

Director Candidates: Region 1 - Minn. (4-year term), Candidate 2 of 2



Jay Landsteiner

33 years old
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Farm Credit Member Since: 2009

Family: My parents, Jim and Jackie Landsteiner, are a retired farmer and teacher from Mapleton, Minn. I have a sister, who lives in Lakeville with her family, and a brother, who I farm with. I am married to Breanna Landsteiner. She teaches 3rd grade for St. Peter Public Schools. We have two black labs, Vinny and Howie.

Brief Description of Agricultural Operation and Employment/Business experience for past five years: The family farm was founded in 1920 by my great grandfather. I am the fourth generation to take over the family farm. I farm with my brother and uncle. My dad and another uncle have both retired but are still fully involved with daily activities. We farm soybeans and corn and custom feed hogs.

The last ten years, I was an elementary/junior high teacher for St. Peter Public Schools. I would go from being an educator to a farmer, all in one day. Due to our operation getting larger, I resigned from teaching in the spring of 2019. Now, I farm full-time. In addition to farming, I have been working for a landscaping company during the summer months, since 2004.

Boards or Committees in the past five years (and principal business): I have been a member of the Corn and Soybean Growers Association for the last seven years. While teaching, I was a member of the PBIS committee which developed ways to influence and reinforce positive behavior, rather than negative, in our students. I also served on the PLC (Professional Learning Community) to develop curriculum to meet the needs of all learners. Both committees were rewarding, and I learned to work as a productive team member. Now that I am no longer teaching, I am very interested in becoming involved and serving on agricultural committees and boards.

Community Involvement/Government Service: I am a member of the St. Theresa Catholic Church in Mapleton, Minn. I am part of the fellowship committee. I help serve breakfast after services. I am a member of the Heather Curling Club in Mapleton.

Education: I graduated from Maple River High School in 2006. I continued my education at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I graduated in 2010 with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and a minor in middle school science.

What is your vision for the future of agriculture? My vision for the future of agriculture is to maintain and better rural communities by enticing young people to come back and farm.

A farmer should be able to make a fair living by marketing products that hard work and ingenuity have produced. A farmer should not need a government subsidy or off-farm job to support a family. I believe we need to continue to look for more markets and uses for our commodities. In the future, we will have to adapt our thinking and practices to remain efficient enough to meet the demands of a growing world population.

What do you believe are the primary issues facing agriculture and Compeer Financial? I believe that the primary issue facing agriculture and Compeer Financial is being able to finance young farmers that do not have substantial collateral. The average age of a United States farmer is 58 years old. This statistic shows how important it is to provide programs and opportunities to assist young farmers to start or maintain a successful farming operation. Compeer can be a full-service institution by offering advice to farmers on management techniques, marketing, keeping production costs low, and offering the lowest interest rates possible.

Why I want to serve on the Board of Directors of Compeer Financial? Compeer is a hands-on institution that I would be proud to serve for. I respect that Compeer exists to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America. I admire the fact that they provide expertise and personalized service regardless of farm size, crops grown, or livestock raised. I have been fortunate to have had a positive, friendly, respectful relationship with my Compeer specialist. I feel that if I am to become a member of the Compeer board, I would be an advocate for the American farmer and have their best interest in mind.

Everyone remembers the first time your dad put you in a tractor, by yourself, and told you to just go! Apprehension and fear set in, no one wants to disappoint or worse, wreck a piece of machinery. But you find that the experience of driving a tractor was the best way to learn and gain confidence. If elected, I will serve Compeer clients by learning, listening and just going!