



## **Brian Schmidt**

Age: 52

Claremont, MN

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## **Family**

Wife of 29 years, Robin. Son Jacob, 26, Graduate of Univ. of Wisconsin, B.S. & Iowa St., Masters Degree. Daughter Elissa, 24, Graduate of Luther College, B.S. & finishing her doctorate at U.W. Lacrosse.

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## **Employment & business experience for past five years**

We own 250 acres and rent another 150 with my brother, that are in corn and specialty soybeans. We also started a home inspection business called 4 Corners Home Inspections. We have been at this for about four years. Previous to that, I was employed for seven years at Kraus Foods in Albert Lea.

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## **Current boards serving on and principal activity of the entity**

Currently I am serving on the Havana Township, which I have been on for seven years. I am an officer on the local Business Networking Int'l. club, which I have been a member for three years.

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## **Affiliations/memberships**

Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna, Ushers Society. 11 years as head usher. Past member of AgStar advisory council. Member of Mn. Pheasants, past board member. Member of the Owatonna Elks Lodge. Educator for Rural Development for first time home buyers.

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## **Education**

Graduate of Owatonna High School.

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## **Hobbies**

Just about any outdoor activity, like Harley & snowmobile riding, hunting deer, pheasants, and prairie dogs. An occasional round of golf and going to see our kids.

## **What is your vision for the future of agriculture?**

I would like to see agriculture continue to grow and play a major role in the expansion and development of the “green” sector of our economy. We have shown the world that we can supply alternative methods of energy that help the U.S. be less dependent on foreign oil, along with helping to clean up the environment. Every farmer and ag related business has a stake in these ventures.

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

AgStar has been a key player in the local agriculture economy for years, with loans to farmers and ag related businesses to home loans. They have been pro-active in small communities by helping finance things like fire trucks to elderly housing. Things like this show John Q. Public that AgStar is not just concerned about farmers but also the communities they live in. I see AgStar continuing this kind of financial stewardship in the future.

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

One of the biggest things is the constant development of alternative energy products, such as wind generators and the push for higher percentages of bio-fuels in our vehicles. We in the ag industry must stay proactive in letting our state and national legislators know that these are beneficial and not harmful as some lobbyists would lead us to believe. It is companies like AgStar that help promote a healthy ag economy.

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

If elected, I would encourage AgStar to stay a strong ag lender, but also look to help in the financing of new “green” products and businesses that will not only help our bottom line, but also help keep our small towns a place that thrive and prosper. AgStar has always been a leader, and if given the chance, I would be honored to help in that leadership role.

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## **What important lessons have you learned in your business career?**

To only promise on things you can deliver, and communicate at all times. Even if you have to deliver bad news, people want to stay informed. Everybody wants to be the good guy. Sometimes that’s just not possible.

