

## PRESS RELEASE

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# BUEHLER NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Mary Buehler of Anna, Ohio, has been named a 2020 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, recognizing the top graduating seniors from each of the academic units on the Columbus campus,” said Steven Neal, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs.

Buehler, an agribusiness and applied economics major from Shelby County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

“One of the hallmarks of our college is an emphasis on student success, and it is heartwarming to see it exemplified through the accomplishments of our students,” Neal said. “Recipients are our future innovators and leaders who have already made an impact within the academic environment at this university and beyond.”

In nominating her for the award, CFAES faculty members credited Buehler, a first-generation college student from rural Ohio, with taking what she learned from class and her family farm to help bridge the gap between agriculturalists and consumers.

She connected with thousands of youth across Ohio when she took a one-year leave of absence from Ohio State to serve the 26,000 Ohio FFA members as their state president. She engaged the public in hands-on agricultural activities as a GrowNextGen Ambassador for the Ohio Soybean Council, represented the college to prospective students as a CFAES Ambassador, and was named a Sesquicentennial Scholar by Ohio State.

“Through her time in FFA, Mary has already created ripples throughout Ohio agriculture, and due to her focus of passion throughout college, she is sure to continue to be a catalyst within the agricultural industry,” said nominator Brian E. Roe, associate chair and Van Buren Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. “Through her networking connections, Mary obtained four internships spanning the agricultural industry from federal government to regional cooperatives.”

In addition to internships and a study abroad trip to Brazil, Buehler was selective with her extracurricular activities. She joined Alpha Zeta Partners to develop her cultural intelligence; the

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**2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD**

National Agri-Marketing Association team to refine her leadership skills; and the Sphinx Senior Class Honorary, Ohio State's oldest honorary, to enhance her understanding of diversity and inclusion.

In addition to the Sphinx, her academic honors included the Bucket and Dipper Junior Class Honorary, being named to the Dean's List every semester, and being named to the Mid-America CropLife Association Young Leader Scholarship Program and the Farm Credit Mid-America College Scholars Program.

"Mary epitomizes the college's core values of excellence, diversity and inclusion, and integrity," Roe said.

Upon graduation, Buehler will move to Illinois where she will remain engaged within the agricultural industry. "Once settled in Illinois, I look forward to being an active member in my local community," she said. "I hope to engage with local FFA chapters and 4-H clubs. I am also eager to find an Ohio State Alumni Association chapter to join because being a Buckeye is not just for the four or five years, it is for life."

An awards dinner to recognize all 25 CFAES Distinguished Seniors has been canceled due to COVID-19.

"The safety of our community is our top priority," Neal said. "We are deeply sorry the planned celebration will not occur. The commitment and dedication of these students to their undergraduate education will still be recognized with a special award package that will be mailed later this semester."

In autumn 2019, there were 2,486 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 31 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs online by visiting <https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/>.



## MARY L. BUEHLER

ANNA, 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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