



PRESS RELEASE

Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

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Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Announces 2025 Scholarship Recipients

The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois (GFAI) is proud to announce the 2025 recipients of its annual scholarship program, recognizing five outstanding students preparing to launch careers in the grain and feed industry.

This year's scholarship winners—each awarded \$3,500—are:

- **Aiden Hamm**, University of Arizona (Peotone)
- **Nicole Kerber**, Illinois State University (Walnut)
- **Noah Lee**, Mississippi State University (Peoria)
- **Luke Wessels**, University of Illinois (Dunlap)
- **Emma Whitaker**, Iowa State University (Carthage)

These students represent the next generation of talent in an essential sector that includes grain elevators, feed mills, ethanol plants, and more. Careers in this industry span roles in merchandising, safety, accounting, engineering, and beyond—offering competitive pay, long-term stability, and the opportunity to play a direct role in feeding the world.

As part of the program, scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to job shadow at GFAI member facilities, participate in networking events, and attend a three-day summer tour visiting member locations across Illinois. They will also be recognized at the 2026 Convention in St. Louis.

In addition, **Luke Wessels** was named this year's recipient of the **Country Grain Elevator Grain Management Scholarship**, a \$5,000 award designated for a graduating senior planning to begin a career at an Illinois country grain elevator.

Applications for the next scholarship cycle will open January 1, 2026.