Overview

- Instructor through the Belgrade-Brooten-Elysian site of Ridgewater College FBM Program serving approximately 70 families each year.
- The main industry within the areas is agriculture, which provides the majority of the economic activity.
- Crops, both conventional and organic, livestock and other value added ventures such as milk bottling, cheese making, custom manure pumping and custom machine work are common practices within the area.

Experiential Learning

- Students use the program to set goals, keep accurate records, analyze and assess their farm business and plan future cash flow needs.
- Students participate in the TEPAP program which helps them recognize the value of the FBM educational experience for them and their farm operations.

Program Curriculum

- Over 25 courses offered.
- Instruction falls into two diploma programs that are statewide.
- Additional courses are offered in crop production, livestock production, marketing and general farm management education topics.
- Skills covered include balance sheet preparation, record keeping, goal setting, current options and terminology, rural mental health project support, plus others.
- All course outcomes are aligned with our college’s institutional educational goals.

Professional Growth

- Served as a State MAAE Officer for 4 years.
- Attended MAAE and NAAE Conferences and presenting professional development at many of these conferences.
- 12 Week training to complete Part 107 certification for commercial drone flights.
- Active member of MACTE, ACTE, MAAE, NAAE, NFRBMEA, Education Minnesota and International Farm Transition Coordinator.

Student Organizations

- Many of their students hold visible roles in various area organizations such as their local cooperative boards, townships and commodity organizations just to name a few.
- Developing strong understandings of the business relationship and finances helps these students be strong members of the local, state and national organizations.

Partnerships

- Offering programs through the local community education programs through the local school district such as Basic computer education, Quickbooks and drones.
- Partnerships with Northland Technical College, St. Cloud State College, Central Lakes and Ridgewater College in providing drone technology and educational opportunities for agricultural producers, industry educators, adult and secondary students.
- Partnership with HAFA (Hmong American Farmer’s Association) to help the staff and the farmer members better understand the financial management piece of farming.

“Mike adds value to his students and their operations through his knowledge, expertise and commitment to consistently delivering high quality education experiences.”

- Michael R. Kutzke-Dean of Instruction, Ridgewater College

2019 MAAE Award Winner

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