusted to the city and big university. All in all, it has been a very hard but rewarding year.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

I hope to support farmers and those who work with farmers to communicate better with the government. I am interested in multiple different careers, including government agricultural agencies, agricultural commodity trading, or agricultural real estate management. A lot of my family are farmers in Southeast Iowa and many work in agricultural real estate which interests me a lot. Wherever career I find myself in, I know I will be immersed in agriculture and helping farmers to be their best.

**Level:**

Sophomore

**Major:**

Agricultural  
Business Mgmt BS,  
Public Policy UCrt

**Hometown:**

Wellesley, MA



## Renk Scholarship

### Mark Arndt



I am honored to receive a Renk Scholarship from the Renk Agribusiness Institute. Financing a college education is a very daunting challenge, but help from the Renk Family makes that task significantly easier. This award will help insure that I can continue my studies here at UW Madison. I am very grateful for the support.

#### Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?

Attending UW-Madison has always been a dream of mine. Madison has some of the best programs in the region for both Agricultural Business and Animal Science. Along with that, UW Madison has an atmosphere unlike any other. There are always countless opportunities to get involved and make an impact on campus. I can't imagine myself anywhere else.

#### Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?

I am pursuing a double degree with Agricultural Business Management and Animal Science. I grew up on a family farm raising beef cows and growing a wide variety of crops. I've found being involved in agriculture to be very rewarding, and something I wish to continue. Alongside my degrees, I've gotten involved in several student organizations such as the National Agri-Marketing Association and Collegiate Farm Bureau. My time in these groups has been well worthwhile, and something I hope to continue.

#### Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?

One of my proudest moments this year was being a part of the UW-Madison presentation team for the National Agri-Marketing Association. I acquired a lot of real world knowledge about product development, marketing, and finance. We capped off the year by presenting our work in Kansas City. The whole experience was very rewarding and I will continue to apply what I've learned to the rest of my work.

#### What are your future career plans or aspirations?

I am not certain about my career path but I aspire to continue working within agriculture. I'm very thankful for what my time in agriculture has taught me and hope to continue learning. Whether it's returning home to our family farm or working elsewhere, I'm excited for the future. I know continuing my education here at Madison is the best way to prepare either way.

#### Level:

Junior

#### Major:

Agricultural  
Business Mgmt BS  
Animal Sciences BS

#### Hometown:

Janesville, WI



## Renk Scholarship

### Faith Baerwolf



**Level:**

Junior

**Major:**

Agricultural & Appl  
Econ BS, Business  
Mgmt ALS UCrt,  
Digital Studies UCrt,  
Life Sciences Comm  
BS, Political Science  
UCrt

**Hometown:**

Columbus, WI

I am very grateful to be receiving the Renk Scholarship. The scholarship will help financially support my college education at UW-Madison. Having support from the surrounding community and alumni helps UW students feel more connected to the college and city.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

I chose UW-Madison because it has a great agricultural school and it is close to home. I know many alumni who have all loved it at UW and decided it would be a great place for me. I love the city and community.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

I am majoring in Agricultural and Applied Economics and Life Sciences Communication. I am interested in the agricultural industry. I grew up on a farm and have always wanted to be involved in the industry.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

An achievement in my life that I am proud of is simply just being a student at UW-Madison with a major I love and grades I am proud of.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

I am not sure what my career plans are. I am interested in agricultural business and marketing.



## Camille Bender



**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Agricultural  
Business Mgmt BS

**Hometown:**

Sun Prairie, WI

An immense amount of gratitude is how I'd describe the feeling after reading I was chosen as a recipient of the Renk Scholarship. The first thing I had done was call my parents to relay this information, and they were equally as thankful. I am very fortunate to have parents that help support my education, and being able to lessen that load with your help is something I can't thank you enough for. Thank you for helping me further my education, and for seeing the potential in me.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

UW-Madison is an institution that caught my eye for several reasons. Coming from a small town, I knew I wanted to go to a bigger university for the various opportunities for my education and future career. The prospect of attending a university with numerous clubs and communities you can be part of was also very appealing. These past three years have been filled with me continually pushing myself out of my comfort zone, and UW-Madison has given me various opportunities to help aid my growth.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

My major is Agricultural Business Management, and I had made the decision to switch from Nursing to this new major before the beginning of this past spring semester. It sounds like a drastic change, but, after much research and consideration, Agricultural Business Management seemed like a better fit for me. Helping people has always been my main drive for picking a future career. An aspect of this field I am passionate about is helping those who are struggling from hunger, and this major can help me catapult myself into finding a career that enables me to help fight against this growing problem.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

There are many achievements in my life that I am very proud of that have fulfilled different aspects of my life, but a recent one that stands out is making the decision to switch majors. It took a lot of reflection to recognize that there is a better suited career path for me, and I am extremely grateful for the people I met at UW-Madison that helped me take the next steps after realizing this. It was originally hard for me to tell the people I care most about this decision, thinking I'd be letting them down (this group of people only supported me when I did tell them), but I was advised time and again during this period that it's okay to put yourself first. I'm glad I listened to the advice I was given, and am nothing less than excited for what's to come.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

With my future degree, I hope to help combat the hunger crisis. Before coming to UW-Madison, I wasn't provided much information regarding the agriculture industry. However, I have always had an interest in learning about how to aid with hunger and poverty. This interest is something I want to turn into a future career.



## Lauren Breunig



**Level:**

Junior

**Major:**

Business Mgmt ALS  
UCrt, Life Sciences  
Comm BS

**Hometown:**

Sauk City, WI

I am deeply honored to have been chosen as a Renk Agribusiness Institute Scholar for the coming school year. This recognition of my scholastic and extracurricular activities gives me the confidence to keep pursuing my goals and achieving new heights. Thank you to the generous donors who have allowed me to keep chasing my passions in various clubs and opportunities through their financial support. This support has cemented my belief that I will have an impactful career in the agricultural industry. Thank you, again!

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

Being a third-generation CALS student and growing up near campus, I always held dreams of becoming a Badger. As time came nearer for me to select a college, the decision to come to UW-Madison became a no brainer. From the wide range of majors and courses to the high involvement in agriculture related clubs, I knew this was the place for me. My time here has surpassed every expectations and I cannot wait to see what else will come from my time at UW-Madison.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

Growing up on my family's dairy farm, my childhood was filled with a love for animals and agriculture. As I matured, this love developed into a passion for educating consumers and producers alike on the innovations in the dairy sector. At Madison, I have enjoyed learning about communication strategies with various groups and advancements in different agricultural fields. As I continue my education, I am excited to broaden my marketing and communication strategy knowledge and skills.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

This past December, I was selected as the 2024 Wisconsin Holstein Association Princess. In this role, I am able to travel the state of Wisconsin promoting our dairy industry and the Holstein breed. This is one of my proudest achievements as it has been a lifelong dream to serve in this role and has opened many doors for my future career. This opportunity has also broadened my network of individuals and knowledge in the agricultural industry, which I will carry over into my future roles.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

In the future, I plan to pursue a career in agricultural marketing and communications promoting the agricultural industry. I would love an opportunity to be able to interact with both producers and consumers on technological and other advancements. This will help bridge the gap between the public and those producing their food, fiber and fuel. This aspired career I imagine will take place in either a government or non-profit organization.



## Renk Scholarship

### Samuel Elko



**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Agricultural  
Business Mgmt BS

**Hometown:**

Milwaukee, WI

I am incredibly grateful to have been selected for the Renk Scholarship. This award will have a great impact on financing my education and relieving some of the stresses and burdens that come with it. This aid will allow me to focus more on making the most of my education here at UW-Madison and has encouraged me to continue getting involved in the agricultural business program.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

I chose to attend UW-Madison because I love the atmosphere of the city and campus. The programs here are excellent and the student culture is rich and fun. Several relatives of mine have attended UW so I have a strong family connection with the school. Having grown up in Milwaukee, I also have a great appreciation for being able to stay in Wisconsin and still get all the new experiences that come from being away in college.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

I'm currently majoring in Agricultural Business Management, which I have been able to explore plenty of areas and opportunities within the program. Over the last year I've become interested in agricultural commodity markets and trading. Having taken a class on the subject, I enjoy how it bridges financial and physical assets to create risk management strategies. The world of agricultural business continues to open up as I progress through my program and I'm excited to continue finding my interests within all of it.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

Recently I have been preparing to leave Madison for entire school year and study abroad at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic. Although I consider myself an adventurous person, it was hard for me to get on board with the idea, but I couldn't be more excited. I'm immensely proud of myself for being open to taking on this challenge, especially since I have worked so hard throughout high school and college to be able to even have this opportunity. I've also put a great deal of time and effort into scholarship applications, which has taken care of much of the finances needed for my time abroad. Although I haven't left yet, it still feels like I've achieved a lot and I'm looking forward to continuing it throughout the next year in Prague.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

As of right now, I am planning to earn my degree in Agricultural Business Management and eventually find a job pertaining to agriculture. As I mentioned earlier, I have a great deal of interest in strategical agricultural commodity trading and could see myself pursuing a career in it. Being from Wisconsin, I specifically see a lot of opportunity in the dairy and corn industries, which have interested me the most thus far. There is a diverse availability of opportunities related to commodity trading in the Midwest and I could easily see myself staying in the region because of this, but I may find that my time abroad will draw me towards something more international.



**Kelly Herness**



I am beyond grateful to receive the Renk Scholarship to help fund my education at UW-Madison. It would not be possible for me to study at UW-Madison without the generous donors who make scholarships like this possible. I hope that my education will put me in a position to give back to my rural Wisconsin community and the farmers and agriculturalists who have helped me become who I am today. This scholarship allows me to obtain a high quality education without putting additional financial strain on my farming family and enables me to focus on applying for internships that will help my future career, rather than being stressed over funding my education. Additionally, this scholarship will enable me to study abroad in Norway in Fall 2024 and expand my worldview. Thank you again, Renk Family, for this wonderful opportunity and for helping me study agricultural economics at UW-Madison!

**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Agricultural & Appl  
Econ BS, Life  
Sciences Comm BS  
Public Policy UCrt

**Hometown:**

Whitehall, WI

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

I grew up surrounded by cornfields, dairy cattle, and John Deere tractors, where I quickly learned to love everything about agriculture and Wisconsin. I chose to attend UW-Madison so I would be able to remain close to my roots and family and gain a high quality education at the same time. Although I love my rural community, I also wanted the opportunity to experience city life and expose myself to different perspectives, lived experiences, and people, all of which UW-Madison offered. The countless opportunities for scholarships through the university, like this one, was the final push for me to attend UW-Madison.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

Currently, I am an Agricultural and Applied Economics Major, double majoring in Life Science Communication, and pursuing a certificate in Public Policy. Agricultural and Applied Economics interests me because it allows me to understand how things work in the agriculture industry and at home on my family farm. I grew up hearing about milk prices and commodity markets but I never understood the why and how behind them until I began taking Agricultural and Applied Economics courses. Life Science Communications interests me because communication is important in every career, especially in agriculture. I hope that studying communication that is rooted in the life sciences will make me a well-equipped future employee and agricultural advocate. My interest in Public Policy stems from my interest in agriculture from a governmental perspective, which I developed when on the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Agriculture (DATCP) Youth Council in 2021-2022 and have continued to develop through the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Madison.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

The achievement that I am most proud of happened during my time spent in FFA. In June of 2019, I became the Wisconsin 1st place winner in the FFA Creed Speaking Contest. Because of this success, I had the honor of representing the State of Wisconsin in the Creed Speaking Contest at the National FFA Convention. I was so proud to represent the state that I loved while also using my unique agricultural experiences to formulate answers to questions on the spot. This experience and how it boosted my confidence encouraged me to pursue three more speaking contests throughout high school, two of which I competed at the state level for.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

Although I do not know what particular job I hope to have, I do know that I want to make a difference in the agriculture industry. In particular, I am interested in working with agriculture from a governmental perspective. I hope to combine my farm grown work ethic, valuable education at UW-Madison, and my personal agricultural experiences to continue moving Wisconsin agriculture in a positive forward direction. I also hope that by working with agriculture, I can give back to my rural farming community that helped shape who I am and instilled the love and appreciation of agriculture within me.



## Renk Scholarship

### Cora Kleist



**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Animal Sciences BS  
Business Mgmt ALS  
UCrt, Digital Studies  
UCrt, Life Sciences  
Comm BS

**Hometown:**

Richland Center, WI

Your generosity has not only alleviated financial burdens but has also fueled my academic journey with renewed vigor and determination. Each year, your belief in my potential strengthens my resolve to excel academically and contribute meaningfully to society. This ongoing investment in my education empowers me to pursue my passions and dreams with unwavering commitment. Your generosity not only impacts my present but also shapes my future, and for that, I am deeply thankful. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and hope to one day pay forward the kindness and support I have received.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

I selected UW-Madison for its stellar academic reputation and lively campus atmosphere. The university's emphasis on innovation and its location in a large city with a small town feel resonate with my academic pursuits and aspirations. Madison's inclusive community and diverse student population create an environment conducive to both personal and intellectual development. I am excited to engage in the vibrant academic and cultural opportunities at UW-Madison and am certain it will equip me with the resources needed to excel.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

My academic focus combines agriculture and marketing because I deeply admire the strength and importance of rural America. I'm fascinated by how marketing can help rural communities by showcasing their special products and boosting their economies. In my studies, I want to discover new ways to promote rural goods fairly and effectively. I'm driven to use my marketing skills to link farmers and consumers, aiming to support rural America's sustainability and growth. Ultimately, I aspire to help revitalize and maintain our nation's heartland through ethical marketing strategies.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

My greatest achievement in life is undoubtedly my unwavering commitment to honesty and resilience in the face of adversity. Throughout various challenges and trials, I have always upheld the value of integrity, refusing to compromise my principles. This steadfast dedication to truth has not only shaped my character but has also earned me the trust and respect of those around me. By embracing challenges head-on, I have honed my problem-solving skills and emerged stronger and more resilient with each obstacle overcome. I take immense pride in my ability to maintain honesty and navigate through life's complexities with integrity, knowing that it has laid the foundation for my personal and professional success.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

As an aspiring agricultural marketer, my career trajectory is guided by a clear vision of progression towards the role of Marketing Director. With a deep-rooted passion for connecting rural producers with consumers, I aim to cultivate innovative marketing strategies that amplify the visibility of agricultural products while ensuring fair compensation for farmers. Through hands-on experience and continuous learning, I seek to refine my skills in market analysis, branding, and consumer behavior, gradually assuming positions of increasing responsibility within marketing departments. By consistently delivering results and demonstrating leadership potential, I am committed to advancing towards the role of Marketing Director, where I can leverage my expertise to drive organizational growth and make a lasting impact in the agricultural industry.





## Renk Scholarship

### Kylie Konyn



**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Business Mgmt ALS  
UCrt, Dairy Science  
BS, Science  
Communication  
UCrt

**Hometown:**

Escondido, CA

The dairy industry is not a financially self-sustaining industry. Regardless, it is an industry in which my family shares a common love for and a desire to provide a fresh wholesome product for consumers. Through our dairy, I have felt a strong connection to my passion and my future. I am extremely grateful to Renk Institute for awarding me the Renk Scholarship to aid in my educational goals of becoming a dairy cattle nutritionist. This scholarship will allow me to pursue my education in America's Dairyland.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

My roots are based in California, however, I am excited for my future and education in Wisconsin. After attending World Dairy Expo nearly seven years ago I fell in love with Madison, Wisconsin. Throughout my middle and high school years, I performed numerous science fair experiments modeled from previous UW-Madison research. I am excited to be immersed into the dairy industry in Wisconsin and to be involved with an amazing dairy science program and industry.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

My current educational plans are to obtain my B.S. in Dairy Science with certificates in Agricultural Business Management and Life Science Communications. It is then my intention to pursue my M.S. in Dairy Nutrition. Both of these areas of science have developed as a result of my love for the dairy cattle industry. Looking forward towards the future, these two areas have some of the highest levels of possibilities in aiding dairy farmers with sustainable practices. I aim to assist in this development in my future.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

Of all the activities that I am involved with, the thing that I would never give up is my involvement on my family's farm. Through our dairy, I have felt a strong connection to my passion and my future. Whether it be caring for the calves as a young girl, or my current role in blood testing, assisting with vet checks, performing embryo transfers and in vitro fertilization on my animals, and meeting with different company representatives, I have learned lessons which have helped to form me into who I am today. Through the farm, my passion for public speaking and education has grown tremendously. It is through my participation that I have been educated in many fields such as the biology of a cow, the chemistry involved in a properly balanced ration, and the importance of speaking multiple languages in order to be able to communicate with fellow employees and workers. Most importantly, it is through the farm that I have had the support of my family with which I can try, fail, and get back up again until I am able to succeed. The pride which I have gained as a result of my role on the family farm far exceeds that of any academic or public achievement as it has come from the humblest of roots and is cherished not only by me, but in the hearts of those around me who are always supporting me.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

My goals for the future intertwine aspects of my education and my dairy herd. As previously mentioned, I would like to obtain my B.S. in Dairy Science. It is then my intention to pursue my M.S. in Dairy Nutrition. Using my education, I would like to secure a career at the forefront of the industry, whether it be in a lab doing research or out in the field working with others and involved in an industry that I love. I also plan to assist my family with the development of niche marketing, small scale creamery. It is my goal to develop a value-added opportunity on our dairy through direct marketing of our Jersey milk. It is through hard work, education, and dedication that I plan to achieve these goals.



## Joshua Mumm



**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Agricultural Business

Mgmt BS, Economics

BMAJ, Global Health

UCrt, Sustainability

UCrt

**Hometown:**

Madison, WI



College of  
Agricultural & Life Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Receiving this award is incredibly meaningful for both my education and myself. While I am immensely grateful for the opportunities UW provides, the financial burden of education can sometimes feel daunting. The Renk Scholarship's generosity will alleviate some of that pressure, enabling me to concentrate more on my studies and easing the financial strain of my education. I am sincerely thankful to the donors for their kindness and support, and I cannot emphasize enough how instrumental this scholarship is in helping me achieve my educational goals.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

Ever since I was a child, I've dreamed of attending UW-Madison. I have fond memories of cheering on the Badgers at games and enjoying time with my family in Madison. The university's academic reputation and picturesque setting made it an obvious choice for me. Moreover, as a Wisconsin resident, the in-state tuition was essential for making my education financially feasible. Being an agricultural major, UW-Madison provides an array of excellent opportunities for me to delve into different aspects of farming and engage in campus life with a diverse group of students and staff.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

I decided to study agribusiness and economics because I'm fascinated by how agricultural activities connect with the broader economy. Agribusiness is equipping me with knowledge about the financial and operational aspects of farming, while economics is honing my abilities in data analysis and understanding the effects of government policies. My aim is to carve out a career in agricultural policy, particularly focusing on livestock, particularly poultry. These majors are furnishing me with problem-solving and decision-making skills crucial for this path. Additionally, I'm pursuing certificates in sustainability and poultry science to deepen my understanding of the environmental and economic dimensions of poultry farming.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

In 2020, the pandemic affected everyone. I was stuck at home 24/7 with little occupying my time aside from video games and podcasts. This routine was ideal for the first month of lockdown, but it quickly became repetitive and unsustainable. My motivation to do anything was zapped, and I was always tired. That all changed when my brother a cardio machine covering 50+ miles a week asked me to run with him. My first run was brutal and showed me that I was letting the disorganized, low-responsibility reality of lockdown get the best of my physical and mental health. I was disappointed in myself, and my lack of motivation and effort compelled me to make a change. From then on, I began prioritizing my health and ran more. I started slow, from 5ks to 10ks, increasing my mileage weekly and constantly pushing myself. By November of 2020, I ran my first two half marathons. The small step of running with my brother during the pandemic inspired my passion for cardio and has become a big part of my life. Since then, I've been able to tackle larger goals both as a runner and in my personal life. I couldn't have accomplished my cardio goals without the support of my brother. He taught me the importance of self-motivation and encouraging others in their endeavors so they, too, can achieve greater goals. I look forward to achieving greater goals and am motivated to finish what I start.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

My career goal is to pursue a career in sustainable animal production and, eventually, agricultural policy. Last year, I knew I wanted to work in agriculture but didn't see a specific path to go down. While pursuing degrees in economics and ABM increased my interest in policy and farm management, I lacked any real experience. Now, with a year more of experience through poultry classes ISU and an internship with UW-Extension writing curriculum on sustainable animal husbandry, I know I want to work in animal production. As the population grows and environmental degradation worsens, the

importance of sustainability in agriculture is becoming a more pressing concern. It's no secret that large scale animal production has some significant environmental impacts. However, it isn't going anywhere and it's an important system that keeps the population fed. After graduation, I hope to work in poultry management learning aspects of the business from hatchery to retailer to gain insight into how to improve industry environmental and financial performance. After gaining real experience in animal production, I hope to either return to school or find a career focused within agricultural policy. If I want to help make changes for a sustainable food system, I must learn the system first.

## Renk Scholarship

### Jacob Roden



**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Agricultural  
Business Mgmt BS,  
Entrepreneurship  
UCrt

**Hometown:**

Grafton, WI

The Renk Scholarship is very important to me because it greatly aids me in attending UW Madison. The financial aid will allow me to attend school and learn new things, meet new people, and have lots of great experiences. I plan on implementing my newfound knowledge to help others in the agricultural business and finance field. This scholarship will allow me to establish connections at school that will aid me in my professional and academic career.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

I chose to attend UW-Madison because I believe it is the best university in the world for my intended area of study, agricultural business. I love the Wisconsin idea and want to help contribute to it. I have made lots of great friends and memories at UW-Madison and look forward to learning even more about the industry. I hope to get an internship in agriculture finance this upcoming summer through the great connections I have been able to make here at UW.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

I am interested in studying agricultural business. Growing up on a dairy farm had influenced my to continue to learn about agriculture and improve the industry. I would like to implement my knowledge to help others in agriculture. I am very excited to see what connections I am able to make to with others in the industry through my experience at UW-Madison.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

An achievement in my life that I am very proud of is my WALSAA outstanding student award for my grades in FISC. My time in FISC really opened my eyes to all of the opportunities ne has in the agriculture industry. There are so many great people doing so many great things to make a positive impact on the whole entire world from being more efficient to feed a growing world population to the ways we are improving our practices to take better care of the land, water and air. Being named an outstanding student encouraged me that I could go on to further my education to improve the industry.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

I hope to pursue a career in the agribusiness sector. I enjoy working on farm however I would like to gain some experience off farm to see what else is out there. I would like to try to help many other farmers possibly through smart financial planning or future projections to help them become more profitable.



**Sophia  
Thanasouras**



I want to thank those who funded the Renk Scholarship. This scholarship means a lot to me given how expensive tuition can be. Every little bit counts and I am honored to represent such a small and underrated major. I hope to utilize this as a drive to learn more about the Agricultural Business field.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

When I walked onto the UW-Madison campus my senior year of high school, I felt home more than any other school that I had toured. The people were all so kind. And learning about the endless courses, degrees, and opportunities made me even more excited about the school. I especially loved the research aspect that the school emphasized.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

When I entered college undecided, I knew I had passions in both math and business sectors but didn't have a clue what exactly I wanted to do with those interests. After a difficult first semester, my friend mentioned a business major within CALS that intrigued me. So I looked into ABM and found it absolutely fascinating. It combined a care for food, our planet, with my skills in math and business

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

An achievement in life that I am most proud of is not necessarily a large milestone but something that has been built overtime. I am most proud of the reputation I have built within my neighborhood back at home. My neighborhood has so many young families that I have babysat, gotten to know and confided in. I have built my reputation as a grounded, mature and kind community member and I couldn't be more honored to give and receive that love and support.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

Currently, I have yet to have much field experience within ABM so it is difficult to say exactly where I see myself. However if my courses have given me any indication of my interests, they seem to lie around supply chain, operations and logistics management. So for post grad, I see myself working for a food company in one of those roles. I also imagine myself working with a team to work out issues or to discuss ways to make production more efficient.

**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Agricultural  
Business Mgmt BS,  
Development Econ  
UCrt

**Hometown:**

Madison, WI



## Renk Scholarship

### Jonathan Verhasselt



**Level:**

Senior

**Major:**

Agricultural  
Business Mgmt BS

**Hometown:**

Kaukauna, WI

I am extremely grateful to receive the Renk Scholarship award. This scholarship is going to have a huge impact on my upcoming school year and moving forward with school. This scholarship will allow me to focus more on my academics during the school year, and less on financial burdens.

**Why you chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

I chose to attend UW-Madison for many different reasons. First of all, I am from a dairy background, and I have always worked on my family farm. I always wanted to go to UW-Madison because they have one of the best agriculture programs in the country. My older brother also went to Madison, and he plans on taking over the family farm with me as well.

**Explain your academic interests and/or major and why you are interested in them?**

My major is Agricultural Business Management. I chose this major because I am interested in taking over my family's dairy farm. I chose Agricultural Business Management because to manage a dairy farm, it takes a lot of knowledge about how to run a business. I am interested in agriculture because I have worked on our family farm since I was 12 years old, and I have always been around the farm when I was growing up.

**Which achievement are you most proud of in your life and why?**

The achievement I am most proud of in my life is getting admitted to UW-Madison. I knew from the moment that I walked in to freshman year of high school that I wanted to attend UW-Madison. Madison is a difficult school to attend, so it took a lot of hard work and dedication to keep good grades and help out in the community whenever possible.

**What are your future career plans or aspirations?**

When I graduate college this year, my career plan is to take over our family farm with my brother and cousins. I plan on growing our family farm and expanding to new sites. I also plan on trying to better the dairy industry and looking for new innovative ways to more efficiently grow crops, feed and milk cows.

