

OLANDER INDUCTED INTO MINNESOTA FFA HALL OF FAME

By Emily Beal
Forum News Service

Keith Olander has been inducted into the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame.

Olander is the executive director of AgCentric, in Staples, and the Central Lakes College Ag and Energy Center in Brainerd. He has owned and operated his own farm since 2000.

"Being an FFA member while I was in school was an absolute critical piece of why and where I am today," he says. "It helped me find my direction and location in life and really helped me develop that passion

for agriculture. Being an FFA member was critical for me."

Olander grew up on a diversified livestock and crop operation in central Minnesota and deeply enjoyed his time on the farm, so much so that he decided to study education at the University of Minnesota and become an agricultural education teacher after graduation. He spent 14 years in the ag classroom at the high school level.

"I consider FFA to be a premier organization, in terms of developing leaders for our communities and country. I don't know of anything

else out there that does it as well as FFA does," Olander says.

Olander was inducted into the Hall of Fame along with eight other respected individuals in the Minnesota ag industry. He says he feels honored by his recent induction: "I found myself quite surprised. I consider myself mid-career in terms of where I am at, and I have a number of years left in my profession. So to be honored at this place in my career is just a really great honor."

This article originally appeared in AgWeek, a Forum Communications Company publication.



Submitted photo
Keith Olander, left, has played a key role in the Minnesota FFA Organization, as well as the Minnesota agriculture industry.

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