

### *2016 Feed Energy Scholarship Essay*

There has never been a more urgent need to build up the agriculture industry than the most obvious; a rapidly growing population. It has become common knowledge the world population is currently growing at a rate which will exceed 9 billion people by 2050. Although it will not be easy, farmers and ranchers across the globe will be directly responsible for producing food and fiber to feed and clothe this exponentially growing population, in a fashion that is wholesome and affordable. This task will require agriculturalists to use forward thinking methods, which are innovative and complex, yet applicable for all sizes of farms and production systems. I believe I have strategically developed a skill set which will continue to allow me to effectively communicate and implement the knowledge and experiences I have gained through my education and extracurricular activities. As a result, I believe I am poised to help serve, build up and drive the agricultural industry into the coming half century using three core components.

***Leadership*** - As a current graduate student in swine nutrition at Kansas State University, sometimes it is all too easy to get caught up in our own little world of research and problem solving within the swine industry. As I reflect back through the past 10 years I quickly realize that a major portion of “who I am”, is someone who actively involves myself within an industry at many different levels. My opinion is, achieving and securing a level of involvement at a community, state, regional or national level is a cornerstone for anyone who anticipates being able to drive the agriculture industry into the future. Many of the local, state and national associations in which I have held a leadership role, all ultimately have the same goal, to feed the world. Although the agenda of each organization may differ, they focus on developing and mentoring young people who will impact the industry in the future.

*Service* – As an industry, it is imperative we maintain a servant-like attitude. It is the very nature of the business we are in. In my educational and professional endeavors, I have held a variety of service positions, because I wanted to set my wants aside for the benefit of others. In order to accomplish my future service and career ambitions, I will continually strive to conduct cutting-edge research which caters to optimizing animal performance through nutrition and engage in activities that allow me to serve others on various platforms.

*Science* – Farmers and ranchers are going to heavily rely on science driven solutions that are sustainable and perhaps most importantly, trusted by the consumer. As agriculturalists, we are going to confront new evolving challenges unlike any we've ever seen before in the production of food animals. My goal as a graduate student is to be a forward thinking scientist who is committed to serving the animal science industry. Now more than ever, it is imperative we provide resources in the form of applicable scientific techniques, in order to support future experts who are innovative and energetic in their desire to feed the world. In order to build our scientific data base, we need to increase dialogue between agriculture scientists within different production systems, on both a national and global level. Feeding more than 9 billion people will be a collective effort which will involve the collaboration of individuals across multiple disciplines in order to meet the very goal which unites us.

In conclusion, it is my belief the question we need to ask each day is “How can we serve the people of the world?”. If we strive to serve, I believe the advancement and building up of the agriculture industry will become an artifact of who we are and what we do as agriculturalists. My ability to prove through documentation of specific actions I have taken to this point in my career, makes me the ideal candidate for this scholarship.