

PRESS RELEASE**PRESTON SHEETS NAMED
2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Preston Sheets of Cortland, 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.

Sheets, an agricultural systems management major from Trumbull 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.”

Sheets said he started out with an outsider’s view of the agriculture industry. He did not grow up on a farm, and his school didn’t have an FFA chapter. But he worked hard to learn about his chosen major.

Sheets joined the Agricultural Science Management Club, the Buckeye Dairy Club, and the Delta Theta Sigma and Alpha Zeta Partners ag fraternities. With Alpha Zeta Partners, Sheets spent six weeks traveling around Brazil learning about foreign agriculture, natural resources, and environmental sciences.

“This experience was the most enjoyable and rewarding for me because I gained so much knowledge on foreign agriculture and relations,” he said. “I met some of the most amazing people and saw some of the most breathtaking views during those six short weeks. I was able to study at Brazil’s top agriculture school, Lois De Quieroz College of Agriculture, under some of Brazil’s smartest agricultural minds.”

He also worked dairy shows to earn money for college.

“I worked tons of dairy cattle shows and sales all over the country for farmers. This was a great way for me to network with farmers and other individuals who have the same passion I do for the dairy cattle industry,” he said. He said he also “gained tons of knowledge and was given the ability to work with some of the best cows in the United States.”

Sheets said his most valuable learning experiences came during his two internships, first, remotely, with John Deere as a marketing and product support intern for the Small Grains Production Systems Innovation Team.

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD****Academic Programs**100 Agricultural Administration
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His second internship was with Select Sires Inc., where he worked in marketing. He said his second internship inspired him to go to graduate school.

After graduation, Sheets plans to attend Cornell University to pursue a master's degree in dairy business and genetic management.

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.



PRESTON R. SHEETS

CORTLAND, 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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