

PRESS RELEASE

MATTHEWS NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Tanner Matthews of Ohio City, 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.

Matthews, an agricultural systems management major from Van Wert County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he 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.”

Nominator Dewie Mann, Matthews’ academic advisor and director of Ohio State’s Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, wrote, “Tanner currently serves as vice-president of both the Crops and Soils Club and the Agricultural Systems Management (ASM) Club. He is also a member of the CFAES Student Council. During his time as vice president, the ASM Club was named the 2019 CFAES Student Organization of the Year, which reflects the care and dedication Tanner put in as a leader of the organization.”

Matthews was a CFAES Newcomb Scholar in his sophomore and junior years, reflecting his top academic performance, and was awarded three scholarships from the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE). He also participated in an education abroad trip to Brazil, calling it his most rewarding learning experience that provided him a new perspective on global agriculture.

“When one thinks of the college experience, Tanner represents a student who has taken advantage of all the opportunities a college like CFAES has to offer,” said FABE lecturer Mike Rowan. “The practicality of the ASM degree has allowed Tanner to take his lessons and lab experiences outside the classroom. Back at his family’s operation, he applied practices like variable-rate fertilizer application to reduce inputs while reducing excess runoff of nutrients.

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Wherever Tanner goes, he is always thinking of ways to use innovative technology to improve the state of agriculture.”

Matthews also applied his academic passions to three internship experiences, working as an agronomy intern with Mercer Landmark in Coldwater, Ohio; a machinery specialist and parts intern with Kenn-Field Group in Van Wert, Ohio; and a research agronomy intern with Precision Planting in Tremont, Illinois.

After graduation, Matthews plans to return to his 2,800-acre family corn and soybean farm and grow the operation both in terms of size and by diversifying into beef cattle production. He also plans to make the farm more sustainable with different conservation practices that benefit the land and are also cost-effective.

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/>.



TANNER W. MATTHEWS

OHIO CITY, OH

AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND
BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

WRITER(S)

Sherrie R. Whaley
whaley.3@osu.edu
614-292-2137

SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood
flood.13@osu.edu
614-247-6624