

Leonardo Aguiar - Cargill



Leonardo Aguiar is the Group Leader for Cargill Agriculture Supply Chain North America (CASCNA) CASCNA includes Cargill's domestic origination and export grain and oilseed programs, oilseed processing, biodiesel, crop inputs, and marine and terminals businesses in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico along with Cargill's global cotton business. Leonardo joined Cargill in 2003 as a Regional Trader for CASC South America. In 2008, he relocated to Geneva to advance his career as a trader, first as global vegetable oils and soybeans trader and later as the Global Trading Manager and Team Captain of the liquid oils and soft seed product lines.

Patrice Bailey – MN Department of Agriculture



Patrice Bailey has served as Assistant Commissioner of MDA since June 2019. He oversees Outreach, Agricultural Marketing and Development, Dairy and Meat Inspection, and Food and Feed Safety. Prior to joining MDA, he served the Twin Cities in several positions focused on bridging underrepresented communities of color to advocating for them legislatively at the Capitol. Most recently, he served as the Outreach Director for the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage. A native of Harlem, New York, Patrice holds a B.S. in Agriculture Education from Prairie View A&M University (Texas) and a master's degree in Agriculture from Iowa State University

KaZoua Berry – Big River Farms



KaZoua Berry is Farm Director at Big River Farms, a program of the Food Group of MN (which addresses issues in hunger relief, food insecurity, and resources for sourcing and growing local food). She joined Big River Farms in 2020, serving as Education Manager and Program Manager before being named Farm Director in 2022. Prior to that, KaZoua pursued her passion for health and wellness as a Certified Health and Wellness Coach in the Twin Cities. She holds master's degrees in Nutrition (American University) and Kinesiology and Exercise Science (Concordia University). She earned her BA in Criminal Justice at the University of Northwestern – St. Paul.

Keith Blanks – Nowadays



Keith Blanks is the Chief Commercial Officer for Nowadays, a plant-based protein company using patented technology to lead in the new protein economy. He is responsible for commercialization of the product and leading the design and construction of a new R&D facility and co-manufacturing of the products. Previously he served as Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Calyxt, and in senior positions at High Liner Foods and Cargill. Keith holds a BS in mechanical engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Carol Cardona – University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine



Dr. Carol Cardona is the Pomeroy Chair in Avian Health for the College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to her expertise in avian influenza, Dr. Cardona is interested in zoonoses (infectious diseases that are transmitted between animals and humans) and the role that poultry play in human health and well-being, especially in developing countries. She also serves as co-director/co-principal investigator of the Minnesota Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance at the University. Carol earned her BA at Hanover College, her DVM at Purdue University, and her PhD at Michigan State University.

Angela Dawson – 40 Acre CO-OP



Angela Dawson serves as President of 40 Acre Cooperative, a farmer owned co-op focusing on advancing the needs of black and other excluded farmers. The Co-op produces proprietary hemp genetics, and partners with farmers to grow premium commercial hemp and CBD products for various markets. Angela has several degrees and certificates in business management and law and has been a cooperative business developer for over ten years. She earned her bachelor's degree in Technical Writing at the University of Minnesota and her degrees in law and business at Mitchell Hamline school of law and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

John Deen – University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine



Dr. John Deen is Distinguished Global Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota. His research, teaching, and extension work is in epidemiology and economics, especially for swine. He focuses on measurement and optimization across the competing needs in animal agriculture and human health. Prior to the U of MN, he was on the faculty of North Carolina State University. John earned his DVM and PhD from the University of Guelph in Canada and gained board certification in the American College of Veterinary Practitioners and the American College of Animal Welfare. He earned his PhD at the University of Guelph.

Wilber De La Rosa – Regenerative Agriculture Alliance



Wilber De La Rosa is the Manager of Farmer Outreach and Technical Assistance for the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance or RAA. Wilber's work at the RAA is focused on helping farmers deploy and expand the Regenerative Poultry System. Wilber also oversees Jublio Farm, a Regenerative Poultry and Dorper sheep operation and ThreeA LLC, a poultry transportation company. He specialized in livestock production while completing his degree in Agronomy at the Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School in Honduras.

Jen Ehresmann - Hormel



at the Wharton School of Business.

Jen Ehresmann, Vice President of supply chain for Hormel Foods, is responsible for the strategic sourcing, commodity trading, customer service, planning and logistics. She joined Hormel in 2001 and held roles in export, product management and marketing prior to moving into supply chain. She was named senior Vice President of commodity and supply chain with Jennie-O Turkey Store in 2015 and was promoted to director of customer logistics and strategy at Hormel in 2020. She assumed her current role in 2021. Jen received her Bachelor's in international business from St. Cloud State University and is a graduate of the executive development program

Kevin Hall – CHS



Kevin Hall is the Vice President of Supply Chain and Continuous Agriculture at CHS. Kevin's responsible for driving strategic growth and profitability for Agricultural, Consumer Products, Oil & Gas, Chemical and Industrial companies. Kevin has expertise in Strategic Planning, Supply Chain, Logistics, Manufacturing and Lean. Before working at CHS Kevin worked in the Supply Chain division of multiple companies including, American Italian Pasta Company, Hostess, and Crestwood Midstream Partners LP. Kevin received certification from University of Kentucky College of Engineering in 2011.

Adriel Hansboro – ADM KNWBLE GRWN



Adriel Hansboro is currently a trader at ADM and manages the linseed/flax oil book for ADM's Red Wing, MN crush plant facility. In addition to working the day-to-day demand of the oil book, he also assisted in creating, developing, and managing ADM's direct to consumer food grade oil brand, KNWBLE GRWN. Adriel began his career in agriculture in 2008 when he worked as a floor clerk at the Minneapolis Grain Exchange and when the MGEX futures trading pit closed, worked in sales, logistics, and trade execution with Horizon Milling/Ardent Mills and Cargill. Adriel earned his BA in Corporate Communications from the University of

Northern Illinois.

John Hausladen – MN Trucking Association



John Hausladen is the President and CEO of the Minnesota Trucking Association. He has more than thirty years of experience successfully bringing together diverse stakeholders to achieve organizational success. He is skilled in legislative advocacy, public relations, non-profit association management, strategic planning, and consensus-building. John is also an expert in trucking industry issues. Prior to joining MN Trucking Association in 1996, he served as Executive Director of the Broiler and Egg Association of Minnesota and prior to that, was Executive Director of the Minnesota Turkey Association. John graduated from Bethel University with a BA in communications.

Jaime Goehner – ADM



Jaime Goehner is a Commercial Manager in the Ag & Oilseeds Division of ADM. Prior to joining ADM in March 2021 Jaime spent 13 years at Cargill, most recently as manager of the U.S. Softseeds business based in West Fargo, ND. Prior to that, she worked in various leadership roles across the Food Ingredients and Bio Industrial Division. She is a graduate of College of Saint Benedict (2007) and the University of Minnesota Carson School of Management (2016) with a master's degree in Business Administration.

Dan Kowalski – CoBank



Dan Kowalski leads the Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Exchange Research functions for CoBank. In this role, Dan leads research efforts related to the U.S. economy, agricultural sectors, and rural utilities. He also leads CoBank's internal strategy team. Prior to joining CoBank in 2011, Dan worked as a consultant, providing advisory services to the food and agribusiness industries. He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, a master's degree in agricultural economics from Penn State University, and a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Delaware.

Charles Levine – Hemp Acres



Charlie Levine is Founder and Chief Operating of Hemp Acres, a Minnesota-based hemp processor and grower. In 2016, Levine saw an opportunity to build a processing facility on his grandparents' farm in Waconia. And, with a background in electrical engineering and agriculture, he did just that, becoming one of the first licensed hemp processors in the state of Minnesota. In 2021 Hemp Acres expanded to include a new 37,000 square foot SQF-certified food manufacturing facility and fiber processing facility in Waconia. Hemp Acres currently has three processing facilities for fiber, grain, and botanical extracts.

Kyle Marinkovich – Northern Diversified Solutions



Kyle Marinkovich is Chief Executive Officer of Northern Diversified Solutions (NDS). The company provides solutions in health and wellness ingredients, industry insights and new technology consulting. As CEO, Kyle delivers his strategic vision and direction for an integrated specialty ingredient business serving customers in food and beverage, ingredient processing, nutraceuticals and bio-industrial products. Prior to joining NDS, Kyle served as Commercial Leader for Global Edible Oil Solutions at Cargill. Kyle earned his MBA in Marketing Strategy at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota and his BA at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Laura Molgaard - University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine



Dr. Laura Molgaard became Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine in June of 2021 after serving as Interim Dean since August 2019. Prior to that, she served as Senior Associate and Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the University. Laura first joined the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997. Previously, she taught at a veterinary technical program and before that in veterinary private practice focusing on small animal patients. Laura earned her degree from Iowa State University in 1991.

Blois Olson – Fluence Media



Blois Olson is the founder of Fluence Media, a hybrid firm that combines a strategic and creative agency and a media company. Fluence Media is a trusted partner for clients on reputation and critical issues in nearly every business sector. The agency is called upon daily to provide perspective, strategy, and execution to clients on public affairs, litigation communication, labor and management, online and social media consulting, crisis communications, and other critical issues facing brands, personalities, and organizations. Blois was named a 2012 Marketer of the Year by Minnesota Business magazine. Blois received BAs in both Political Science and Journalism at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Randy Russell – The Russell Group



Randy is President of the Russell Group. Prior to joining the firm in 1986, he served in a number of agricultural policy positions, including Chief of Staff for Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economics at USDA, Vice President for Agriculture and Trade Policy at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Director of Government Relations for The Pillsbury Company, and the 1981 Farm Bill Coordinator for USDA. Randy also served on the Senate Agriculture Committee staff for former Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN). Randy completed his Public Administration degree and masters in economics at George Mason University.

Tim Walz – Governor of the State of Minnesota



Tim Walz is Minnesota's 41st Governor. His career is defined by public service, from serving our country in the military, to serving our students as a high-school teacher and football coach, to serving our state in Congress. Tim's parents instilled in him the values that guide his commitment to common good and selfless service. Soon after his high school graduation, Tim enlisted in the Army National Guard, retiring as Command Sergeant Major Walz in 2005 from the 1-125 Field Artillery Battalion. Tim attended Chadron State College, graduating with a social science degree in 1989. He then joined one of the first government-approved groups of American teachers to work in Chinese high schools and taught in the People's Republic of China from 1989-90. Upon his return from China, he served full time in the Army National Guard, and accepted a teaching and coaching position. Tim won his first election to the United States House of Representatives in 2006 and was re-elected for another 5 terms serving Minnesota's First Congressional District.