

# Three students awarded scholarships from Ag Association

By GEOFF PARKS  
For the Capital Press

Three Oregon university students are the 2018 recipients of scholarships from the Willamette Valley Ag Expo.

The scholarships are awarded by the Willamette Valley Ag Association, which raises money for the scholarships by producing the Ag Expo. The scholarships are administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

The scholarships are targeted at students pursuing careers in agriculture business and production.

The WVAA awards the scholarships to students who are high school sophomores and above majoring in agriculture and who possess a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

Emily Iverson of Wood-



Emily Iverson of Woodburn, Ore.

burn was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship. She graduated from Canby High School and works for Iverson Fam-



Erica Rose Lepschat of Banks, Ore.

ily Farms and now is enrolled at Eastern Oregon University with a major course of study in business



Courtesy Photo  
Sam Kuschnick of Brooks, Ore.

administration.

Her family's farm has always interested her, she said. "We are an ideal ex-

ample of a small business who has found our niche in agri-tourism. Once I return to the farm I will have the knowledge to take an administrative role and help to keep our farm thriving."

Erica Rose Lepschat of Banks was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. She is a senior agriculture science major with a minor in leadership at Oregon State University. Her past work includes working for North Valley Farm and as a resident assistant at OSU housing.

She plans to use her degree in agriculture science and leadership to pursue a career as an ag teacher and FFA advisor.

She said she wants to work to help students understand the importance of agriculture, help them gain leadership skills and inspire them to continue with their education, serve the commu-

nity and become farmers and ranchers.

Sam Kuschnick of Brooks is enrolled in Oregon State University as a senior in crop and soil science agronomy and was awarded \$3,000. He has also been a recipient of the Oregon High School Rodeo and Oregon Blueberry Commission scholarships. His experience includes working as the crew manager at Evergreen Farm, where he supervised the harvest of blueberries and blackberries.

Kuschnick said he will be working toward a career that allows him to use his passion for flying and his experience with crop and soil sciences, industrial aviation and agriculture.

The Willamette Valley Ag Expo will be Nov. 13-15 at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany.

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