

FALL 2023

# CO-OP CONNECTION

JB LAWN, SOD AND SO  
MUCH MORE *Page 8*



## HONORING PEOPLE WHO IMPACT LIVES

– Tom Boland, President & CEO



“Did anyone order chicken?”  
The unusual question brought a smile to my face as I repeated it to Kelly. Of course, we all knew the voice that yelled the question. It was Gary Anderson. We didn’t even need to recognize his voice as only he would have yelled across the restaurant, over the rest of us as we sat down to dinner before our annual board retreat.

Gary was the consummate gentleman representing our group, taking over the ordering duties from others who hesitated a moment too long. He ordered a bottle of red wine for every table, and when the server asked if we needed any white wine, he shouted his chicken-

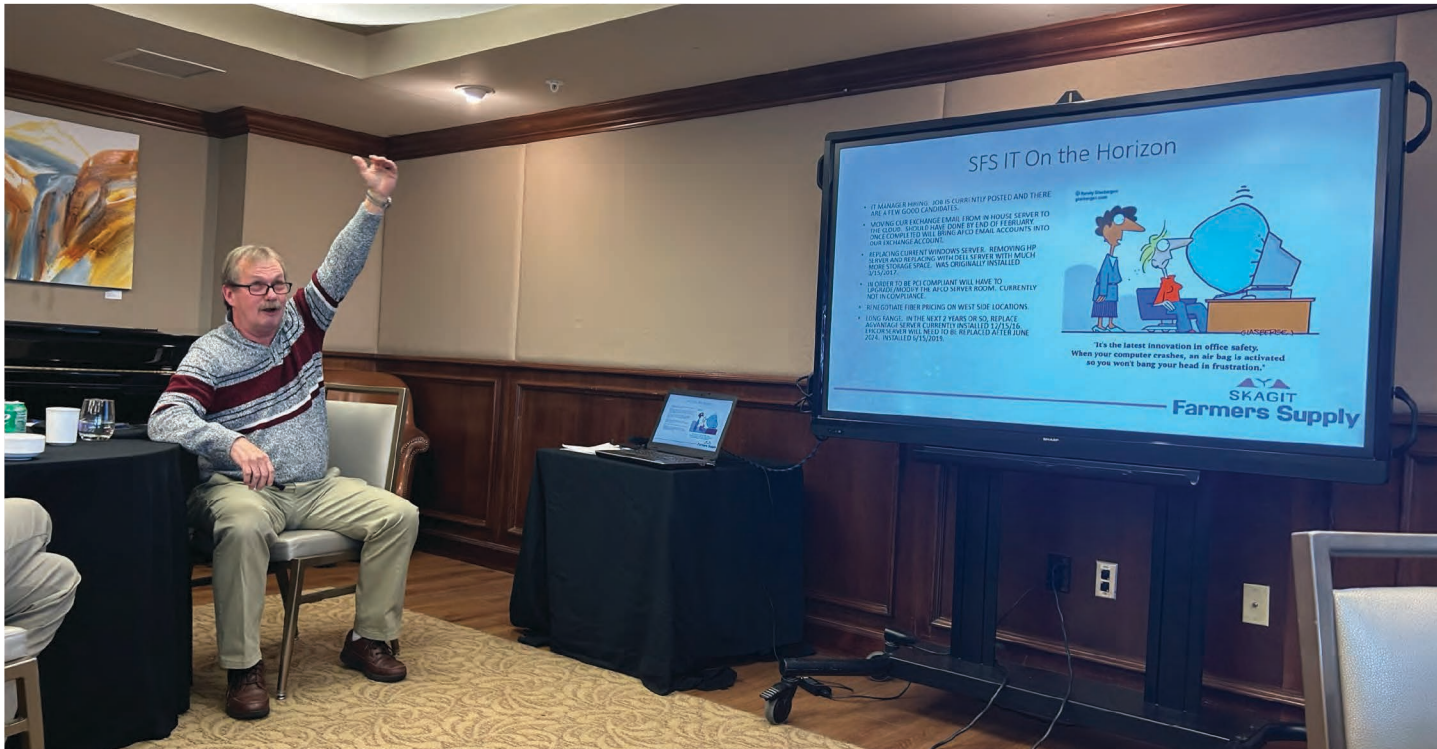
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“Read inside how Gary Anderson kept our co-op on the cutting edge of technology.”

related question. After the briefest moment of confusion, he told the waiter that no one wanted white wine.

Only those new members of our groups remained confused as laughter broke out among the rest of us. Our 2017 board planning session was officially underway at Il Terrazzo in Victoria, BC, and Gary started it as only he could.

*continued on next page*



Gary Anderson at the SFS Board Planning Session in January 2023.

Gary Anderson was hired as the controller at Skagit Farmers Supply (SFS) in 1995. He took over the team that generates the financials, and he learned IT along the way. Like many people who are used to rolling up their sleeves and getting things done, Gary was reluctant to give up duties and also reluctant to give up his job title. He did all the things that a CFO does, but he will never refer to himself as one.

I started working with Gary nearly eight-and-a-half years ago when I came to SFS, and I quickly learned that Gary worked hard. I also learned that he is loud, that he is a character, and that he makes up the firmest part of the backbone of our cooperative.

Interim General Manager Kevin Sexton called him the co-op historian. I think it must have been a competition between Gary and AP Specialist Lynn Minerich to turn on the lights in the office each morning. *NOTE: At my former job, Linda Speetzen was the only one who'd beat me into the office each morning.*

At SFS, I encountered a veritable traffic jam at 5:45 a.m. as Gary and Lynn were already busy with their day. It could be a bit of a grumpy traffic jam, as Gary is an early bird, but not a morning person. *That still puzzles me a bit.*

As Gary looks forward to a long and well-deserved retirement, I think it is his laughter and humor I'll miss the most. I'll also miss his mad-libbed presentations.

They were ad-libbed mostly and set to a frenetic pace that only a few could follow. *I'm not sure I've met those few.*

Gary can authorize a bank transfer, fix an error-filled credit card file, and make a cup of coffee all while yelling at someone on the phone. It is entertainingly magical and cringy at the same time.

I believe Gary inspired more comedic office odes than anyone, except Manager Jeff Walker and his hard-to-believe tales of old. Gary leaves us in good shape, but we're all afraid the office will be much too quiet without him to keep us on our toes. Good luck to both you and Kathy!

Kelly and I also had a transition this fall as our oldest daughter is off to college. We were both hoping she'd stay a bit closer to home, yet she's off to my alma mater in St. Paul, MN. The University of St. Thomas has a strong engineering program and made her an offer she didn't refuse.

Our home isn't the same without her smiling face and determined attitude. It can be hard to watch your kids grow up or to witness impactful employees retire. Yet, we can appreciate what they've done, and what they will continue to do. Life is full of blessings if you look for them.



# REFRESHING OUR PEOPLE: MIND, BODY AND SOUL

– Stephanie Hanson, HR Specialist

We wrapped up our employee retreats this summer! In June, eastside employees enjoyed a day out cruising Lake Coeur d'Alene. July brought westside employees to Bellingham where they embarked on a cruise of the San Juan Islands in search of whales.

We decided to move our retreat dates up this year to avoid the potential of smoky air conditions on the eastside, and we were successful! We had some beautiful days out on the water. Employees in both regions enjoyed relaxing and enjoyed the scenery, good food and conversations, and for some, playing a few exciting card games!

Towards the end of both days, on the westside retreat, transient pods of Orca whales came out to give us a show! Our captain explained that whales get excited around feeding time. The orcas jumped in and out of the water, splashing around and swimming together. It was amazing to see them in their natural habitat, along with the occasional porpoise, seal and different varieties of marine birds.

During the morning portion of our retreats, attendees gathered for coffee and pastries. Management shared department updates, concluding with Greg Kettner, an entertaining and comedic motivational speaker. Greg shared his experiences as a standup comedian (he once shared the stage with Robin Williams) and how his "Work Happy" approach to talking about mental health in the workplace helps people navigate through some of life's hardest challenges. He reminded attendees to pause to laugh and breathe through difficult times. As Greg stated, "When we laugh, we connect."

The retreats were a wonderful time to network with others from different locations, foster new work relations, enhance team spirit and take some time to relax. We already look forward to next year's retreats!

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“Employees reminded to pause to laugh and breathe through difficult times.”



*Employees from eastern Washington and Idaho enjoying the beauty of the lake.*



*Sally Merenz and Stephanie Hanson share a chair prior to a cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene.*



*Mount Baker as seen from the cruise.*

# GOODBYE WITH MIXED EMOTIONS



*Gary was awarded the Burlington-Edison Kiwanian of the Year award in 2019.*

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“Gary was a selfless worker who constantly pushed innovation.”

Gary Anderson, the controller and IT manager of Skagit Farmers Supply (SFS) is set to retire at the end of October. While the co-op wishes Gary the best in his retirement, we can't help but reflect on the deep institutional knowledge and years of experience that will also leave with him.

Gary was instrumental in helping the company grow to where it is today. When he was hired, SFS had only a few dozen employees and five retail locations in Oak Harbor, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Freeland and Sedro Woolley. At that time, retail stores were still writing out invoices and keying them in by hand.

With Gary's help and guidance, the co-op now operates 10 retail locations in three states, manages four diverse business units, and employs more than 350 employees. Gary brought SFS into the 21st century, introducing and maintaining the company's technology during his nearly three decades with the cooperative.

Gary received a bachelor's degree in accounting from City University, and and later earned his CPA license. He worked as controller for a trucking company in Modesto, CA, and then for Ajax, a trucking and dairy company in Stanwood, before joining SFS in November 1995.

Six years after starting with Skagit Farmers, Gary took on the role of office manager, in addition to his roles as controller and IT manager. He successfully navigated the company through the challenging first year of transferring to its current AgVantage software and adding computers and other technology to all locations.

“It was the craziest year ever,” said Raelene Smillie, who has worked at SFS with Gary since 2001. “Gary ushered in all of the in-house computer systems while being self-taught on the technology end of it.”

During his time with SFS, Gary kept the company on the cutting edge of technology. He was the first to request many updates from the software company, including online bill paying for customers.

“He pushed innovation all the time,” Raelene said. “He could see the growth the company was having and had AgVantage build what we needed to suit that growth.”





*Gary, with Energy Manager Bill Markus and Retail Manager Brad Ludwig, at a retirement party in 2019. Together, these three contributed over 100 years of service to the co-op.*

Because Gary knew both the IT side and the accounting side, he was able to build systems that benefited the company and streamlined processes. Gary knew what information an accountant would need to see in regard to financials or patronage records, and he could create IT systems that would provide that data.

Over his time at SFS, many came to know Gary as the backbone of the company--someone who would show up whenever needed to ensure the job got done, from installing a new computer system to changing an ink cartridge.

"He was a real selfless worker," said Brad Ludwig, who worked with Gary for about 25 years. "He was such a hard worker. He'd be up in the middle of the night to drive to Freeland or wherever to make sure the job got done."

Gary's selfless attitude was apparent outside of work as well. He is an active member in the Kiwanis Club of Burlington-Edison, having served as club president and been honored as Kiwanian of the Year. A fellow Kiwanian recently commented that it would take three people to replace all that Gary did for the service organization.

Gary and his wife, Kathy, have a daughter, Brandy, and a son-in-law, Raul, in El Paso, TX. They have a son, Eric, and a daughter-in-law, Shannon, in Mount Vernon. After leaving SFS, Gary and Kathy plan to move to Texas to spend more time with their first grandchild--a grandson named Luca. Gary also plans to cheer on his new home baseball team, the El Paso Chihuahuas.



*Gary, pictured here in 2019, prepares to mail over \$1.8 million in stock retirement checks.*



*Gary (center) pictured with the co-op's administrative staff at SFS's main office in 2002. Through 2006, the main office was located on the property of the Burlington Country Store.*





## 2023 BBQ DRAWS A CROWD

*Music, laughter, and a lot of good food!*

In July, members and employees alike gathered for one of Skagit Farmers Supply's staple events – the annual Customer Appreciation BBQ. More than 700 guests and their families attended the event to enjoy great food, live music, and lots of fun.

This year, SFS moved the event to the Burlington Agronomy Plant on Avon Allen Road, from its past location at the Conway plant. The new location was a big hit, leading to one of the most well-attended Appreciation BBQs in the past decade.

"After years of suggesting a change in venue, it was a pleasure to finally host the BBQ at Ag North," said Coby Beath, who works at the Burlington location in wholesale sales and distribution. "It's rewarding to see our members, employees and their families come to Ag North and enjoy the larger space, music, food and social gathering. It's truly a pleasure to be able to host the BBQ this year and, hopefully, for many years to come."

SFS employees cooked salmon fillets, steaks, oysters, hot dogs and beans, and local bakers created several beautiful cakes, including one shaped like a TerraGator and another honoring crops grown in Skagit County. "The employees did an incredible job helping make this event run smoothly," said Kris Black, SFS's agronomy administrative manager, who spearheaded the event's organization. "Everyone had such a great time cooking, visiting with our customers, and enjoying a beautiful summer day at Ag North."

In addition to great food, guests could also enjoy live music, an on-site caricature artist, face painting, cotton candy, a self-serve frozen yogurt and topping bar from Toppin's Frozen Yogurt, yard games and more.

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"Local bakers created beautiful cakes, including one shaped like a TerraGator."



*Retiring CFO Gary Anderson seasons the steak.*



# GROWING WITH YOUR CO-OP

– Jennifer Jones, Board Member, Whidbey Island

As a little girl, going to town was always a treat. It was a chance at earning a sucker from the bank teller, helping pick out groceries at the local grocery store, and almost every time it involved a stop at the co-op to pick up supplies.

Walking into what at that time was called “Cenex” was, for me, like walking into a toy store. Every possible thing a farm girl could need was there. The off-island customer appreciation picnic was a yearly opportunity to run around the Conway plant playing hide-and-seek with friends. Most importantly, participating in co-op life left a lasting impression on me. The element of “farmer ownership” always has me feeling proud to participate.

The opportunity to participate in young cooperative education came shortly after getting married. My husband (Tom Jones) and I attended what was called Co-op 101 in Minneapolis, MN, at the Land O’Lakes annual meeting. For the first time, I was able to dive into the co-op model. It taught me how co-op participation affects our farmers, how we can benefit, and how to manage in an ever-changing world.

One important takeaway from that first cooperative education opportunity was networking and friendships. Some of those friendships are still going strong today and usually begin with “What’s the weather like?” or “How’s farming going?”



“The element of ‘farmer ownership’ always has me feeling proud to participate.”

Over the years, my co-op education included a fly-in to Washington DC, Co-op 201 in Minneapolis, and a Land O’Lakes Cornerstone for Engagement event held locally in Leavenworth, WA. Cornerstone was sponsored by Skagit Farmers Supply and engaged the young producers within our local co-op. The event was held in 2018 and again in 2019. Cornerstone provides the opportunity to learn about the co-op and the importance of engagement in the co-op. It’s another chance to visit with other producers who share a similar passion or livelihood. This is an event that brings the community of a co-op together.

Cornerstone for Engagement will again be held in Leavenworth on December 4th and 5th of this year.

By becoming involved in these young producer programs, I have the opportunity to serve my community. I serve on the regional council for Land O’Lakes, and this gives our co-op the ability to ask questions and learn about new technology. Attending the mid-year meeting and annual meeting, I also learn about issues that are on the horizon. This is very helpful for our co-op, Skagit Farmers Supply, as we are a member of Land O’Lakes.

## SAVE THE DATE

### LAND O’LAKES CORNERSTONE FOR ENGAGEMENT

Sleeping Lady  
Mountain Resort  
Leavenworth, WA  
December 4-5, 2023

For details, call Ryan Hill  
at Skagit Farmers Supply  
Agronomy Office in Burlington,  
WA 360-757-7870

As I continue to serve as a local representative, both with Land O’Lakes and on the Skagit Farmers Supply (SFS) board, I see great potential in the cooperative world. I see a smaller yet diverse next generation that has an immense passion for keeping their farming operations alive. I see friends that I once ran around the Conway agronomy center with--now chasing after their own kids. I see opportunities for our local co-op to continue to grow and engage the next generation.

If you are interested in attending either the Land O’Lakes annual meeting or participating in the Land O’Lakes Cornerstone for Engagement put on by SFS, please send an email to me, Jennifer Jones, at [Directors@skagitfarmers.com](mailto:Directors@skagitfarmers.com).



*Jennifer visits with Paul Hansen and Tom Boland at our SFS 2018 Cornerstone for Engagement.*



GROWER SPOTLIGHT

# JB LAWN, SOD AND SO MUCH MORE!



– Brianna Hackler, Graphic & Multimedia Specialist

On a bright, sunny July morning, Brent Nielsen and his daughter, Annabelle, pull into their sweet corn field. That field is located in the heart of Woodinville, WA, but the farm is peaceful and quiet. Rows of corn, already more than three feet tall, reach for the sky.





*In 2022, JB Instant Lawn in Woodinville opened the Lavender and Flower Farm, which hosts seven acres of lavender and three acres of additional flowers, including dahlias, snap dragons, roses and wildflowers. Customers can visit the retail shop, take photos in the flower fields or build their own bouquets.*



"I love how fast everything changes," Annabelle says as she pulls out her phone and snaps photos of the growing corn. "It seems like every day there's something new."

Annabelle refers to the growing corn, but her statement also applies to how quickly their operation, JB Instant Lawn and Nursery, has evolved in recent years.

JB Instant Lawn opened its sod and wholesale nursery in Woodinville in the 1970s; the Nielsens took over management seven years ago. In the past two years, the operation has expanded to include JB Family Growers, the agrotourism side of the operation, which now houses The Pumpkin Farm, the Puzzle Patch, The Lavender Farm and Flower Market.

"The first year, the corn maze and sunflower walk was really successful, so we're trying to expand on that," Brent comments.

King County purchased the development rights for the farm to preserve agricultural lands. These rights

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“Originally a sod and wholesale nursery, JB Lawn invites the public on-site to learn more about agriculture.”

mandated that 310 acres of land in the heart of Woodinville must be used for agricultural purposes. The company that farms on the land, JB Instant Lawn and Nursery, is based in Oregon, with sod and wholesale nursery locations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The Nielsen family was no stranger to farming operations before taking over the Woodinville location. Brent started growing sod in Utah as a side job in 1987. By the early 1990s, he was managing major farms in Southern Idaho and growing about 600 acres of sod. He later worked for farms in Ohio before heading to the Pacific Northwest. His daughter, Annabelle, has also always been part of the farming operations.





*The sod cutter can harvest about 25-30 pallets per hour, which are then rolled and placed on one of nine semis to be delivered the following day.*



*JB Instant Lawn staff celebrate the ribbon cutting for their new agrotourism operation last summer. The new division is called JB Family Growers and houses the Lavender Farm and Flower Market, and the Pumpkin Farm and Puzzle Patch.*

"I was trained on a tractor when I was six," she says with a laugh.

Sod and wholesale nursery sales drove the Woodinville JB Instant Lawn location for the first five years of operation. The wholesale side sells nursery plants, trees, shrubs and perennials to landscapers and developers in Washington. Some of the most popular items in the wholesale division are arborvitae. JB Instant Lawn is also well-known for large rhododendrons, azaleas and daphne odora.

"We have a really big selection and variety," Annabelle states.

The operation sells sod to retail locations, landscapers, box stores such as Lowes and Home Depot, and to individuals. Brent says there is a big market for people to pick up their own sod; they sell between 30 and 40 pallets of sod each day at the Woodinville location, in addition to delivering sod across the northwest with nine semis.

This location also has a retail store on-site selling seed and fertilizer.

Skagit Farmers Supply (SFS) provides JB Instant Lawn with corn and fertilizers as well as chemicals like Nano and Nachurs products. Brent says these products have been instrumental in boosting lavender growth this year.

"The service has been fantastic," Brent remarks about SFS. "They've always been really good to us."

Two years ago, the Nielsens decided to dip their toes into the agrotourism side of farming. They added 20 acres of pumpkins, 10 acres of sunflowers and 10 acres of corn for a corn maze, in addition to seven acres of lavender.

Each year has been a learning process. This year, they dialed back the acres of pumpkins and sunflowers, and rearranged some of the fields to make it easier for guests to access. They also added a small agrotourism retail shop, where people can purchase oils, lotions, teas and other goods made by local artisans.





*Last year, JB Instant Lawn added a corn maze and pumpkin patch to the existing sod and wholesale nursery location in Woodinville, WA.*

The shift toward a more public-facing farm has been difficult but worth the effort, according to Annabelle.

"It's been a transition for sure," she states, "but it's been really fun to feel like part of the community, rather than a seller to people in the business."

"Locals know the name JB and they say 'oh, you've been here for years,' but they don't know who JB is," says Annabell. "I'm JB," she laughs.

The Woodinville Chamber of Commerce has been a big supporter of the farm and has helped the Nielsens connect with people in the area. The family is excited for the opportunity to bring farming and agriculture to the forefront of the community. Because the farm is located right in town, it's easy for people to access, allowing them to learn about and connect to agriculture in a new way.

"A lot of people tell us 'you've done such an amazing thing for the valley' and 'look what you've done,'" says Annabelle. She admits, "It's really cool to feel that appreciation."

In addition to allowing individuals to walk through the sunflowers and corn maze, pick pumpkins and enjoy the lavender, JB Family Growers also hosts company retreats, birthday parties and other group gatherings. This is one more way, says Annabell, that the farm can connect with a new demographic.

"It's a very different environment from what they're used to," she concludes.

In the future, the Nielsens hope to add more community events to the agrotourism side of the farm—like painting classes in the flowers or yoga in the lavender.

For more information, or to buy tickets to the farm, visit [www.jbfamilygrowers.com](http://www.jbfamilygrowers.com)



# AUTO-BLENDING LIQUID NUTRIENTS



– Ryan Hill, Agronomy Manager

The 2023 growing season is coming to an end. Our Skagit Farmers Supply (SFS) agronomy department had another strong year.

When spring approached, we were unsure of what mother nature was going to throw our way. We all experienced the late rainfalls of 2022, which delayed planting by over a month. This year, it seemed everyone was pleased to see a dry May.

In my 10 years with the agronomy department, I have never seen a planting season without at least one day of slowing due to weather. I'm proud of our team. We expanded our normal operating hours to ensure our members had the products needed to grow their crops. With a wet spring in 2022, most farmers were eager to get everything planted in 2023 for fear that the rains would return and delay their seasons.



*Our Lynden site surrounded by berry fields.*



“An automated system would reduce the time it takes to make our mixes.”



*SFS Ag staff in front of our liquid tank farm at the Burlington Agronomy Plant.*

Recently, our board and management put a strategic emphasis on expanding our liquid infrastructure. Liquid is a better and more efficient way to get nutrients to the plants. Liquid is much easier to handle and apply in the fields when time is of the essence. Liquid fertilizers have an initial higher price point, but in most instances less is applied than dry fertilizers.

With the addition of our Lynden facility in 2019, our need for liquid storage and handling increased dramatically. Our business with berry farmers in Whatcom and Skagit Counties has grown exponentially. Berry acres continue to increase, and most berry farmers use liquid fertilizer, which is applied through their drip irrigation systems.

We upgraded and expanded the liquid tank farm at our Conway facility with three new 10,000-gallon tanks and two 6,000-gallon tanks. These tanks doubled our capacity at that site and increased our efficiency. Conway is centralized in the valley, making it a great hub to support our member's liquid and dry needs. Conway's liquid supply is mainly used for corn and potato planting.

Our Burlington facility holds about 200,000-gallons of liquid and has multiple blending capabilities. We are considering the addition of an automated blending

system for the Burlington facility. Surepoint Ag visited Burlington and demonstrated how automating our system could cut mixing times and increase safety.

Local farmers continue to transition to liquid over dry fertilizer for ease of use and higher plant uptake. This past season, we saw an increase in liquid of over 200,000 gallons. We want to stay up to date with technology and find ways to serve our members faster. The automated system we are considering would cut down on the time it takes to make our mixes, add a layer of security for rinsing liquids that aren't compatible with each other, and increase overall worker safety. The system would eliminate the need for multiple employees to assist in mixing. The computer would pull from a nine-tote system set up on pallet racking.

We've expanded our liquid tank farm in Burlington, and we're able to receive product via rail at that site. These tanks allow for more storage, better buying power, and the ability to utilize our rail spur for product delivery rather than by truck. Rail cars on average hold 18,000 gallons of liquid, while a typical tanker truck holds 6,000 gallons. With that added business, our need to increase efficiency and more closely monitor inventory levels led us to research a system that will help in these areas.

# SKAGIT AWARDS RECORD NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

– Raelene Smillie, Company Administrator

Awarding scholarships to students pursuing careers in agriculture is a continuing tool Skagit Farmers Supply uses to promote agriculture in future generations. Since 1991, the cooperative has offered financial support to students pursuing higher education in an ag-related field of study.

Our committee chose eight recipients to receive \$1,500 each for the 2023-2024 academic year. For two of those eight students, this is the second year they have received scholarships. It is interesting to read their subsequent year applications and see how their education has expanded their knowledge of what is possible in the field of agriculture.

Stephen Breckenridge and Amanda Lenssen were awarded renewal scholarships. Mia Apps, Adam Baxter, Shaley Tiegs, Lindsey Jones, Nevaeh Mobley and Macoy Reiber have all been awarded first time "Career in Agriculture" scholarships.

Students can qualify for a scholarship each year of their two-or four-year education by applying no later than April 1 of each year. Renewal applications are available for those students who have previously been awarded a "Career In Agriculture" scholarship. Both first year and renewal applications may be obtained at **SKAGITFARMERS.COM**

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"We chose eight recipients to receive \$1,500 each for the 2023-2024 academic year."



## STEPHEN BRECKENRIDGE

**Stephen**, son of John Breckenridge and Jennifer Schuh, is currently enrolled at Washington State University. He's majoring in Agricultural Technology and Production Management and is in his third year of studies this fall. A 2021 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Stephen continues to be very involved in his grandparent's farm, Schuh Farms. He wrote about all he is learning at WSU, from ag economics and the impact local, regional and national governmental agencies have on agriculture to genetics to improve efficiencies in food production and the use of modern technology and equipment.



## AMANDA LENSSEN

**Amanda** graduated from Lynden Christian High School in 2022. Amanda is the daughter of Terry and Crystal Lenssen. She is in her second year at Iowa State this fall, continuing to study animal science, agronomy and ag business.



## MIA APPS

**Mia** is a student at the University of Idaho, in Moscow, ID, where she is majoring in Agricultural Education. During high school, Mia was involved in both the "showing" side of FFA as well as the leadership and state competition components of the FFA programs. Her goal of becoming an ag teacher stems from the models she had during high school, particularly her FFA advisors. The daughter of Aaron and Jennifer Apps of Lynden, Mia plans to continue her summer jobs working with the raspberry crops in Whatcom County.





### ADAM BAXTER

**Adam**, son of James and Courtney Baxter of Stanwood, has begun his college studies at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. He is pursuing a career in Ag Forestry. Adam's interest in agriculture began at a young age when he would spend time visiting the family farm and helping harvest in North Dakota. His grandpa, Ken Kadlec, was raised there. Adam says his grandpa instilled in him great respect for farmers and the others who work in agriculture, and he wants to be part of that. Adam has worked for a local farm in Silvana the past three years, doing everything from planting to delivering the final product to market. A 2023 graduate of Stanwood High School, Adam was very involved in sports, including hockey and football. This past summer, Adam worked in the warehouse at the Stanwood Country Store.



### SHALEY TIEGS

**Shaley**, daughter of Brian and Rachel Tiegs of Fairfield, WA, has begun her freshman year at the University of Idaho. The 2022-2023 Washington Wheat Ambassador for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, Shaley will be enrolled in the field of Crop Science and Management with plans of a career as a field agronomist. Her senior year at Liberty High School, she served as FFA Chapter Reporter, Vice President of her class, and an officer for the school's National Honor Society Chapter before graduating in the spring of 2023.



### LINDSEY JONES

**Lindsey** graduated from Okanogan High School this past spring and this fall is attending Washington State University as a freshman. She's studying Animal Science and Agricultural Business. Working with cattle and horses has always been part of Lindsey's daily life. She wants to continue her education by attending veterinary school and eventually taking over her family's cattle ranch. Lindsey was active in 4-H and sports in high school and served in leadership roles on her teams. She is the daughter of Sterling and Polly Jones.



### NEVAEH MOBLEY

**Nevaeh** was active in FFA during her high school years, earning a State FFA degree and representing her chapter at the National FFA Convention. She helped run the auction for the Spokane Interstate Fair and worked a booth that educated the public about agriculture in the state of Washington. Nevaeh graduated from Deer Park High School; however, she spent her younger years growing up in rural Montana where she developed her passion towards animals, raising sheep and swine. Her experience working for a local dairy solidified her decision to attend WSU and study veterinary technology. Chad and Wendy Mobley are her parents.



### MACOY REIBER

**Macoy** completed both his high school degree and his Associate of Arts degree from Spokane Falls Community College in the spring of 2023. The son of Eric and Jayme Marie Reiber, Pullman, WA, Macoy is enrolled this fall at Lewis-Clark State College. He wants to obtain his Associate of Applied Science Diesel Technology degree. He plans to begin a career as a diesel mechanic in the agricultural industry. Macoy has been active in 4-H and FFA, the Spokane Interstate Fair and the Palouse Empire Fair. He is a member of the Fair Foundation, the Threshing Association and The American Truck Historical Society. He volunteers at a local veterinary practice and works summers for farmers in the area in all aspects of farming, including machine operation and repair. Macoy and his brother raise Wagyu cattle and have their own brand (M2 Livestock).





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## MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and enhance viability of the local agriculture economy through cooperative profitability.



## VISION STATEMENT

To be the premier cooperative in the Pacific Northwest by being:

- The producers' first choice
- The consumers' first choice
- The employees' first choice



## CORE VALUES

Customer Commitment  
People  
Integrity  
Performance  
Quality  
Safety  
Community

## DIRECTORY

### MAIN OFFICE-BURLINGTON

360.757.6053

### AFCO DISTRIBUTION & MILLING

800.538.8700

### AGRONOMY-CONWAY

360.445.5015

### AGRONOMY-LYNDEN

360.755.3615

### AGRONOMY-BURLINGTON

360.757.7870

### ENERGY-MAIN OFFICE

360.757.6053

### PETROLEUM & PROPANE DELIVERY

360.757.6053 // 888.757.6053

### EMERGENCY

360.209.0310

### COUNTRY STORES

Burlington.....360.757.4055  
Colville.....509.684.2232  
Freeland.....360.331.1970  
Mount Vernon.....360.424.4207  
Oak Harbor.....360.675.2277  
Oroville.....509.560.7088  
Sedro Woolley.....360.856.6567  
Spokane Central.....509.534.1412  
Stanwood.....360.629.7033  
Stevensville (MT).....406.777.5527