



Whitney Place serves as Assistant Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). She has been at the MDA since 2012 in the roles of Director of Legislative Affairs, Assistant to the Commissioner, and Project Coordinator for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

As Assistant Commissioner, Place oversees the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division, the Plant Protection Division, and Laboratory Services.

Place earned a B.S. in Applied Plant Science and a M.S. in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from the University of Minnesota. She grew up in Okabena, Minnesota where she learned about agriculture in the high school FFA program and on her family's farms.



Mr. Sean R. Mitchell currently serves as the Chief of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Mitchell is responsible for building bridges, creating new partnerships, and strengthening and supporting relationships between the DEA and other federal agencies, as well as state, local, tribal, and campus law enforcement; national and international law enforcement associations; and others within the broad public safety, law enforcement, and homeland security communities. Mr. Mitchell also served as DEA's Acting Chief of Public Affairs from June-November 2020



Anthony Cortilet has served as a Weed Scientist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) since 1998 and currently supervises the Noxious Weed and Industrial Hemp Programs. He has 30 years of professional experience working with invasive plant species, habitat management, and ecological preservation. In 2010, due to his plant sciences background, he was appointed as the MDA's representative for both industrial hemp and medical

cannabis by the commissioner of Agriculture. He has since helped create the Industrial Hemp

Program for the state of Minnesota and continues to serve as an agronomic liaison to the Minnesota Department of Health's Medical Cannabis Program. He is often called upon to

consult with the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety, Revenue and Commerce, the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy and local law enforcement, assessors and code enforcers regarding a wide range of issue concerning cannabis. He holds a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and a master's degree in Agronomy – Weed Science, both from Iowa State University.



Katy Mutschler is the Hemp Program Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). She has worked at the MDA for 10 years, with most of her time devoted to plant pest quarantines and regulations. She has been with the Hemp Program since May 2019. In addition to her time at MDA, Katy has also worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection and Quarantine.



Margaret Wiatrowski is the Hemp Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. She has worked at the MDA for 5 years, starting there as an agricultural pest inspector. She has been with the Hemp Program since November 2016. Prior to joining the MDA, Margaret managed a native plant production operation, and performed habitat restoration and non-native weed management.



Dr. George Weiblen is the Science Director of the Bell Museum and a curator of plants. As a Distinguished McKnight University Professor, he holds tenure in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology and teaches in the College of Biological Sciences. His laboratory maintains the first Drug Enforcement Administration registration for Cannabis genetic research in the United States. He is currently studying industrial hemp under a grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.



Chloe Pavely is Global Regulatory Director at Calyxt. Chloe has nearly 20 years of agri-food industry experience with leadership roles in Regulatory and Biotech Product Development in the US, Latin America and Europe. She has worked in start-ups as well as in multinational ag corporations. Chloe's background is in health engineering and risk assessment.



John McKay is a Professor of Plant Evolutionary Genomics at Colorado State University. In his faculty position, McKay leads a research group on the genetics of adaptation in crops and model systems, with a focus on drought adaptation and improving sustainability of food and feed production. In 2014, when US ended prohibition of hemp, McKay co-founded New West Genetics to apply modern genomics and breeding to

*Cannabis sativa*. This was motivated by the need for high quality stable varieties adapted for US and other newly legal production environments. His research examines evolution and gene function at both the phenotypic and molecular levels. McKay's genetic discoveries are in the commercial breeding pipeline for multiple crops. McKay's publications have been cited over 6,000 times, and he serves on scientific review panels in the US and internationally. McKay is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.





Tom Michaels is a professor in the Department of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota. He teaches several undergraduate courses about food systems, plant propagation and edible landscapes. Tom conducts breeding and genetics research with specialty crops like dry beans, sorghum and lettuce. In 2019 he established an industrial hemp breeding project at the University and is currently evaluating the potential of feral/naturalized hemp to contribute to the improvement of modern industrial hemp varieties.



Harold Stanislawski is the Business Development Director for the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI). Stanislawski works with AURI staff and clients to further the development of agricultural commodities, coproducts, renewable energy, food and biobased materials.

Stanislawski previously served as the executive director of Fergus Falls Economic Improvement Commission where he, along with community and business leaders, initiated many projects including the formation of the renewable fuel facility in the community. Stanislawski served as the vice president of the Greater Minnesota Economic Development Partnership in 2014.



Hunter Buffington is the Executive Director of the Hemp Feed Coalition, a diverse set of stakeholders from across the United States and Canada. Its members were brought together by their motivation of increasing the health of the planet, our pets and production animals, and ultimately for ourselves. As the Executive Director, Hunter utilizes her experience working with regulators, policy makers, nonprofits and businesses to implement strategies for developing our emerging hemp industry. The Coalition will play a historic role in the recognition of Hemp as

animal feed and creates an opportunity to work across other industries to create new markets and harness this momentum into FDA approval. "I believe by celebrating enterprise, supporting our farmers, capitalizing relationships and working together we can change the world. Industrial Hemp is the realization of that opportunity."



Massimo Bionaz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences at the Oregon State University. His laboratory pursues four main areas of research (see <https://bionaz.anrs.oregonstate.edu/>): 1) nutrigenomics in ruminants, focusing on harnessing the capacity of bioactive compounds in the diet, particularly fatty acids and plant secondary compounds, on improving animal performance and wellbeing; 2) use of hemp as feed for ruminants, with the main focus on determining cannabinoids residuals in milk and meat and effect on animal health; 3) milk and human health, focusing on childhood obesity and bone development; and 4) dairy cow management and welfare, with a particular focus on peripartum

cows and the development of an automatic welfare evaluation system.

He chairs the Animal Health & Nutrition research consortium for the Global Hemp Innovation Center at Oregon State University. Dr. Bionaz is a member of the American Dairy Science Association, the American Society for Nutrition, and the Society



Kendall Swanson is a Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at North Dakota State University. Kendall grew up on a crop and livestock farm in southeastern North Dakota, and received his BS and MS from North Dakota State University and his PhD from the University of Kentucky. Before returning to NDSU in 2010, Dr. Swanson was on faculty at the University of Guelph and also worked as a Research Association at US Meat Animal Research Center in Nebraska. Kendall's research program has focused on developmental programming of tissue metabolism and pancreatic function, effects of feeding byproduct feeds on digestion and performance, nutritional impacts on feeding behavior, post-ruminal starch digestion,

pancreatic function, and energy and nitrogen metabolism in beef cattle. He has advised 35 students and staff. He also teaches courses in nutrition and physiology.



Dr. Bill Hutchison is a Professor and Extension Entomologist, at the University of Minnesota. He completed his PhD in Entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and worked for the USDA-ARS (Arizona) before moving to Minnesota in 1989. At the UofM, he served as Dept. Head of Entomology and most recently as the State Extension IPM Coordinator. Bill has developed IPM programs for many fruit and vegetable crops, and continues to be active with a large-scale study to document areawide suppression of European corn borer, as it is affected by genetically engineered corn, or Bt-corn. His research team has been collecting preliminary data on MN Hemp insects for the past 2 years.



As commissioner of the state's principal workforce and economic development agency, Commissioner Grove brings a wealth of private sector and civic experience to the Department of Employment and Economic Development. Originally from Northfield, Minnesota, Commissioner Grove is focused on growing the state's workforce, closing the opportunity gap and providing businesses with the help they need to grow, stay and thrive.

Commissioner Grove was previously an executive at Google for 12 years, most recently serving as the founding director of Google's News Lab, a global division of the company that partners with media companies and startups to drive innovation in the news industry. He has built teams in over a dozen countries and launched partnerships in over 50 countries, including a global technology training

effort that trained over 500,000 people every year. Grove also led Google's civic engagement work, including the company's non-partisan voter information and get-out-the-vote outreach efforts.





**Natalie Siderius** is the Southeast Minnesota Business Development Manager for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Natalie assists state, national and international businesses with start-up, expansion and relocation to Minnesota. She provides information to businesses and communities on DEED programs and services. Natalie has thirty years of experience both as a private consultant and a public employee in community and economic development, land use planning, and water planning. She has led comprehensive planning efforts for both cities and counties, has coordinated many programs from youth asset building to art events, served as an elected school board official, and has taught at Winona State University, Saint Mary's University, and University Wisconsin - La Crosse. Natalie has also served on numerous committees and boards.

She currently co-chairs SE MN Together. She has a Master of Science from Oregon State University and a Bachelor of Science from Montana State University. Natalie resides in Winona.



Jeremy didn't grow up on a farm but did visit his grandparent's dairies on occasion. Working all the jobs at a local seed corn company during elementary/middle/high school, Jeremy opted for a Political Science and Economics degree from UW-Madison (05). Pursuing a sales and real estate jobs immediately after college, Jeremy finds himself now 10 years into a farming career. Farming 3,000 acres in MN and WI of soybeans, corn and now hemp. With a lack of experienced hemp processing facilities in the area Jeremy and his partners started Sporobio LLC. Sporobio has grown from what started as a "crude oil facility" to a full service seed to shelf processor that can help nearly anyone in the industry from seed to shelf ready products and anywhere in between. [Sporobio.com](http://Sporobio.com)



Angela Dawson, a fourth-generation Midwest farmer, is co-founder and President of 40 Acre Cooperative a farmer owned co-op focusing advancing the needs of black and other socially disadvantaged farmers in Minnesota and nationally. Forty Acre Co-op is a farmer-owned AgTech company with a growing membership of ranchers, urban growers, and farmers in several states. The Co-op produces proprietary superior quality hemp genetics, and partners with farmers to grow and premium commercial Hemp and CBD products. Before founding the co-op and farming full-time Angela was a public health researcher and law school student.



Charles Levine is the founder of Hemp Acres, an experienced hemp farmer and designer of two custom hemp processing facilities located in Waconia, MN. Hemp Acres has just acquired 37,000 square feet of food processing warehouse, focused primarily on grain and fiber processing, with an anticipated opening date of April 1st.



Riley Gordon graduated with honors from Brandon University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics (Mathematics minor) in the spring of 2014. Then, in 2017 he completed a degree program at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, obtaining a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering with Environmental Emphasis in water related topics. Coinciding with his time at the U of M, Riley interned with a Civil Engineering consulting firm, working in both Intelligent Transportation Systems and Water Resources groups.





Earl Pendleton is a member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community and serves as an elected member of the Community's Tribal Council. He is currently in his 3rd 4yr term and leads the community's hemp production endeavors