

## PRESS RELEASE

# ALEXANDRIA OTT NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Alexandria A. Ott of St. Mary's, Ohio, has been named a 2023 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES and honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus,” said Ann Christy, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs. “The 25 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Ott is an agribusiness and applied economics major in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE) and was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award's attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The first-generation honors student completed two internships. She worked as a membership and marketing intern with the Allen, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert County Farm Bureau in Wapakoneta, Ohio. For her second internship, she worked in Lexington, Kentucky at Farm Credit Mid-America as a sales intern for Rural 1st lending.

“At Rural 1st, I was able to experience real interactions with customers through farm visits and construction progress reports, as well as sitting in on sales calls and district-wide meetings,” Ott said. “Both internships helped me build confidence, create a professional network, and learn more about both the financial and policy industries.”

The Auglaize County resident shared that her most valuable learning experience was the Sales in Agribusiness class (AEDE 3121). She said, “The class challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and gain confidence in my ability to enter the sales sector of agriculture. I have been introduced to several principles, tactics, and practical skills that are used by experienced sales professionals.”

Ott's extracurricular activities included service as a CFAES College Ambassador; CFAES Peer Mentor; the CFAES Celebration of Students; Ohio State Collegiate Farm Bureau; Agricultural Systems Management Club; treasurer of the Ohio State Agribusiness Club; and co-chair of her CFAES Learning Community. In addition, she pays it forward by serving as co-chair of the Auglaize County Prospects 4-H Club and advisor of the county CARTEENS.

Ott's AEDE nominators wrote, “Ally's knowledge of the agricultural industry and her desire to further advance her leadership skills within the agricultural sector continue to drive her passion to succeed. Within CFAES, Ally serves as a peer mentor and CFAES Ambassador guiding incoming students through their first year and helping with recruitment and retention initiatives. Additionally, Ally is a strong believer in giving back and helping to

give opportunities to those who helped her to get to where she is today. She was inspired to pay it forward and volunteer as a 4-H and CARTEENS advisor through OSU Extension. As an advisor for 4-H, she serves as a leader for the members to help guide them to learn and succeed with their projects. Being a CARTEENS advisor, she helps to educate teen drivers, as well as working to advise teen members to gain experience in leadership, public speaking, and organization.”

After graduation, Ott will work at Mercer Landmark agricultural cooperative, headquartered in Celina, Ohio, as a business unit trainee. “I plan to devote my time and knowledge to helping the agricultural community make valuable business decisions in this competitive and ever-changing industry,” she said. “I will move back to my hometown where I can contribute my time and effort into the agricultural community that I grew up in.”

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Wednesday, March 22, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 25 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at [go.osu.edu/CFAES2023DSA](https://go.osu.edu/CFAES2023DSA).

“Honoring the 25 recipients for their excellence will be a highlight for us this spring. These students have excelled and most certainly will continue to thrive in their future careers,” said Christy.

In autumn 2022, there were 2,248 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing bachelor of science degrees in 22 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at [go.osu.edu/B4V2](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## Alexandria A. Ott

ST. MARYS, OH

AGRIBUSINESS AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL,  
AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Photo available by sending a request to [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)

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