

PRESS RELEASE

KYLE D. NORTHUP NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Kyle D. Northup of Crown City, Ohio, has been named a 2024 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 23 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Northup is an agricultural systems management major in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE). He was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The first-generation college student completed two years at Ohio State’s ATI campus in Wooster before transferring to Columbus.

The Gallia County resident interned as a production and agronomy intern with Beck’s Superior Hybrids at their Chillicothe, Ohio farm. Beck’s is the fourth-largest seed brand in the United States. “Coming from a cattle background, the benefits I gained were learning about the production of seed corn and beans and understanding how the agronomy career works,” he said. “Beck’s also sent interns from across the United States to a three-day meeting at its headquarters in Atlanta, Indiana.”

Another unique experience for Northup was working on a Beck’s research project. “My coworkers and I planted a superior dandelion breed that we successfully transplanted and harvested to use the latex from this dandelion hybrid to make mobile tires,” he said.

Kathryn Boening-Ulman, FABE assistant professor of professional practice, has taught Northup in several classes. She said, “Kyle demonstrates a high level of skill at applying his knowledge gained from both inside and outside of the academic setting. Hailing from a small town along the Ohio River near the southern Ohio/West Virginia border, he has shown great tenacity in working towards a bright future in a variety of agricultural endeavors.”

Northup identified Boening-Ulman as his mentor and an influential part of his college career. “I have taken a few classes from her, and she has always been there to help me out along the way. I want to acknowledge her support whether it was with schoolwork or advice for after graduation,” he said.

According to Boening-Ulman, Northup was often one of the first students in the classroom and the last to leave. “What sets Kyle apart from other students is his strong work ethic. He excels in all technical areas of agriculture, but particularly soil and water sciences and precision agriculture,” she said.

On the dean's list each semester, Northup is a member of the Agriculture Systems Management Club. He also works part-time for COBA/Select Sires in Plain City, Ohio.

After graduation, Northup will start his agriculture career in a job that provides enough revenue for his ultimate goal of starting his own landscaping and excavating business.

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Thursday, April 4, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 23 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at go.osu.edu/CFAES2024DSA.

"Honoring the award 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 2023, there were 2,224 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in 21 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



Kyle D. Northup

CROWN CITY, OH

Agricultural Systems Management

Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Photo available by sending a request to flood.13@osu.edu

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