

Walt Bones

Former SD Secretary of
Agriculture/Producer



Education

- BS, Animal Science,
Iowa State University

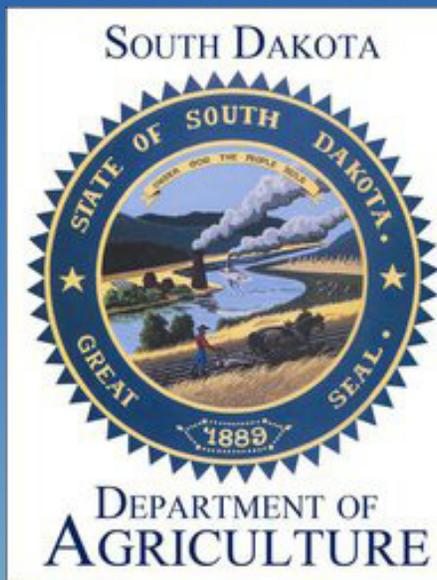
Career:

- Former SD Secretary
of Agriculture
- Graduate of SD Ag
& Rural Leadership
Program
- Producer near
Parker, SD

Advice

"If you think you can or you can't, you are right". I think success is equal parts attitude and aptitude. Get a good education (which can come from a college, university, technical school or the school of hard knocks "Don't let your studies interfere with your education") and with a "can do" attitude or good work ethic, you can literally go anywhere and do anything.

There are amazing opportunities in agriculture . . . not everyone can or wants to run a farm or ranch, but the "support team" of finance officers, CPAs, electricians, plumbers, welders, feed and crop consultants, technicians, journalists, mechanics, processors, truckers . . . and the list goes on and on. It is hard to name any business here in SD that does not have any contact or is not dependent on agriculture and they all have a need for smart, hard working South Dakota raised kids!



Careers in Agriculture: Success in Our Industry

East River FFA
Leadership Retreat

1-2 p.m. CDT
Thursday, July 18, 2013
Swan Lake Christian Camp
Viborg, SD

523 East Capitol Ave.
Joe Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.5425
sdda.sd.gov

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Panelists:

Walt Bones,
Former SD Secretary of Ag/
Dairy Farmer

Laura Edwards,
SDSU Extension,
Climate Field Specialist

Jesse Johnson,
Ag Communications

Nicholas Olson,
Cargill Farm Marketer

Laura Edwards

SDSU Coop Extension Service
Climate Field Specialist



Education

- Bachelor degree in Physics and French
- Masters of Science, Meteorology University of Maryland

Career

- Maryland Assistant State Climatologist
- Research Scientist, western U.S. climate

• Current focus-agro-climatology and agro-meteorology

Jesse Johnson

South Dakota Corn Growers
Social Media Director



Education

- BA, Mass Communications and Sociology, SDSU

Career

- Marketing Consultant for Watertown Public Opinion
- Currently Social Media Director for SD Corn Growers Association

Nicholas Olson

Cargill Farm Marketer
Farmer



Education

- BS, Ag Business, SDSU

Career

- Trainee with CHS Inc.
- Grain Merchandiser for CHS Inc.
- Currently is Farm Marketer for Cargill Inc.

Advice

Follow your interests, even if you don't know for sure where that will lead you. Who knew in 1986 when that tornado touched down that climate science would be as big as it is now? My job didn't exist when I was in high school. Don't shy away from the occasional hard classes or new challenges—those will be times when you will need your passion and interest to keep you in the game.

It's okay to both have a personal life and be a scientist; you are free to make your own choices and set your own priorities. Don't be discouraged if there aren't a lot of women in your field of interest—seek out and find peers or mentors (even in different career paths) with whom you can share experiences and challenges. Don't forget to laugh and have fun!

Advice

Be committed. You have to be all-in in order to maximize your success in a workplace. Don't be that person who darts out the door every day at 5 p.m. Work hard at whatever you do, continue to learn and always be willing to help others.

South Dakota has wonderful opportunities for students looking to work in agriculture with excellent academic programs at Lake Area Tech and South Dakota State University. Get your education and be involved in agriculture whether its in a club, on a farm or working in the industry. Also, make sure to always network with the folks you meet along the way.

Advice

Have a passion for what you do. There will be good days and bad days but in the end it is about the commitment and passion that you have for your industry that will help you succeed.

It is important to keep an open mind, opportunities and challenges will present themselves throughout your career. It comes back to what you do with the opportunities and how you handle the challenges.