

Leave things better than you found them is a lifelong lesson for Strantz



Hello, I am Chase Strantz from Canton. I am the son of Russell Strantz and Karen Smolczyk. I have one sister, Madison, who attends the West Point Military Academy in New York.

I graduated from Canton High School in 2017. After high school I attended Spoon River College graduating with an Associate in Arts degree in 2019.

Following SRC I transferred to Western

Illinois University graduating in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in Accounting.

Currently, I am in my final year of graduate school at WIU and will graduate in May with a Master of Accountancy. I am working towards studying for the CPA exam.

Throughout high school, I was heavily involved with the Canton FFA. I competed in many Career Development Events (CDE's). These helped me gain confidence in public

speaking and grow my leadership abilities. Currently, I am a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Canton, Canton FFA Alumni Association, and Fulton County Farm Bureau.

I grew up on our family farm just south of Canton near Dunfermline. Today, alongside my dad Russell, we grow corn and soybeans in Fulton and Peoria counties.

One virtue my dad taught me at a young age was to always leave something better than we found it. That has always been my philosophy as we acquire more ground. Land improvements might involve picking up rocks, trimming trees, erosion control, and/or installing field tile. These not only provide benefits today but also preserve the land for future generations.

I purchased my first farm in December of 2020 through the FSA's Beginning Farmer

Loan Program. This is a great program for farmers just starting out who are looking to purchase land to expand their operations. Without programs like these, new farmers would not be able to get started. I encourage all new farmers to check it out.

Looking forward, I plan to use my knowledge of accounting and farming to help farmers and those in the ag industry prepare tax returns, make tax plans, and advise them on financial decisions for their operations. At the same time, I plan to continue to grow our farming operation. I am proud to call Fulton County my home.

Faces of Ag

Our thanks to Elaine Stone of the Fulton County Farm Bureau for introducing the Faces of Ag on their Facebook page. Please follow them to read more!

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