

PRESS RELEASE**MARYELLEN BLISS NAMED
2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Maryellen Bliss of Ashland, Ohio, has been named a 2022 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 and director of academic programs.

Bliss, an agriscience education major from Ashland 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.”

After graduation, Bliss plans to pursue a career in agriculture education as a high school teacher and FFA adviser, something she has been working toward from her start at Ohio State.

“I want to be the one who helps students be prepared to be informed citizens,” she said. “I have a passion for storytelling, agriculture, and finding the good in others and the world, and want my future endeavors to align with this.”

Bliss has immersed herself in the Agricultural Education Society, Ohio State’s oldest student organization, including serving as president. She also has been active in Jacob’s Porch, the Lutheran campus ministry at Ohio State. In 2021, she was named a National Teach Ag Ambassador, one of 16 in the nation. She also has served as a camp counselor for ExploreAg Camps and as a Franklin County Farm Bureau Fellow.

On summer weekends, Bliss traveled the state with her family business, Red Haw Supply, setting up booths with her mother at tractor pulls.

“Going to tractor pulls feels a part of who I am, as it is all I have ever known with my family traveling around the state and country every summer,” she said.

But Bliss said her most valuable learning experience has come in the past semester as a student teacher.

“I feel immersed in a space where every day I get to try on the ag teacher hat and see if I can picture myself



doing this as a career in a few short months. There is a transition made from being primarily the student to being teacher and still a student who is learning. My students teach me every day about myself,” she said.

Due to persisting impacts of the pandemic, celebration of this year’s CFAES Distinguished Seniors took place during a by invitation reception at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on The Ohio State University’s Columbus campus on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. At the recognition celebration hosted by CFAES dean and vice president for agricultural administration Cathann A. Kress and associate dean and director of academic programs Steven Neal, recipients were presented with special award packages. A YouTube video recognizing the award recipients on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel was also released on that same day. View the recognition video at go.osu.edu/CFAES2022DSA.

While this year’s recognition took on a varied format from previous years for the 2022 recipients, Neal said, “We were pleased to be able to acknowledge their commitment to their education and dedication to their time as a student in CFAES by recognizing them with the YouTube video, and via social media and professional networking platforms.”

In autumn 2021, there were 2,859 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 34 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2



MARYELLEN G. BLISS

ASHLAND, OH

AGRISCIENCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION,
EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP

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

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