



Presenter Bios

Title: Reflections from a Glass of Milk

Donna Schmidt Moenning, Keynote speaker

Donna is a storyteller at heart.

As seasoned marketing and public relations professional, she has expertise in consumer research, stakeholder engagement, media and influencer outreach, brand storytelling, reputation management, and communication training. Her career includes time at Look East, where she supports numerous clients, including The Center for Food Integrity. Prior to that, she worked for Midwest Dairy Association where she developed the “People Behind the Product” programs and oversaw activities across the region that included state fairs. Early in her career, Donna’s public relations experience grew rapidly at the National Live Stock and Meat Board in Chicago.

Donna earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Journalism from South Dakota State University, where she was named an Outstanding Alumnus in Journalism and later recognized as an Honored Agriculturalist at “Little I”. Volunteering with FFA is a passion of hers; she currently serves on the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Committee. Donna’s dedication to food and agriculture is personally rooted in life on a crop and livestock farm in Minnesota. While she considers her three children as her greatest accomplishments, a 40-year-old butterhead remains her most unusual and “coolest” keepsake.

Title: From Reading to Remembering

Malorie Thorson, 72nd Princess Kay 2025-2026

Malorie grew up in Waverly, Minnesota. She attends South Dakota State University majoring in Dairy Production with plans to return to her family farm as the sixth generation. Malorie loves trying out new recipes and baking, swing dancing, reading, and spending quality time with her family during early morning milking shifts. Her parents are Andrew and Colette Thorson. Princess Kay is very active doing school visits and events representing dairy farmers, and sharing the importance of dairy farming and dairy foods at appearances across Minnesota.

Title: Dairy's Role in Modern Nutrition

Jena DeMoss, Hy-Vee Dietitian

Jena is a registered dietitian with over 10 years of experience in the retail space at Hy-Vee. Growing up helping on her grandparents' dairy farm and riding along on milk truck routes, Jena developed a lifelong appreciation for dairy and its role in nutrition. In her current role, she works daily with consumers to help them understand and leverage dairy to support their health goals. Outside of work, she enjoys photography, volleyball, traveling, and spending time outdoors with her family. Jena is passionate about food and nutrition, helping people find simple, realistic ways to make healthy eating part of their everyday lives, and believes that health is a journey, not a destination.

Title: Food First: Connecting with Consumers on Social Media

Bailey Ruen, Director of Communications for Minnesota Pork

Bailey is the Director of Communications for the Minnesota Pork Board and Minnesota Pork Producers Association, known together as Minnesota Pork. She leads digital marketing and communications efforts that promote pork and share how pig farmers' Checkoff dollars are put to work every day through promotion, research, and education. Her work includes creating content that reaches both consumers and Minnesota's more than 3,000 family pig farmers.

Title: Communicate Calf Care with Confidence

Dr. Bethany Dado-Senn, Calf and Heifer Technical Specialist, Vita Plus

Bethany is a calf and heifer technical specialist for Vita Plus Corp, serving dairy farmers across the Midwest in reaching their calf goals. Bethany hails from northwestern Wisconsin, where she grew up and continues to manage calves on her family's 500-cow dairy farm. She earned her B.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and M.S. from the University of Florida, where she studied the impacts of heat stress on early-life calf development. In her free time, Bethany enjoys participating in church music ministry, playing outside with her daughters, and cheering on the Packers and Badgers women's volleyball with her husband, Travis.

Title: Goal Setting for Success

Val Brekke, Associate Communications Consultant, Compeer Financial

Val grew up on her family's dairy farm in Dodge County. Her agriculture background took her to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, where she studied agricultural communication and marketing. Val currently lives in Mankato and works on Compeer Financial's corporate communications team. Val is a past Princess Kay finalist!

Title: Supporting the Next Generation

Emily Mollenhauer, Minnesota Dairy Initiative State Director

Emily serves as the State Director for Minnesota Dairy Initiative. At MDI she oversees the daily functions of the organization and helps MDI's 8 coordinators serve Minnesota dairy farms through on-farm advisory teams. Emily grew up on a 120-cow organic dairy farm in Goodhue, MN where she is still very active today. She received her degree in Dairy Science in 2021 from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Emily resides in rural Goodhue with her husband Dylan, and their three children. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, coaching 4-H dairy judging, and staying involved in the dairy industry. Emily is a past Princess Kay finalist!

Title: Connecting & Creating Lasting Relationships

Robin E. Kinney, Minnesota Farm Bureau – Member Relations Director

Robin works for the Minnesota Farm Bureau supporting 12 county Farm Bureau associations by engaging members and advocating grassroots priorities for agriculture and rural Minnesota. Kinney worked in Washington, D.C for Farm Bureau from nearly nine-years as the liaison to small states and directed programming for Promotion & Education, Patriot Project; the Urban County Farm Bureau Coalition and the Mental Health Initiative Farm State of Mind. A Minnesota native, Kinney has been a strong voice for agriculture for nearly four decades. Her work and experience took her from farm broadcasting to St. Paul, to Denver and DC. Born a city-girl, in junior high her family purchased a farm and she fell in love with the world of agriculture. In partnership with her parents on a Jersey dairy farm she found her voice as an advocate.

Title: Princess Program Insights and Future Opportunities

Brenna Bobendrier, Farmer Relations Manager- Midwest Dairy

Brenna works for Midwest Dairy as a Farmer Relations Manager in Minnesota and North Dakota. Through her work, she connects with dairy farmers and supports leadership programming including the Princess Kay of the Milky Way and Dairy Ambassador programs. She grew up in Byron, Minnesota. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with degrees in Animal Science and Agricultural Communication and Marketing. Brenna also served as the 67th Princess Kay of the Milky Way and was a Midwest Dairy Ambassador. She currently resides in Albert Lea, Minnesota with her husband Sam.