Westland Farm Business Management serves a 6 county area in West Central Minnesota with the main counties served being Grant and Traverse. The program has been housed at the West Central School District since 1994. Deron works with 70 families within a given year ranging from 25 to 78 years of age and from part-time farming to running multi-family partnerships and corporations. The program serves a diversity of crop and livestock operations.

Experiential Learning

- Students are able to utilize the information taught to them immediately as they are already immersed in their careers.
- Evaluation of decisions are made and assessment of causes and effects are an important part of the program.
- Students will visit with other peers and learn from each other.

Program Curriculum

- The Farm business management program at Ridgewater has a 60-credit degree program and the program at MN West consists of four certificate programs.
- State Wide curriculum which consists of 18 different courses in addition to courses that include current issues in farm business management, marketing and production.
- All course include topics and skills such as balance sheet preparation, written business plans, rural mental health support, marketing strategies, plus many more.
- All courses are aligned with institutions educational goals and competencies.

Professional Growth

- Been a member of MAAE, NAAE, MnACTE, ACTE and NFRBMEA.
- Serve as the representative on the Council for Ag Education.
- Served as a MAAE officer and attended regional and National NAAE conferences.
- Participated in a Soybean Growers See It for Yourself 10 day tour of China.
- Taught for 14 years in the classroom in Minot, ND, Morris and Hancock.

Leadership Development

- Many students are active in their communities and serve at regional and state levels in the following organizations: Local Cooperative Boards, FSA Boards, Township and Commodity Boards as well as through organizations such as the 4-H Clubmen’s Association, Fair Board, Corn/Soybean Growers and church organizations.
- Involvement in the local communities and state/national levels are impressive to see.

Partnerships

- Offered a learning opportunity in partnership with Ag County Farm Credit Services for Dr. David Kohl, a Nationally known Ag Economics Professor to speak to students.
- In partnership with Alexandria Technical College we offered a Fall Partners in Ag Breakfast and through Grant County Farm Services Agency, I Deron has partnered on programs for beginning farmers.
- Additional partnerships include: Ridgewater College, West Central Area High School, United States Farm Service Agency and numerous banks.

"Deron has exhibited great skills as an FBM faculty to support students in challenging financial settings, encouraging niche market engagement and leading fellow faculty through a variety of different circumstances at the college level."
- Keith Olander, Executive Director AgCentric

2022 MAAE Award Winner

Banners donated by the Minnesota Farmers Union