

Region 4

Two candidates are running for the Region 4 Director position for a 3-year term.

Employment and business experience for past five years

Current boards serving on and principal activity of the entity

Affiliations/memberships

Education

Hobbies

What is your vision for the future of agriculture?

Kent Ringkob - 66

Jackson, MN

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Family - Wife: Debi - HR Department at AGCO-Jackson

Son: John - VP of DASCO AgriSales (fertilizer)

Son: Mark - Mosaic Company-Plymouth, MN



Incumbent

We raise corn, soybeans and hay on our farm. Together with my neighbors, we have formed an LLC and we are developing a large wind farm in Jackson and Martin counties. I've been farming for 33 years. I was a County Extension Agent for the University of Minnesota in the years prior to farming.

- ◆ AgStar Board of Directors Member
- ◆ Member of AgStar Human Resources Committee
- ◆ Jackson County Central School Board Member
- ◆ Voting Delegate-Minnesota School Board Association

American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, Farm Bureau, Heron Lake Bio-Energy Ethanol Plant, Minnesota School Board Association, and Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Graduate of Jackson High School
B.S.-College of Agriculture-Iowa State University

Travel, photography, bicycling, skiing

The future of agriculture is bright. Farmers who have met the challenge of providing food and fiber to our nation and the world can now add a third purpose - renewable energy. Wind energy, methane digestion, bio-diesel, ethanol, etc. are quickly becoming a big part of AgStar country, providing new income to farmers and new job opportunities for our rural areas. Agriculture will be diverse-from large multi-family operations to the small cash grain farmer with a job in town, to the large specialized livestock producer to the small vegetable farmers specializing in farm to market enterprises. Value-added enterprises will be an important part of agriculture. Risk management will continue to be an important focus.

Region 4

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

AgStar will be the dominant provider of capital and financial services in the territory it serves. Finding new and efficient ways of providing these services has set AgStar apart from the competition. Working with the young men and women entering agriculture has to be a high priority for AgStar. They are the future generation of agriculture. AgStar needs to commit to a larger role in economic development in our rural areas. Our quality of life is directly lined to health care, schools and other services that are found in our rural areas. Some banks have been “in and out” of agricultural financing. AgStar has been a consistent solid financial partner for the agricultural producers of southern and eastern Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin.

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

1. Environmental and land use issues
2. Trade policies
3. Energy policies
4. Financial institution regulatory reform

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

1. We need good, consistent environmental and land use laws and regulations (based on sound science) so livestock can continue to be an important part of our regions economy.
2. Agriculture needs open access to world markets. If given a level playing field, our agricultural producers can compete with anyone in the world.
3. We need to remind our elected officials that agriculture can make a major contribution to our energy independence and at the same time feed millions of people.
4. It is my hope that the Farm Credit System (of which AgStar is a part) will stay under its current regulators and not be put under some type of “super-regulator”.

What important lessons have you learned in your business career?

We must all continue to learn. Agriculture is a very fast changing industry. It is very important to network with our farmers and agriculture leaders to stay abreast of new ideas and developments. In business, how we treat people is very important. I’ve learned to treat all people fairly and honestly. AgStar’s success will ultimately be determined by the relationships AgStar develops with its stockholder members. There is an old saying that “bad times never last, nor do good times”. We need a good financial partner like AgStar to help us survive the tough times and grow and prosper when the opportunity presents itself.

Are there any other comments you would like to share?

I have completed my first 3-year term on the AgStar Board of Directors. In these three years I have gained considerable insight into AgStar operations, been through considerable training and developed a working relationship with many in AgStar and elsewhere in the Farm Credit System. I hope to be given an opportunity to serve a second 3-year term on the AgStar Board of Directors. I will work for you to see that AgStar remains a good financial partner for all of us and for future generations.

I strongly support paying patronage to the owners/our stockholders. Ownership pays! Everyone needs to understand this has always been scheduled for a 7-10 year payout timeframe. From time-to-time the payout time may be different, but the patronage will be paid out.

I ask for your vote in the upcoming AgStar Board of Director election.