

PRESENTER INFORMATION

March 7, 2014

Ruth Book

State Conservation Engineer
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2118 W. Park Ct.
Champaign, IL 61821
Ruth.Book@il.usda.gov
217-353-6626

Ruth is the State Conservation Engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Illinois. She provides leadership for all of the engineering that the agency does statewide: structures for soil and water conservation, agricultural waste systems, streambank stabilization, drainage water management, irrigation, and much more. She has been in this position for almost 7 years, but her career spans 34 years in agriculture, not only in federal government, but also in academia at the University of Illinois, and in the fluid power component industry (hydraulic systems for tractors and other farm machines). Ruth holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois.

Kristina Church

Office Manager
Agrium

kristina.church@cpsagu.com

Kristina Church has worked for Crop Production Services (CPS) for almost four years. Prior to her current role she worked for an independent ag retail business that was acquired in 2011 by CPS. She is the office manager for several high volume branches in Northern Illinois. Based in Sheffield, her branches have been acknowledged within CPS as a President's Club member. Kristina is also a volunteer member of the Agrium Women's Leadership Group (AWLG) and has been instrumental in organizing Agrium's participation in Women Changing the Face of Agriculture. Kristina graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor's of Arts degree.

Juli Fitzgerald

Area Credit Manager
Agrium

juli.fitzgerald@cpsagu.com

Juli was raised on a livestock and grain farm in southern McDonough County, IL. She attended Western Illinois University and Illinois State University and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business from ISU. After interning and working for Growmark in their Agri Finance Department, she began farming and raising hogs and beef cattle. Her 2 children grew up on the farm and are both still active in agriculture. She also worked in parts sales at a Case IH dealership before coming to United Agri Products as a Senior Credit Analyst in the credit department. Currently she is an Area Credit Manager for Crop Production Services covering Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, and Eastern Iowa. Juli and her husband Ron live in rural Knox County, IL.

Sheila Hunt

Seed System Analyst
Agrium

sheila.hunt@cpsagu.com

Sheila Hunt is a Systems Analyst for the IT department for Seed across all of Crop Production Services. A Systems Analyst must be knowledgeable of all systems that are intertwined within their business scope. While with CPS for the past 14 years, Sheila has worked in various roles from a Branch Administrative Assistant, Sarbanes Oxley implementation, System Support Supervisor and Inventory Business Analyst. Sheila is also the Co-Chair of the Agrium Women's Leadership Group Connections Chapter helping to Recognize, Develop and Enable other women within the Agrium network.

Angela Iacoluuci

Agrium

Angela grew up on a large cow-calf operation in Northern Wyoming. She came to Colorado State University where she earned 2 Bachelor of Science Degrees in Agricultural Business and in Animal Science. She has worked for Agrium for 2 years. She worked in customer service for Agrium's Wholesale operations, and is currently a marketing analyst for ESN (Environmentally Smart Nitrogen) at Agrium Advanced Technologies. She has also been involved in the Agrium Women's Leadership Group. The Colorado chapter has been instrumental in organizing Aspire to Grow in coordination with Colorado State FFA and CSU, to encourage young women to join the agriculture industry. Angela and her husband live in Firestone, CO.

Loanne Lewis

Supervisor, Payroll
Agrium

loanne.lewis@agrium.com

Loanne is the Payroll Supervisor, managing payroll in the US and Canada for Wholesale, Corporate and Advanced Technology. Based in Calgary Alberta Canada, she is a payroll veteran with over 32 years of payroll management experience. Loanne earned her Certified Payroll Professional Managers designation complementing this with Accounting courses. Her philosophy is that one can never quit learning and growing both personally and professionally and currently she is in the process of completing her Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations with the Athabasca University.

Laura Long

Seed Manager
Agrium

laura.long@cpsagu.com

Laura is currently a Seed Marketing Manager with Crop Production Services (CPS) for the West Central Illinois region. Prior to joining Agrium Inc., Laura worked for Monsanto as Chemical Sales

Representative, Seed and Traits Territory Manager, ABM-District Manager for Missouri and Kansas, and Roundup Post-Patent Team. Laura also held positions at American Cyanamid as a Chemical Sales Representative in Missouri, Market Development Specialist in Texas, various Marketing positions in HQ location of Wayne, NJ. She has a Bachelor's in Science from University of Illinois in Ag Economics and Accounting as well as an MBA from Columbia University NY, NY. Farming has always been a passion for Laura. She grew up on the family farming operation in Lincoln, IL and now lives in Paris, MO with her husband and 3 children on their family farming operation. Outside of work, Laura enjoys assisting with local 4-H programs and coaching basketball.

Elizabeth McPherson

Director HR service Center
Agrium

elizabeth.mcpherson@agrium.com

Elizabeth McPherson has worked for Agrium, Inc. for almost 7 years as a Director of Human Resources. She oversees the functioning of the HR Service Center in Fairview Heights, Illinois which handles all transactional processing for new hires, terminations, position and pay changes, HR reporting, pension and benefit administration and immigration and mobility needs. Elizabeth graduated from St. Louis Christian College and Southern Illinois University with degrees in Education. Her masters degree in Human Resources Management is from Washington University. Before joining Agrium, she worked as an HR Manager for Walgreens at their call centers in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Karen Murphy

Agrium

Karen Murphy joined Agrium Advanced Technologies (AAT) 3 years ago as a Regulatory Specialist focusing on U.S. compliance for the sales and registrations of pesticides, fertilizers, feeds and seed. In her position she manages 300 licenses for more than 30 distribution centers and manufacturing sites as well as preparing and submitting reports, product registrations and compliance responses to the regulating agencies. Prior to joining AAT, her work experience includes site Environmental Engineer, Environmental Coordinator, Polymer Process Chemist and Environmental Laboratory Quality Manager. Her formal education includes a Master's of Science in Chemistry from Northern Arizona University and Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry & Biology from Colorado State University-Pueblo. Her friends refer to her as "Murphy" and she loves to take on any willing challengers in a round of golf!

Amber Northcut

Agrium Women's Leadership Group
Agrium

amber.northcut@agrium.com

Amber has been with Agrium for almost 2 years as an Analyst for the Agrium Women's Leadership Group (AWLG) headquartered in Calgary Alberta Canada. She is responsible for the planning, metrics, and communications related to the program. As the liaison between the AWLG Council and Chapters she helps develop and implement Council initiatives and supports Chapter events and learning activities aligned with AWLG mission to recognize, develop, and enable the potential for women at Agrium. Her role stretches across all the business units and geographies where Agrium

has employees. Amber has a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Victoria (Canada) and earned her MBA from the University of Calgary in 2002.

Taylor Reed

Administrator, HR Customer Care
Agrium

taylor.reed@agrium.com

Taylor Reed has worked for Agrium, Inc. for 3 years serving as a Human Resources Customer Care Representative. In her current position, Taylor assists U.S. and Canadian employees with HR policy and benefit questions. She also completes position changes and changes of pay actions for 3 of our 4 strategic business units. Taylor graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville – School of Business in May 2011. She went on to earn her master's degree in Human Resource Management from Lindenwood University.

Diana Ropp

Risk Management Advisor
Bates Commodities

1608 Northbrook Drive, Ste. 103

Normal, IL 61761

Diana@batescom.net

800-779-1515

Since 2007 Diana has been employed by Bates Commodities in Normal, IL as a licensed Commodity Broker; assisting farmers, elevators and private individuals with risk management strategies appropriate for their business or personal investment needs. Prior to Bates she was with Advance Trading for 11 years where she became exposed to the opportunities which the commodity industry brings to the table. Living in the heart of the 'great corn desert' with a dairy/grain farm heritage she is happy to work with and visit with individuals who tend the land and feed the world every day.

WOMEN CHANGING THE FACE OF AGRICULTURE

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