

2013 W.D. Farr Scholarships Presented

A master's student studying food and agribusiness management and a doctoral student studying biological sciences are the recipients of the 2013 W.D. Farr Scholarship presented by the National Cattlemen's Foundation. The \$12,000 award recognizes superior achievement in academics and leadership and will allow the students to further their study in fields that benefit the cattle and beef industry. The

presentations were made Aug. 9, 2013, at the 2013 Cattle Industry Summer Conference.

Benjamin Turner of Rapid City, S.D., is a doctoral candidate studying biological sciences at South Dakota State University (SDSU). Turner received his bachelor's degree *cum laude* in agriculture business from Sam Houston State University. He then received a master's degree in agribusiness from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.


During the past year, Turner has been a graduate assistant for SDSU in the Natural Resources Management Department. His career goals involve teaching and developing useful teaching tools, such as a textbook on ecological economics and management so that students can make better decisions of consequence under real-world conditions. Turner's doctoral dissertation is titled "To Plow or Not to Plow: Investigating Grassland

to Cropland Conversion in the Northern Great Plains Using Systems Thinking and Dynamics.” He is expected to graduate in 2014.

John Wood of Greeley, Colo., is seeking a master’s in business administration in food and agribusiness management at Purdue University. Wood received two bachelor’s degrees from Colorado State University in Beef Production and Business Leadership and Management. Since 2009, Wood has had several positions at JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding.

Wood has been involved in the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) Young Producers Council since 2008 and currently serves as the group’s chairman. He has also been part of many agriculture-based clubs and teams. Wood’s career goals are to serve in an upper management position that allows him to employ a macro perspective as he helps lead, manage, develop and coach a high-caliber team to obtain organizational objectives.

The annual W.D. Farr Scholarship awards were established by NCF in 2007 to recognize

outstanding students who plan to pursue careers in meat science and animal agriculture. W.D. Farr was the first president of NCF, and served as president of the American National Cattlemen’s Association, which would later become the NCBA. His career spanned 75 years and included innovations in cattle feeding, uniform beef grading, water conservation and banking. Farr died at age 97 in August 2007. 

Editor’s Note: *This article was contributed by the National Cattlemen’s Foundation.*