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South Central College Hosts 10th Annual Ag Symposium

North Mankato, Minnesota

South Central College announces the 10th Annual Ag Symposium, "New Tools for New Rules," presented by SCC North Mankato Campus Foundation and Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. Scheduled for January 30, 2018, South Central College hosts the event each year to address constant changing needs of the modern producer.

Check-in will begin at 8:00 a.m., and the program will follow starting at 8:30 a.m. South Central College, located at 1920 Lee Boulevard in North Mankato, MN will host the event in its John Votca Conference Center. New this year, a half-day session geared toward high school students will be held in SCC's Heritage Hall in conjunction with the main symposium.

The Ag Symposium focuses on financial operations, succession planning, tax planning, business management, and more. Keynote speakers this year include Dr. David Kohl (Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech), Chris Koch (Inspirational Canadian Farmer, born without arms and legs), and Mykel Taylor (Economist, Kansas State University). A panel discussion, "Fostering Your Relationship with your Ag Lender," will feature Ahnna Compart, Compeer Financial, and Karen Wambeke, Bremer Bank.

The special half-day session for high school students will feature presentations by Dr. Kohl and Chris Koch, along with a panel discussion featuring SCC alumni and current Ag students, followed by a tour. "We plan to engage area high school students, introducing them to South Central College, and providing them with information about education for Ag careers and additional opportunities," said Erin Aanenson, Executive Director, SCC North Mankato Campus Foundation.



South Central College (SCC) is home to one of Minnesota's most respected Agriculture programs. Long recognized as leaders in Agribusiness, Ag Management and Ag Service, SCC's Ag programs have been preparing students to be the best in their respective disciplines since the early 1960s. Statistical data collected by the college's Farm Business Management program is often cited by Ag authorities across the state and nation. So, how best to leverage this reputation and expertise for non-students? The 10th Annual South Central College Ag Symposium fits the bill.

Cost for the one-day symposium is \$99 (early-bird rate) and \$119 for those who register after January 19. Special funding is available for Veterans. All proceeds support Ag scholarships, program advancement, and general Foundation needs at South Central College, North Mankato Campus.

Lunch is included in the ticket price. For more information, contact SCC at 507-389-7203. For tickets, visit www.southcentral.edu/agsymposium and click on the registration link or call 507-389-7203.

There is no fee for the ½-day high school student session. Pre-registration is required. Please call 507-389-7497 for information about this session.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors including Presenting Sponsor Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, CFS, Compeer, United Prairie Bank, Bremer Bank, Christensen Farms, CliftonLarsonAllen, Crystal Valley Cooperative, Blethen, Gage & Krause, ISG, Mosaic, MinnStar Bank, Minnesota Corn Growers, Minnesota Pork Producers, Nu-Tech Seeds, South Central Center for Agriculture, Corporate Graphics, and Radio Mankato.

Speaker Bios:

David Kohl, Ph.D.

David Kohl received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. For 25 years, Kohl was Professor of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. Kohl is Professor Emeritus in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department at Virginia Tech. Kohl has traveled over 9 million miles throughout his professional career! He has conducted more than 6,000 workshops and seminars for agricultural groups such as bankers, Farm Credit, FSA, and regulators, as well as producer and agribusiness groups. He has published four books and over 2,100 articles on financial and business-related topics in journals, extension, and other popular publications. Kohl is currently President of AgriVisions, LLC, a knowledge-based consulting business providing cutting-edge programs to



leading agricultural organizations worldwide. He is also a business coach and part owner of Homestead Creamery, a value added dairy business in the Blue Ridge Mountains. On a more personal note, Dave enjoys playing basketball and likes most sports, farms, dogs, and covered bridges; he dislikes lazy students, administrative bureaucracies, and paperwork!

Chris Koch

Chris Koch was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, and raised in the small farming and ranching community of Nanton, Alberta. Although he was born without arms and legs, he says it was clearly established early on in his life that he would not be raised with pity or sympathy. According to Chris, "My family could have treated my disability like a total tragedy but instead chose to take it all in stride and make the best of the situation. After all, I still had a good head on my shoulders... and with that, anything is possible."

"I absolutely love sharing my story and spreading my message. My life has been a fun ride with a lot of laughs, and I make sure that my presentation reflects that. I have not let limitations or obstacles in my life stand in the way of achieving my goals and dreams, and I encourage others to do the same. Furthermore, I am constantly setting new goals for myself, and I think it's important for everyone to always be challenging themselves as well. Simply put, if I can do the things I have done so far in my life, what is stopping anyone else from doing the same?"

Mykel Taylor, Ph.D.

Mykel Taylor is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. Dr. Taylor's research and extension programs are focused in the area of farm management. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana and attended Montana State University majoring in Agribusiness Management. Her Ph.D. in Economics is from North Carolina State University. She has worked in extension positions at both Kansas State University and Washington State University. Some of her current research areas include measuring basis risk for commodity grains, evaluation of Farm Bill commodity programs, and analyzing trends in Kansas agricultural land values, rental rates, and leasing arrangements.

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