

**2020**

Gideon Lincecum Chapter  
Texas Master Naturalists  
Scholarship Recipients



# John Owen

Agricultural Economics and General Business (Dual Degree)

**Tell us your definition of land stewardship and share with us any land stewardship practices you have been a part of.**

Stewardship by itself can be defined as the responsible use of resources, so it makes sense to me that land stewardship would mean to use land and its resources wisely. My grandparents and parents have a long standing ag background and have taught me that agriculture and the environment go hand and hand. Without a strong, healthy environment, farming and ranching is virtually impossible as they rely so heavily on natural processes such as temperature fluctuation, rain cycles, and soil health, among so many others. When we fight for agriculture, we fight for the environment. It is our responsibility as agriculturalists to take care of the environment in order to sustain the life of the industry. If agriculture falters and fails to produce the necessary food, the world will go hungry and people all around the world will suffer, becoming emaciated and wishing for the pain to stop. That is why agriculture is the most important industry in the world; without it, we as people will not survive. However, in order to prolong and allow agriculture to reach new heights in order to feed the world, environmental sustainability has to be a key proponent. As a junior, I was enrolled in a Environmental Sustainability class that really opened my eyes to problems of the world. Seven hundred ninety five million people in this world do not have enough nutrient dense food to live an active healthy lifestyle: that's one in nine people. Most underdeveloped countries have a malnutrition rate north of 10%, with the highest being the Central African Republic with a 46% food insecurity rate. These are just a few facts I learned during that class that made me realize the world is in need of environmental help, and agriculture will be a huge help in that effort. Water issues, food security, sustainability ... these are issues we should find answers for.

**What do you plan to do with your degree after college?**

My future goals for college and my career will allow me to make a positive, meaningful contribution to society after I complete college. After completing my education at Texas Tech University, where I will double major in Ag Economics and General Business, my goal is to become an agricultural lobbyist and fight for the agriculture industry. The agricultural industry is being charged with the daunting, frightening, improbable task of having to produce more food than ever on less land than ever. As of now, 11% of the world population, about 815 million people, are unable to receive the proper food and nutrition necessary for a healthy lifestyle, and the problem is only going to increase as the population soars. Agriculturalists will be tasked with dealing with this issue simply because we feed the world, and by promoting, advocating, and fighting to improve and sustain the single most important industry in the world, my efforts as a lobbyist would be put to good use to make the world a better place by helping those who help feed our planet.

**Austin County**



# Zane Wanjura

Animal Science – Science Option, Pre-Med

**Tell us your definition of land stewardship and share with us any land stewardship practices you have been a part of.**

We have been given the gift of productive and valuable land which comes a heavy responsibility to be a good steward and protect the resources. As a fourth-generation cattle raiser, I am proud of the stewardship practices we have implement to ensure we are protecting the land, improving wildlife habitat, and still being able to manage the commercial cow herd my sister and I have. In my mind, stewardship is my relationship with the land. It is my responsibility to care for it and to work to improve it with each passing day. My family and I work diligently to ensure we are understocked to prevent overgrazing, use brush clearing to create habitat for small mammals, and are mindful of the impact management has on the land.

**What do you plan to do with your degree after college?**

The medical field has held my interest since I was two years old and nothing has changed in almost sixteen years, except maybe narrowing down a specialty! My lifelong dream and ultimate goal is to become a Neurosurgeon. Agriculture will always have a place in my life. I plan to own property where I will raise cattle with my sister. Advocating for agriculture is something that I have been doing since I was 8 years old, and I plan to continue advocating for the agriculture industry. I will use my knowledge learned from getting an Animal Science degree to make sure that the agriculture industry is advocated for in the best way possible. Holding a public office has been something that has triggered my curiosity lately. A position of that nature would really allow me to promote and be loyal to agriculture since it has supported my family for generations. The world's population continues to increase and as a society we must maintain a strong system to support food production. The future of agriculture lies in the hands of those who share our agriculture story with the general public, and remind them of the value of our industry, along with the pride we take in providing food and fiber for the world.



# Julie Korenek

Poultry Science

## Tell us your definition of land stewardship and share with us any land stewardship practices you have been a part of.

I believe that land stewardship is the caring of land so it will be productive for future use. Being a good steward means that you care for your land and that you use the natural resources for productive use. I practice land stewardship in many ways. Living on a farm has given me many opportunities to work the land. My family and I plant several acres of corn every year. We also have a garden and flowerbeds that we tend to. Working the land to prepare it for planting and harvest is a part of land stewardship. Besides this, I also help my dad bale hay. When we bale hay, we are cleaning up the grass so the land can have a fresh beginning. The hay is fed to our cattle so it is very important. Baling hay and having cattle in our pastures keeps the land maintained. Although I do a lot at home concerning land stewardship practices, I also do yardwork for many of my neighbors. Planting flowers, pulling weeds, cutting limbs, and doing work to make everything look beautiful is also part of land stewardship. When land is taken care of properly, it will have a longer life regarding production. In order to use our natural resources to the fullest, we must care for the things around us.

---

## What do you plan to do with your degree after college?

I will be attending Texas A&M and majoring in Poultry Science. After I get my degree, I plan to work for a Poultry Farm or a meat processing and corporation such as Tyson Foods. Eventually, I would like to operate my own farm products business.

Fayette County



# Bethany Janner

Animal Science

## **Tell us your definition of land stewardship and share with us any land stewardship practices you have been a part of.**

I am a fifth-generation agriculturalist here in Washington County. My great, great-grandfather, Wilhelm Janner, immigrated from Germany to the United State and landed on Galveston Island. He came to start fresh with a new life and started a farm where he raised crops and livestock. Much of the land that we use today still originates from the land that Wilhelm purchased. Many of the management practices and stories that came with them have been passed down from generation to generation. My family continues with these practices for beef and forage production on the same family land. That is where being a steward comes in, comes with hard work to produce a successful harvest. It is about how a person replenishes the land with the nutrients, vitamins, and minerals that make up soil. These are our lifeline to the past. It is what can keep us connected to our past and focused on our future. The soil can be used as building blocks of what is yet to come. My family produces both beef and forage on this land. We manage the forage production by managing the brush and applying fertilizer and herbicide to the pastures and hay fields. We also continue the practice of rotational grazing with our beet cattle.

---

## **What do you plan to do with your degree after college?**

I am attending Blinn College in the fall studying Animal Science then transferring to Texas A&M University. My intentions are to pursue a career path in agriculture. I have a passion for leading and teaching others. With hopes of becoming a County Extension Agent or an Agricultural Science Teacher.

Washington County