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Hometown Focus



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Dakota Pemberton: State FFA Officer Prepares for Career in Ag



Dakota Pemberton, of Richland, Mo., says his college education and FFA experience have helped prepare him for a career in farming. (Photo courtesy Dakota Pemberton)

By Benjamin Herrold
Missouri Farmer Today - April 16, 2021

COLUMBIA, Mo. — For Dakota Pemberton, agriculture is a way of life, and ag education has helped prepare him for a farming career. Pemberton, from Richland, Missouri, currently serves as a state FFA vice-president and attends the University of Missouri in Columbia.

After school, he wants to return to the family farm and help run the beef cattle operation.

"I grew up on a beef cattle farm, a family farm," Pemberton says. "It's my roots, it's what I know."

He is majoring in animal science at MU, with a minor in political science. In addition to helping him prepare for his career path, Pemberton says the school's research farms help him learn about a variety of types of agriculture, representative of Missouri's diverse agricultural landscape.

"It's amazing to go to research

farms at MU and learn about other industries," Pemberton says.

He also had variety in his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) in FFA, combining forage production, beef cattle entrepreneurship and a trucking service company. The forage production involved a rotation of rye and corn.

Earning a spot on the state officer team was the culmination of a long effort, with the usual officer selection process interrupted by the coronavirus outbreak last spring.

"When I found out I was a state officer, we'd been going at it for a couple of months getting to that point," Pemberton says.

He found out in a Zoom presentation, and Pemberton says it was a memorable moment and the payoff for a lot of hard work and dreaming.

"It was a mixture of relief and excitement, and it kind of left me speechless," he says. "It'd been a

goal of mine since I was little."

Pemberton remembers the officer team going right to work on an introductory video immediately after finding out they were state officers.

"We had to hit the ground with our legs running," he says.

While there have been chal-

lenges to being a state officer in a COVID-affected year, Pemberton says he takes a more optimistic view, that the disruptions gave the officer team the opportunity to get creative with how they fulfilled their duties.

"We've had to think outside the box," he says. "We've had to be creative. We were able to put together a year like people had never seen."

As Pemberton's year as a state officer draws closer to the end, he says the people he met and worked with have been the best part of his FFA experience.

"The best memories I think come from meeting everyone," he says.

The learning continues as Pemberton attends his college classes, learning about the best management practices and the latest technology to help agriculture continue to advance. He says he likes being a part of that progress and the industry's history of improvement.

"In the past couple of years, we've made great strides in technology and different kinds of agri-



Dakota Pemberton, of Richland, serves as Missouri state FFA Vice-President. (Photo courtesy Dakota Pemberton)

culture than what my grandpa did when he was starting out," Pemberton says. "I like seeing the progress we make to continue to improve and feed people."

(Used by Permission)

Ozark Fisheries celebrates 95 Years in Business

By Haley Blackburn

Ozark Fisheries celebrated their 95th year of being in business on April 13, 2021. They are now a fourth generation family fish farm selling several types of goldfish and koi throughout the country.

Before Ozark Fisheries began, F. Lawrence Bailliere "Bally" and Dr. Charles A. Furrow originally built a rainbow trout hatchery in Stoutland, Missouri on 97 acres of land in the early 1920's. Once the demand for ornamental fish skyrocketed, the two men decided to shift their focus to raising quality goldfish and koi instead. By 1926, the trout farm became Ozark Fisheries and would become the fourth-generation family owned and operated business that it is today.

As the business grew, F. Lawrence Bailliere and Dr. Charles A. Furrow needed assistance developing the farm so they decided to hire fish biologist Roy Nakashima in 1928. Mr. Nakashima earned his education at the Imperial School of Fisheries in Tokyo, Japan and became one of the first certified fish biologists in the United States. His role at Ozark Fisheries was to help establish the foundation by assisting the construction and operation of the company.

Fun fact: when a need for lighter-weight shipping came



Ozark Fisheries shipping box. (Ozark Fisheries Facebook)



about, railcar services transitioned to the postal service, and Ozark Fisheries developed and patented the Golfpak mailer in 1955. This was the beginning of shipping live fish in a cardboard box with plastic bags and remains the standard method used throughout the aquaculture industry to this day.

Fast forward to 1970 when Ozark Fisheries would purchase their second location in Martinsville, IN. Before Ozark Fisheries took ownership, this farm was originally established in 1899 as Grassyfork Fisheries and is the oldest private farm in the United States.

Now 95 years later, Ozark Fisheries raises rosy red minnows, feeder goldfish, and an assortment of ornamental fancy goldfish--



Ozark Fisheries trapdoor snails. (Ozark Fisheries Facebook)

cluding red fantails, calico fantails, pond comets, shubunkins, and sarasa comets. The farm also sells both standard fin and butterfly koi, as well as bullfrog tadpoles, trapdoor snails, and crayfish.

Ozark Fisheries is located at 1100 Ozark Fisheries Road, Stoutland, MO 65567.



Feeder goldfish in Ozarks Fisheries holding tank.

For more information and to learn more about Ozark Fisheries, please visit www.ozarkfisheries.com. They can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.



Ozarks Fisheries crayfish. (Photo Ozarks Fisheries Facebook)

Dixon's Upcoming Events

(Events are tentative due to possible COVID-19 Precautions.)

- Mon., May 3:** Dixon City Council Meets at City Hall, Elm St., 6:00 pm (Tentative Date)
- Fri., May 7:** DCSF BBQ across from MPC and MCB - 10:30am-2:00pm and 4pm-8pm. Help us fund scholarships.
- Fri., May 7: First Fridays** in Downtown Dixon 6:00pm-8:00pm - sponsored by Dixon Chamber of Commerce. Booths, activities, music at Olde Oak Station, and more.
- Sat., May 8:** Dixon VFW Post 4238 Free Breakfast at VFW Hall, 8am-10am (Donation only)
- Sat., May 8:** Electronics, Appliance & Tire Collection at Dixon High School, 9:00am to Noon (Residential items only)
- Sun., May 9:** MOTHER'S DAY
- Mon., May 17:** Dixon Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting, 6:00pm at Olde Oak Station, 300 Elm Street, Dixon
- Wed., May 19:** DHS Baccalaureate 6:00pm, Senior Honors Night to follow at 6:30pm
- Thur., May 20:** Good Samaritan at the Dixon Area Caring Center to pass out monthly commodities 1:00-3:00 pm
- Thur., May 20:** Dixon R-1 School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm - Dixon R-1 Administration Building
- Fri., May 21:** DHS Graduation at high school gym, 7:00pm
- Mon., May 24:** Dixon 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony at DMS Gym, 6:00pm
- Tue., May 25:** Last Day of School - Early Release 12:30pm
- Mon., May 31:** MEMORIAL DAY

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