

**PRESS RELEASE****CHRIS BAIRD NAMED  
2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Chris Baird of Springfield, Ohio, has been named a 2021 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.

Baird, an agricultural systems management major from Clark 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.”

Baird was nominated for the Distinguished Senior Award by lecturer Anastasia Britt in the CFAES Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

“For many students in college, balancing time is a critical skill. For Chris Baird, it is a skill that comes naturally,” Britt wrote. “Chris maintained a pristine academic record all while being highly involved in several student organizations, working as a student assistant, holding numerous internships, and still finding time to make great friends and help out back at the family farm.”

While maintaining a 4.0 grade point average, Baird also was heavily involved with campus clubs and service opportunities, including a trip to North Carolina and another to Uruguay. The most rewarding experience he had at Ohio State was the study abroad program he took part in after his freshmen year, he said. He traveled to Queensland, Australia, for a month to study human impacts on the natural environment.

“Not many agricultural systems management students take part in education abroad experiences. But Chris has seen these international experiences open his eyes to new perspectives in agriculture,” Britt wrote.

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD****Academic Programs**100 Agricultural Administration  
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210614-292-6891 | [students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu](http://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu)

After graduation, Baird will return to Clark County to help manage his family's grain farm while working as a drone pilot for Aerial Plot, an aerial imagery and analysis company.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's recognition of the CFAES Distinguished Seniors occurred via a YouTube Premiere video on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Beginning at 7 p.m., CFAES dean and vice president for agricultural administration, Cathann A. Kress, recognized award recipients on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel. View the celebration video at [go.osu.edu/CFAES2021DSA](https://go.osu.edu/CFAES2021DSA).

"Although we could not gather in person, this honor and these 25 students remain an important focus of our college," Neal said. "Their commitment to their education and dedication to their time as a student in CFAES was recognized with the YouTube Premiere video, and via social media and professional networking platforms. A special award package will also be mailed to each top senior."

In autumn 2020, there were 2,457 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 32 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at [go.osu.edu/B4V2](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## CHRISTOPHER D. BAIRD

SPRINGFIELD, OH

AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL  
AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

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

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