

# Senior Spotlight 2021-22



## CAROLINE EDMONDSON

Boilermaker explores passions as a dual major to pursue meaningful career in agriculture

**Hometown:** Clayton, Indiana

**Major & Concentration:** Agribusiness Management and Food Science

**Why did you come to Purdue:** Purdue has always felt like home to me! I am a fifth generation Boilermaker, so I always knew Purdue Ag was a perfect fit for me.

**Favorite Purdue tradition:** Purdue basketball! I've always loved basketball games, whether I was going with my grandparents as a little girl or cheering in the Paint Crew as a student. I love all of the tradition rooted in Purdue basketball.

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

1. Interning at the Purdue Center for Global Food Security
2. Learning about pursuing a career in food/ag law from Dr. Hamaker and Dr. Nielsen
3. The whole OAP crew being such a blessing in my time here at Purdue

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

1. Making dinner for Mitch Daniels when he came to visit my cooperative house
2. Packing 150,000 meals during Hammer Down Hunger and meeting Sonny Perdue all in one day during Ag Week of my freshman year
3. Sledding on Slayter Hill
4. Jumping the tracks to officially welcome new Boilermakers as a Team Leader during Boiler Gold Rush
5. Spending Thursday evenings with my Clear River Church family

**Places you have been as a Purdue student:**

World Food Prize in Des Moines, AFA Leaders Conference in Kansas City, AFA Food Institute in Chicago, and my internship with Frito Lay in Dallas

**Favorite club/organization:** Ann Tweedale Cooperative – I've been so grateful to live with these women that have taught me so much and become lifelong friends!

**Favorite Student-led event/initiative:** Ag Week

**Favorite Purdue event:** Homecoming

**Favorite Social Activity:** Friday afternoon Igloo marshmallow coke runs with my friends!

**Favorite place to study:** Ag Administration

**Favorite spot on campus:** The benches around the pond near the Bell Tower – such a peaceful spot for a break between classes!

**Favorite thing about CoA:** The College of Ag is one big family. Relationships and community are so important to our college. Everybody knows everybody, and I'm so grateful for this family feel that makes a big campus seem smaller!

**Favorite thing about your major:** Having two majors with not many overlapping courses has certainly been challenging, but I've loved getting to learn so much in both departments. It's awesome to learn about the science behind what we eat, as well as the business implications resulting from that science.

**Favorite class:** FS 340 (Food Law & Regulations)

**Favorite professor:** Dr. Suzanne Nielsen (Food Science Department)

**Cooler project:** Product development for a developing country in FS 162



### Three biggest accomplishments:

1. Being tapped into Mortar Board
2. Getting a product development internship position with PepsiCo
3. Food Science Outstanding Freshman

### Things on your Resume not listed before:

Food Safety, Quality, and Regulatory Intern with Cargill, Marketing and Communications Intern with Center for Food and Agribusiness, Ag Council, Purdue Student Government

**Where do you want to end up:** I'd love to work in food law, helping food companies comply with the laws and regulations that provide us with a safe and plentiful food supply.

### Advice for underclassman:

Don't be afraid to get out there! College is way too short to be afraid to do what you dream of. Join that club, make that friend, and take that class – courage and curiosity will take you far!

**Biggest takeaway from Purdue:** I've learned to take on everything I do with grit and grace! Learning how to approach school, work, and relationships with these two characteristics has helped me grow so much, and for that I am Ever Grateful!

