

NEWS RELEASE



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Iowa Finance Authority Recognizes Top Beginning Farmer Banks and Bankers

Iowa lenders recognized for advancing opportunities for beginning Iowa farmers

DES MOINES – The Iowa Finance Authority recognized National Ag Day today with the announcement of the banks and bankers who assisted the most beginning farmers in 2017. The Iowa Agricultural Development Division's (IADD) Top Bank and Banker awards recognize the top banker and banks with the most loans and the largest total loan amount through the Beginning Farmer Loan Program and Loan Participation Program.

"The Iowa Finance Authority has partnered with local lenders to assist more than 6,100 beginning farmers purchase a total of more than 1.7 million acres through our programs," said Iowa Finance Authority Executive Director Dave Jamison. "I commend the top producing banks and bankers recognized today for their commitment to assisting beginning farmers at the onset of their careers. We look forward to building upon these partnerships to help many more beginning farmers in the years to come."

Beginning Farmer Loan Program:

Bank of the Year

Hills Bank & Trust - Hills

Hills Bank & Trust was named the 2017 IADD Bank of the Year for assisting four beginning farmers with loans totaling more than \$1 million through the Beginning Farmer Loan Program.

Banker of the Year

Nicholas Winter, State Bank - New Hampton

Nicholas Winter was named the 2017 IADD Banker of the Year for assisting four beginning farmers with loans totaling more than \$1 million through the Beginning Farmer Loan Program.

Loan Participation Program

Bank of the Year:

American State Bank – Sioux Center

American State Bank was named the 2017 IADD Bank of the Year for assisting three beginning farmers with loans totaling more than \$300,000 through the Loan Participation Program.

Banker of the Year

Josh Van Kekerix, American State Bank - Sioux Center

Josh Van Kekerix was named the 2017 IADD Banker and Bank of the Year. Van Kekerix closed the most loans in 2017 by assisting three farmers with loans totaling more than \$300,000 through the Loan Participation Program.

The Iowa Beginning Farmer Loan Program provides low-interest loans to assist new farmers in acquiring agricultural property. Beginning Farmer Loans are financed by participating lenders or contract sellers with federal tax-exempt bonds issued by the Iowa Finance Authority. The interest received on contract sales or direct loans by individuals is also exempt from state income taxes.

More information about beginning farmer programs is available at IowaFinanceAuthority.gov/IADD.

The Iowa Legislature created the Iowa Finance Authority, in 1975 to undertake programs to assist in the attainment of housing for low- and moderate-income Iowans. Since then, the Iowa Finance Authority's role has grown to include nearly 40 affordable housing, water quality and agricultural development programs.

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