



**Women's
Agricultural
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

**Agriculture
2021**

Leading for Change Into a New Decade

CELEBRATING 23 YEARS

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

8:30AM **Welcome:**
Emcee Amanda Durow, *Vice President, CoBank ACB*

8:45AM **General Session:**
Leading for Change into a New Decade
Creating and developing women in agriculture by empowering new leaders, bringing in diverse perspectives, and preparing for the next decade.

Panelists:
Artha Jonassaint, *2020-21 National FFA Southern Region Vice President*
Deanna Kovar, *VP of Production & Precision Ag Production, John Deere, Agriculture & Turf Division*
Julie Tesch, *President & CEO, Center for Rural Policy and Development*
Sam Schwoeppe, *Senior Account Manager, Feeding America and Dairy Farmer*

10:15AM **Break**

10:30AM **Greeting:**
Doris Mold, *President of Sunrise Ag*

Remarks:
Whitney Place, *Assistant Commissioner of Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

20th Annual Agricultural Mentoring Awards:
Honoring outstanding mentors in agriculture
Emily Krekelberg, *Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension*

11:00AM **Closing Session:**
From Alive to Thrive:
Adrienne DeSutter, *Agriculture Wellness Advocate, @SowHopeGrowHope and Crop Farmer*
You are the only one who can give the world YOU. Let's unlock your potential, be the creator of your

11:30AM **Thank You For Joining!**
A Special Thank You to our Volunteer Planning Committee supporting this conference and Women's Ag Leadership Network events!

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CLOSING KEYNOTE



Adrienne DeSutter

Agriculture Wellness Advocate, @SowHopeGrowHope and Crop Farmer

With a Master's degree in Counseling and stress on the farm, Adrienne recognized a need for mental health advocacy in agriculture, and began partnering with ag businesses and organizations to promote healthy minds and prevent farmer suicide. Adrienne farms with her husband's family on a fourth generation corn and soybean farm. They also have a small herd of cattle and a small herd of children.

PANELISTS



Artha Jonassaint

2020-21 National FFA Southern Region Vice President

Artha grew up in Okeechobee, Florida and first became involved with FFA in middle school. She is currently a sophomore at Harvard University majoring in Government and Global Health/Health Policy with the goal of pursuing a career at the intersection of agriculture, health, and public policy to provide more equitable food and health systems in the United States.



Deanna Kovar

VP of Production & Precision Ag Production, John Deere, Agriculture & Turf Division

Vice President of Production & Precision Ag Production Systems, John Deere, Agriculture & Turf Division In her 20 years with Deere, Deanna has held many roles in Sales, Marketing, Customer Support and Product Development spanning the continental US and the globe and is very knowledgeable about bringing precision ag technology to market. In her current role, she leads a global team of experts focused on unlocking value for the agriculture industry through equipment and technology solutions. Deanna, her husband Zack & daughter Maggie reside in Bettendorf, IA.



Julie Tesch

President & CEO, Center for Rural Policy and Development

Julie's passion has always been for rural America and seeing its citizens thrive. Previous to working with the Center, Julie served on management teams for the National FFA Organization and the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington, DC. A native of Waldorf, MN she received both her Master's Degree in Education and her Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. She is happy to be back living on the family farm and enjoying rural life.



Somula 'Sam' Schwoepe

Senior Account Manager, Feeding America and Dairy Farmer

Sam has spent her whole life in the dairy business and has experienced how women in leadership and decision-making roles truly enrich agricultural initiatives and impact. She believes diversity of dairy farms and dairy farmers is key to the sustainability of the industry. Sam showcases a strong female voice and presence in local and national leadership positions and hopes that more women can take a seat at the table. Sam currently resides on her fifth-generation dairy farm in Huntingburg, Indiana.

REMARKS



Whitney Place

Assistant Commissioner of Minnesota Department of Agriculture

As Assistant Commissioner, Whitney oversees the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division, the Plant Protection Division, and Laboratory Services. She has been at the MDA since 2012 in the roles of Director of Legislative Affairs, Assistant to the Commissioner, and Project Coordinator for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. She grew up in Okabena, Minnesota where she learned about agriculture in the high school FFA program and on her family & farms.