

Region 1

Three candidates are running for the Region 1 Director position for a 3-year term.

Doris Mold - 47

Cumberland, WI
715-822-6347
doris@sunriseag.net



Family: Husband Andrew; Daughter Sarah

Employment and business experience for past five years

My husband and I operate an 83 cow (and growing) dairy farm, and we raise all of our own replacement heifers. We also take on agricultural consulting projects, as time allows. In addition to this, I teach Farm and Agri-Business Management one day a week in fall and spring semester for the MAST International Program at the University. I am the Moo Booth Coordinator and Milking Parlor Superintendent at the Minnesota State Fair.

Current boards serving on and principal activity of the entity

U.S.D.A. Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics, Current Chair – provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on the work of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Minnesota Agri-Women - Past President: non partisan organization that promotes agriculture through legislative work, education about agriculture, leadership development and networking. Minnesota Dairy Leaders Roundtable Steering Committee – direct the activities and issues related to the Minnesota Dairy Leaders Roundtable. Have also had previous experience serving on and chairing National, State and local boards in a range of agricultural areas.

Affiliations/memberships

American Agri-Women, Minnesota Agri-Women, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association; Minnesota Dairy Leaders Roundtable; Minnesota Dairy Partnership Inc.; National FFA Alumni life member; Minnesota FFA Alumni life member; Metro FFA Alumni & Friends; International Agricultural Economics Association.; University of Minnesota – College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences Alumni Society Life Member; Minnesota Food, Land and People Partnership; Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference Committee Chair. 4-H County Dairy Project Leader; Associated Milk Producers and several other cooperatives. Sunrise IP Church. Various agricultural promotional and educational efforts, including: the Moo, Oink and Baa Booths at the Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom.

Education

Graduated from North Branch, MN High School; BS – triple major Agricultural and Applied Economics, Animal Science and Agricultural Education, University of Minnesota; M.S. Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

Hobbies

Gardening, Reading, Hiking, Traveling; Spending time with family and friends.

What is your vision for the future of agriculture?

Although agriculture and the country as a whole are going through challenging times I really do believe in the future of agriculture and U.S. farming. There is room for all sizes and types of producers and production, and opportunities for all to succeed. There are many formulas for success as we move forward. Much of it depends on the vision and goals of the people involved. In addition to a myriad of production agriculture options there are also tremendous options for those interested in other types of agriculture careers. We need to encourage the best and brightest into any aspect of agriculture. Those of us with experience need to serve as mentors to those coming up in agricultural ranks, regardless of their field of endeavor. There is also a need for all agriculturalists to be more proactive in telling the story of agriculture to the non-ag. public. These people are not only important to us as from the standpoint of what they purchase in the way of food, fiber and fuel, but in how they influence public policy makers and public opinion. They will play an even bigger role in determining how we conduct business in the future and it is critical we engage and educate them, before someone without our best interests at heart provides them with negative messages about agriculture. This will be an ongoing challenge, especially in the areas of animal ag and environmental issues.

Region 1

..... continued

What role do you see AgStar playing in the future of agriculture?

The foundation for agriculture is its farms and with that is a need for a solid financial partner to help weather storms or take advantage of opportunities. AgStar is that partner. Whether the farm is an established multi-generational business or a new farmer starting out I see AgStar there as a trusted advisor providing tailored financing and services to fit the needs of the people and the business. Playing an integral role in helping farms/farmers of all sizes and types face their future by providing the financing and services that can help operations start, grow and evolve. AgStar must continue to stay on the forefront of the changing agricultural and business landscape and keep attuned to the evolving needs of its stockholders and potential stockholders so that it continues to be part of that foundation. AgStar will be expanding its role in our rural communities and thus supporting agriculture at large through the Rural Capital Network and the Fund for Rural America. As a leader in agriculture AgStar can also help tell the story of agriculture to the broader public.

What issues do you feel will impact agriculture on a county, state and federal level?

The list of potential issues is endless, and to some degree ever-changing. Many deal with public perception of farming and farming practices that are filled with emotion rather than facts. Environmental and animal welfare issues are two at the forefront of the list. These issues have passionate, well-funded, well-organized people behind them who are garnering results. They are able to influence policy makers, business decision leaders and the general public through their campaigns. As agriculturalists we need to be in the position of being proactive and not reactive. While we are worrying about how to keep our business growing or even running they are organizing to put us out of business permanently. Price volatility and low prices in some products are important, complex and difficult issues that are having an immediate and, in some cases, long-term effect on many producers. Coupled with these, are issues of increased risk and changing credit needs on all levels. Developing new ag leadership and ensuring that we continue to have interested, capable people in farming and other areas of agriculture, is important as agriculturalists age, this will be critical to maintain the vitality of agriculture.

If elected to the Board of Directors, what direction do you think AgStar should take on these issues?

As a leader, AgStar has the opportunity to be a voice for agriculture for the issues identified by the Board of Directors and the stockholders. We can speak out as AgStar and work with other agricultural organizations, and individual producers to educate others about agriculture and promote the development of emerging leaders. AgStar has the business and lending expertise to provide insight and advice to stockholders, business leaders and policy makers on the increased risk and changing credit needs of agriculture and should provide that insight when possible.

What important lessons have you learned in your business career?

In my life and work, integrity is my watch word. I follow through on what I say I am going to do and am honest in my dealings; Respect comes with respecting others, as well as yourself; It is important to listen and learn as much as possible; Be flexible and willing to change; Think outside the box and do not be afraid with taking a new approach; Take responsibility not only when something goes well, but be able to admit to when you were wrong and learn from your mistakes; Set a good example; Be willing to be a leader; Treat others how you would want to be treated.

Are there any other comments you would like to share?

I am asking for your vote and support. I have had the wonderful opportunity to experience a broad range of agriculture both in the U.S. and abroad and I believe that my combination of experience and education would bring unique and valuable perspective to the Board. I have been involved in agriculture my entire life – growing up on a family farm; being a farmer myself; participating in and providing leadership to a wide range of local, state, national and international agricultural organizations; agricultural business; educating others about agriculture; serving as an agricultural business consultant and more. I have worked with most major agricultural commodities and on a number of agricultural issues and educational efforts. I have worked on big projects, small projects and everything in between, with everything I bring a passion and energy to do the best possible job that I can and challenge others to strive for excellence, as well.