

Senior Spotlight 2021-22



BEN KORNIKAK

Leadership,
internships, and
friendships help
Boilermaker find his
passion in agriculture

Hometown: Rensselaer, IN

Major & Concentration: Agricultural Economics, Commodity Marketing

Minors or Certificates: Crop Production, Farm Management, and Global Food and Ag Systems

Why did you come to Purdue: I grew up a Boilermaker and because of all the great opportunities the college of agriculture has to offer

Favorite Purdue tradition: Purdue vs IU sporting events

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

1. The College of AG
2. FarmHouse Fraternity
3. Being surrounded by so many successful people.

Top five memories of your time at Purdue:

1. Being at the Purdue's elite eight game
2. Listening to Mitch Daniels speak at FarmHouse's academic dinner
3. Purdue beating Ohio State in football my Freshman year
4. Participating in BMOC
5. Grand Prix

Places you have been as a Purdue student: Kansas City, KS (The Andersons Inc. and FarmHouse Leadership Institute)

Favorite club/organization: FarmHouse Fraternity

Favorite Student-led event/initiative: Ag Week

Favorite Purdue event: Purdue Football at Ross-Ade

Favorite Social Activity: Grand Prix

Favorite place to study: Krannert

Favorite spot on campus: Ross-Ade stadium

Favorite thing about CoA: Everyone in the CoA is very close. It makes this large university feel like home.

Favorite thing about your major: It is truly a broad major that has exposed me to several different agricultural industries.

Favorite class: AGEC 321

Favorite professor: James Mintert AGEC 321

Cooler project: AGEC 421 commodity market simulation

Three biggest accomplishments:

The opportunity to develop lifelong friendships that will stay with me wherever life takes me, having the opportunity to expand my knowledge of agriculture through internships, and gaining confidence and leadership through FarmHouse Fraternity.

Things on your resume not listed above: Ag Pathway Mentor and FarmHouse Fraternity risk manager



Where do you want to end up: Right out of college I would like to get a job doing grain merchandising.

Advice for underclassman: College is short time in your life where you are able to explore and find out where your passion lies. It is important to meet people and broaden your networking because those connections will help you in your career path. Do not pass on any opportunities or leave Purdue regretting you didn't do something. It is important to have a good time but, also understand that you ultimately determine how successful you are.

Biggest takeaway from Purdue: Your Purdue experience is what you make it to be. This university allows students to develop networks, make memories, and friends that will last a lifetime. Being a Purdue Boilermaker means working hard and having grit. Purdue has endless opportunities from education, clubs, and social events that will make your college experience the best in the country.

