

January 15, 2010

Joseph Lieber Memorial Cooperative Scholarship
Ag Scholarship Awarded

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Joe Lieber contributed to cooperative organization, education and development for many years and was a respected leader in the co-op community and served as Executive Vice-President then President and CEO of the Kansas Cooperative Council from 1986 - 2003. Sadly, Joe passed away in January 2003 and the loss was felt through-out the co-op community. As a tribute to his enthusiasm for cooperative education, the Joseph Lieber Memorial Cooperative Scholarship was established by his family and the Kansas Cooperative Council and awarded for the first time in 2005-2006.

Wyatt Rundel of Colby, Kansas, was selected to be the 2009-2010 recipient of the scholarship through a screening of applicants to select finalists who were then interviewed by a selection committee.

Wyatt is a senior at K-State, majoring in Agribusiness with a minor in Business. Wyatt owns and operates Mobile Disc Jockey Service, works with Deaver Custom Combining and is an Independent Contractor for Wildcat Services. In addition, he works on the family farm in Thomas County in northwest Kansas. Wyatt was selected for membership in Sigma Alpha Pi and Alpha Zeta honoraries. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a career in the agriculture banking and lending industry. The family is affiliated with Farm Credit of Western Kansas in Colby, KS, Hi-Plains Cooperative Association in Colby, KS, and Frontier Ag in Oakley, KS.

“The scholarship was established to perpetuate the memory of the contribution of Joseph Lieber to the development and leadership of cooperative businesses, to encourage an interest in the formation, operation, management, leadership, economics of, and participation in all types of cooperatives, including agricultural, financial, electric, telephone, housing and consumer cooperatives,” said Professor David Barton, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. “It’s also to provide significant financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in educational programs emphasizing these areas of study.”

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be either a junior or senior in K-State’s College of Agriculture at the time the scholarship is received, and be affiliated as a member or as a child or dependent of a member of a Kansas agricultural marketing, supply, or service cooperative that is a member of the Kansas Cooperative Council.

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center provides research-based information, education, and assistance to people with an interest in cooperative businesses, including cooperative members, directors, managers, and employees. The Center also works with students and faculty at educational institutions, the general public, and public officials as well as owners, directors, managers, and employees of agribusinesses.

Previous scholarship recipients include: Dustin Oswald of Effingham, KS, Tina Krafft, Phillipsburg, KS, and Casey Cook of Johnson, KS.

The Lieber scholarship was funded by contributions made to the Center's endowment fund with the KSU Foundation. Contributions have been made by the Kansas Cooperative Council and the Lieber family and friends in the cooperative community.

“Additional contributions by those who want to honor the memory of Joseph Lieber and support the purposes of the scholarship are welcome,” Barton said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/ACCC/ Lieber” and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Further information can be obtained about this scholarship or about establishing additional scholarships by contacting David Barton at the same address or e-mailing, dbarton@ksu.edu.

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- if using the photo, the photo caption is as follows:

left to right: Dr. David Barton, Arthur Capper Cooperative Center Director and Wyatt Rundel at the K-State Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, September 25, 2009