

# Senior Spotlight 2021-22



## Austin Conrad

Capitalized upon every leadership and learning opportunity Purdue has to offer with hopes of contributing to the future of agricultural innovation

**Hometown:** Alexandria, IN

**Major & Concentration:** Ag Systems Management (Data and Information Systems) & Ag Economics (Applied Agricultural Economics)

**Minors or Certificates:** Data Driven Agriculture & Farm Management

**Why did you come to Purdue:** After hearing about my grandfather and father attending this University, I knew this was the school for me due to its innovation, school spirit and top-notch academics. Purdue is the best Ag and Biological Engineering school within the United States, and I knew this University would

**Favorite Purdue tradition:** Sitting at Mackey arena with all of my friends in the Paint Crew section

**Top three influences at Purdue(people, ideas, experiences):**

1. Farmhouse Fraternity
2. Internships
3. City of God Church

**Places you have been as a Purdue student:** My freshman year I had the opportunity to Intern with Irving Materials Incorporated (IMI) where I was able to travel to Ohio and Kentucky. Following my freshman year, I interned with John Deere my sophomore and junior year where I was able to travel to Iowa, Illinois and Kentucky, once again.

**Favorite club/organization:** Agronomy Club

**Favorite Student-led event/initiative:** Purdue Grand Prix- The Greatest Spectacle in College Racing

**Favorite Purdue event:** Tailgates and football games

### **Top five memories of your time at Purdue:**

1. Nothing will ever beat the little memories spent with my friends throughout college. Whether it be getting brunch after church on Sunday, playing volleyball at eleven o'clock at night, or just spending time talking to everyone, these little memories compose the most memorable of times at Purdue. It is also important to keep in mind that you don't remember the nights that you stayed in to study. Other than these little things, other events that I will never forget are:
2. Working to put on the Greatest Spectacle in college racing as a senior board within the Purdue Grand Prix foundation.
3. Spending hours playing basketball pickup games at the Co-rec, or at Farmhouse Fraternity with my brothers
4. Going to Agronomy club every Wednesday to spend time with my friends, create Munsell color charts and weed/seed banks, volunteer at events on campus, and always score some food
5. Working as the Farmhouse external philanthropy chair to put on and volunteer at the various Greek Life philanthropy opportunities

**Favorite Social Activity:** Participating and volunteering in the various events for Big Man on Campus to raise money for fighting breast cancer

**Favorite place to study:** Farmhouse study rooms

**Favorite spot on campus:** Mackey Arena

**Favorite thing about CoA:** The community feel within the college that allows me to walk into a classroom and know just about everyone. No one is really a stranger within the College of Agriculture, whether it be colleagues or professors, and that has really shaped my college experience to be something special.

**Favorite thing about your major:** The diversity in subjects and topics that I have taken throughout my courses at Purdue has given me a truly well-rounded background to take into a professional career.

**Favorite class:** AGEC 217 because the professor Dr. Larry DeBoer shaped the class to be an unforgettable experience as well as allowed me to learn so much about macroeconomics.

**Favorite professor:** Dr. Larry DeBoer



**Coolest project:** 5:1 Radial Aircraft Engine research project under Dr. Bob

**Three biggest accomplishments:**

1. Being one of the first ASM students to make it through with a focus in Data and Information Systems
2. Obtaining the John Deere internship both my sophomore and junior years
3. Holding leadership roles on campus as a senior board leader on the Grand Prix foundation and external philanthropy chair for Farmhouse Fraternity

**Things on your resume not listed above:**

1. Obtaining:
  - a. Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
  - b. Office of Indiana State Chemist Private Applicators License
2. Obtaining a high enough GPA to remain on Dean's list since freshman year

**Where do you want to end up:** I would like to work on the development of agricultural technology or in the field of data analytics.

**Advice for underclassman:** Be content but never satisfied. You should always be working to further develop yourself as well as networking with other people at personal level.

**Biggest takeaway from Purdue:** My biggest takeaway from Purdue would be that networking with others and getting to know people on a person level will always take you farther in life than being the smartest person in the room.

