



December 22, 2017 – The Nuffield International Farming Scholars program has announced the selection of its 2018 Nuffield Scholars, which includes two agriculturalists from the United States of America. The U.S. Nuffield Scholars were selected as part of a competitive process to represent the nation in this global scholarship initiative focused on building capacity in farmers, ranchers and agricultural professionals around the world. The American Scholars will join their global counterparts in The Netherlands in March to start their Nuffield International Farming Scholars journey.

Nuffield International CEO Jim Geltch, himself a 1986 Nuffield Scholar out of Australia, shared that 2018 will be an exciting time for the Nuffield International Farming Scholars program. “Having two Americans travel the world to explore agricultural best practices and technology is a great step forward for the Nuffield program as we work to grow our international footprint,” Geltch stated.

2018 marks just the second year of the United States of America having Nuffield Scholars. The country previously had delegates participate in the program’s Contemporary Scholars Conference in 2012 (the Netherlands) and 2016 (Ireland).

Through the Nuffield program, Scholars and delegates engage with more than 70 agriculturalists from other nations, participating in a week long Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC), a six week Global Focus Program (GFP) which has groups of up to 10 Scholars visiting multiple nations around the world, and a further six to seven weeks of individual travel focused on their own personal study topic. At the end of their Nuffield travel, each Scholar is required to submit a study report that provides global grounding in their area of investigation and recommendations for the industry moving forward.

The 2018 Nuffield International Farming Scholars from the United States of America are:

Steven (Archie) Griffin (Washington, NC)

A farmer from North Carolina, Archie is the assistant manager for Griffin AG LLC, a farming operation that grows corn, wheat and soybeans for storage and marketing, along with other value-added crops. In addition to this work on the family operation, Archie’s background includes experience in the small grain breeding department at North Carolina State University, field-based research work with the USDA Agricultural Research Services (ARS), and management of his own sweet corn production and distribution operation. Archie holds a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Science from North Carolina State University and a Master of Business Administration from East Carolina University.

As a Nuffield Scholar, Archie is interested in studying farming and technology. Archie feels that “our industry has only begun to witness the global challenge of transforming the way crops are sustainably planted, cultivated and brought to market through innovation and advanced technologies.” He hopes to travel to countries in East Africa and South Africa as part of his Nuffield experience.

Archie is active in the agriculture community in North Carolina, and a graduate of the North Carolina Agricultural Leadership Development Program, operated by North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture and TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture II are supporting this Nuffield International scholarship with the 3 previous International Scholarships they have supported having been awarded to scholars from Brazil.



Brian Dougherty (Ames, Iowa)

Currently earning his Master's Degree in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University, Brian has extensive experience on the farm and in the engineering lab. As co-owner of a 170 cow/250 acre dairy near Waukon, IA, Brian has managed both animal husbandry and crop production, including corn, alfalfa, oats and cereal rye, as well as pastureland. In addition to his on-farm work, Brian has an Associate Degree in Farm Management from Ellsworth Community College (IA), a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecological Engineering from Oregon State University, and is completing his Master's program at Iowa State. As part of his studies, Brian is investigating the effects of cropping management practices on soil health and nutrient losses to agricultural tile drainage water.

As a Nuffield Scholar, Brian is looking to study "the intersection of soil health, water quality, and agricultural management practices," with a focus on the fundamental importance of soil health to agricultural sustainability, and related global efforts to regenerate agricultural soils.

Brian and his wife Kecia have two children, Kourtney Kleven and Chayna Staudt.

Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, National Pork Producers Board, and the Iowa Farm Bureau are jointly supporting this Nuffield International scholarship.

More information and photos available at <http://nuffieldinternational.org/scholarship.html>.

About Nuffield International Farming Scholars - USA

For the past 70 years, the Nuffield International Farming Scholars program has inspired people to make a difference in the world of agriculture. The Nuffield program focuses on building the capacity of farmers, ranchers, and agriculturalists around the world through transformational travel that develops knowledge, skills, and confidence they carry back to their home enterprises and local communities. With an alumni base of more than 1700 Nuffield Scholars, the program provides access to an unrivaled network of industry leaders, as well as the chance to explore production agriculture and the full value chain around the world.

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