

# Quarterly Connection

APRIL 2011

## Building the Future of Agriculture

Each year, four scholarships are awarded on behalf of Ceres Solutions to two rising sophomores and two rising juniors in the College of Agriculture at Purdue University. Each scholarship is worth \$1,000 to the students who qualify and are selected by the staff at Purdue.

We are happy to announce that Purdue has awarded the Ceres Solutions scholarship to four very deserving individuals. The recipients include:

- Marissa Myers, a rising sophomore in the department of Animal Science from Demotte
- Michael Strasburger, a rising sophomore in the department of Agriculture Economics from West Lafayette
- Carter Morgan, a rising junior in the department of Agricultural Systems Management from Cayuga
- Robert Tryon, a rising junior in the department of Botany from Merom

We are pleased that these individuals have been chosen for the Ceres Solutions scholarship awarded through Purdue University's College of Agriculture. It is our privilege to provide such a scholarship for students taking an interest in making the agriculture industry their career choice.

Ceres Solutions strives to bring the counties we serve the best service and products, as well as the most up-to-date technology being used throughout our industry. Our goal for our customers and their businesses is total success with our help, and the help of our partnerships. Just like we want to bring the best to our customers, Ceres Solutions wants to offer help to students who plan to add value to our industry.

We would like to offer our sincere congratulations and offer best wishes to the recipients of this year's scholarship sponsored by Ceres Solutions.

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# AgVANTAGE

As summer wraps up, it's time to start thinking about your plans for the fall. We know your first thought is getting your crops out of the fields. But with harvest quickly approaching, it's also time to think about talking with your local Ceres Solutions branch about our AgVantage program.

The Ceres Solutions AgVantage program is a complete crop information system. It's designed to help you make more informed decisions about your farm, by putting data from your own farm to work.

AgVantage starts with a 2.5 acre grid sample to help address variability of fertility. Customers receive a customized variable rate nutrient plan to help them more accurately spread their fertilizer and lime to areas of the field that need it. A member of the Ceres Solutions team will sit down with you to discuss your plan and what options are available. Twice a year, we conduct business meetings to discuss your operation in-depth with a well-rounded team of professional resources. Bringing resources like our agronomists, seed experts, crop specialists, and precision ag specialists helps insure that you have all the knowledgeable people needed to help make the most informed decisions for your farm.

Information doesn't end with these meetings. Our in-season weekly email updates keep you informed about what is taking place in your area, making you aware of important events that may have effects on your growing crops. A monthly newsletter also provides you with the latest agronomy news throughout the state, newest technologies, and forecasts for what's ahead for farming.

For more information about how to become a part of our AgVantage program, talk to your local Ceres Solutions branch today.

## *Planning Ahead with Propane*

Propane is one of the nation's most versatile sources of energy. Its role is important in our everyday lives, as it's used not only for heating and cooking but also in manufacturing and agriculture.

It's not too late to talk to your local Ceres Solutions to set up a propane home heating budget plan. This plan estimates the amount of propane you'll use for the next year, based on your usage in prior years. The total estimate will be divided into twelve equal monthly payments. This will ensure that you are on Ceres Solutions "Keep Full" list delivery service. Also, the price of the propane purchased on this contract is a firm, set price and will not fluctuate with the market.

If you're interested in setting up a propane home heating budget plan or for more information about whether this plan is right for you, talk to your local energy specialist from Ceres Solutions.



# Bill Schroeder Named 2011 Master Farmer

Each year, Indiana Prairie Farmer announces farmers who have been recognized for the Master Farmer award. Winners are selected based on the soundness of their operation. This is measured not only by size and success, but on the use of modern farming practices, such as, high populations and precision farming. Also, commitment to the community and leadership levels at the local and state level are evaluated and added to the combination to select the winners.

This award isn't a new award. According to Tom Bechman, Senior Editor for Indiana Prairie Farmer, the Master Farmers award program began as early as the 20s and 30s, ending with the depression. The award started up again in 1968 and has run continuously since then.

Ceres Solutions is pleased to announce that one of honorees for this award is a person we have the privilege to work with. Bill Schroeder of Knox County is a corn and soybean producer who is the fourth generation of his family to farm. Mr. Schroeder, and his wife Jean, have two sons, Brian and Kent. They also have two grandsons, Luke and Keevan, who are sons to Kent and his wife, Melissa.

Bill's leadership covers a wide variety of groups, including: Land O'Lakes Co-op advisory council, former president of Knox County Co-op Board, serves on the board of the nonprofit Freelandville Community Home, member of the local volunteer fire department, member of Bethel Church, and serves as director of Old National Bank-Vincennes.

The judges for this years event were Dean Jay Akridge of Purdue's College of Agriculture; Carl Eiche, retired senior editor of Indiana Prairie Farmer, who worked with this program since 1968, and Bill Pickart, a former Master Farmer, land owner, and seed company administrative person.

Ceres Solutions wants to congratulate Bill Schroeder and his family for all of the hard work and dedication to the farming industry.

To read more about the Master Farmer award winner, check out the July edition of your Prairie Farmer magazine.

## Farm Tour Features Ceres Solutions Customers

The Indiana Farm Management Tour in Southwest Indiana recently took place on June 28 and 29. This tour featured the Master Farmers, an award given by Indiana Prairie Farmer and Purdue University College of Agriculture.

This year the tour kick off was located at the farm of Ceres Solutions customer and board member, Del Unger. Unger runs a grain operation with his family near Carlisle in Sullivan County. His farm started off the tour with a meal sponsored by Ceres Solutions. The tour then continued to Melon Acres farms in Oaktown, and concluded on Tuesday evening with The Indiana Prairie Farmer/Purdue University College of Agriculture 2011 Master Program at the Southwest-Purdue Agricultural Center. On Wednesday, the tours started up again with T.S. Boyd Grain, Inc in Washington, Carnahan & Sons Farm in Vincennes, and closed with lunch at Vilwock Farms in Edwardsport.

Thanks to all who participated this year! It was a successful tour and we hope to see you again next year.



# CERES SOLUTIONS

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## *Mark Your Calendars!*

*Knowledge Event Dates:*

**August 11—Lafayette**

**August 16th—Roselawn**

**August 18th—Crop 63**

**August 26—Farmersburg**

Visit your local Ceres Solutions branch to learn more about the “It’s In The Bag” Sweepstakes!




## *A Message From Jeff*

Summer is in full swing, and many are already looking ahead to our next season of harvest. We’d like to encourage you to attend

our Knowledge Events in August. It’s a great opportunity to talk to experts in different aspects of the industry. Its also gives us a chance to talk more about what your needs are and what you expect from Ceres Solutions. If you haven’t heard about these events, please talk to someone at your local branch.

I also want to take the opportunity to congratulate our scholarship winners for the 2011-2012 school year at Purdue University. If you haven’t had a chance to take a look at the article in this newsletter naming the students who have earned this award, please do. Just like with 4-H and FFA, we want to encourage the youth in our communities to take an interest in agriculture as a potential career path. We wish these four students the best of luck with their college careers.

As always, we appreciate your business and wish you a safe and fun summer!

  
Jeff Troike, CEO