
Carrington Farm Family Selected for Young Leader Program

Greg and Monica Gussiaas of Carrington, North Dakota, have begun their leadership training as part of

the 32nd class of the American Soybean Association's (ASA) DuPont Young Leader program. They began their leadership journey at DuPont Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, in early December.

Greg Gussiaas is the fourth generation to farm the land. He currently raises soybeans and corn northeast of Carrington. Gussiaas was a finalist for the program in 2014 and was selected to participate in 2015.

"I liked the idea of maintaining and building my leadership skills, and seeing a broader view of the soybean industry," Greg Gussiaas says. "We get to see the industry from seed all the way to legislative work on bills affecting me and

my farm."

The Johnston training session was the first phase of a program designed to identify new and aspiring leaders and to provide them with opportunities that will enhance their skills while networking with other growers. Young farmers from 23 states and Canada participated in training that included educational and skill-building components.

"The ASA DuPont Young Leaders Program identifies and trains new and much-needed leaders for the soybean industry," says ASA Chairman Wade Cowan. "The program provides training and helps them grow their peer network, which strengthens our industry and allows us to work

collaboratively in our local, state and national organizations."

Greg Gussiaas says that, in addition to receiving valuable training in areas such as effective communication, making connections with fellow farmers from across the country is a big plus for the program.

"One of the most beneficial parts is meeting other young farmers and staying connected," he adds. "They (other farmers) offer additional knowledge of what is happening in the industry. Plus, we are developing friendships with people who are essentially our coworkers."

The program continues March 1-4, 2016, in New Orleans, Louisiana, with the training held in

conjunction with the 21st annual Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show.

"It was a privilege to meet this year's enthusiastic class of DuPont Young Leaders who will take on the challenges and opportunities that face American agriculture," says Steve Reno, vice president and regional business director for the United States and Canada. "We look forward to watching them continue to develop their leadership skills throughout the remaining parts of the program."

—Story by Daniel Lembke,
photo provided by ASA



Greg and Monica Gussiaas, Carrington, N.D., were in the most recent DuPont Young Leader class.