



The Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame was formed in Year 2000 to recognize and honor distinguished individuals that have made significant contributions to the agricultural community in the Greater Franklin County region and its immediate surrounding areas; although nominees from neighboring counties of Franklin County within a 150-mile radius are often also considered for this prestigious award.

The Pasco Chamber Board has proudly created a Selection Committee comprised of quality individuals representative of our agriculture industry and has chartered them with the honorable task of reviewing all nomination submittals. Induction candidates are selected based on their outstanding performance in the agriculture industry and their bountiful support of the local and rural communities. Candidates are recognized by their peers for not only their dedication, generosity, and selflessness, but also their demonstrated achievements, noteworthy expertise, and creative innovations that often provide a legacy of impactful results and lasting benefit to the overall enhancement of the local agricultural industry and community at large. Farmers, growers, ranchers, and owners/employees of agribusiness firms are all eligible for nomination as either individuals and/or families.

The Ag Hall of Fame inductions will be presented at a special gala January 18, 2024 at the Pasco Red Lion. *Deadline for Application is November 1, 2023*

Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame Intent to Nominate

Nominee's Name Erin Hightower

Mailing Address 1707 E James St, Pasco, WA 99301

Nominee's Phone 509-547-0541 Fax _____ E-Mail ehightower@rdoequipment.com

Date of Birth November 13 Birthplace Kennewick, WA

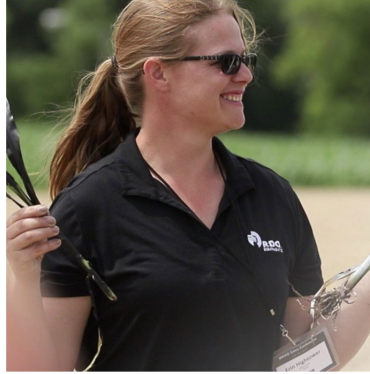
Date of Death (if deceased) _____

Nominator's Name Kerrin Bleazard

Phone 509-366-6659 Fax _____ E-Mail kbleazard@columbiabasin.edu

Family Contact _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____



Bio of Erin Hightower

Erin grew up in Kennewick, WA on a hobby farm raising Suffolk sheep specializing in range ram production. Raising the range rams from 1994-2006 actually paid for her college tuition. Erin's grandparents, and great grandparents farmed in Winters, California and before that they farmed in Ada, Oklahoma. As a way of continuing that legacy, Erin is actually restoring her Great Grandpa's 1936 John Deere Tractor! Erin was in 4-H from 1998 to 2003 and went to the National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, and National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest as well as serving on the National 4-H Youth Directions Council, as a State Ambassador, and was a State Advisory Board Teen Representative. It was these experiences in 4-H as a youth that cemented her desire to help youth to become involved in leadership organizations such as 4-H, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay.

Erin graduated from Washington State University in 2013 with a Master's degree in Agriculture after completing her BS in Agriculture Economics and Natural Resource Management. While attending WSU she was involved in the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, the Agricultural Economics Club, and was a College of Agriculture, Home, and Natural Resource Sciences Student Representative. Erin is also an Alumni from the Columbia Basin College Agriculture program where she graduated in 2003. She participated in the Agricultural Club and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Erin is a valuable member of the Precision Agriculture team at RDO Equipment as their in-house agronomist. Erin is often out of the office, flying a drone over a local farmer's fields to give them the best information possible to grow their crops and to trouble shoot solutions. She selflessly volunteers her time to give presentations to different commodity groups, be a guest on podcasts, write articles, and do whatever she can to help educate growers about current agriculture technologies. My experience with Erin actually started as a request for a guest speaker to speak to Columbia Basin College Agriculture students about the uses of precision agriculture technologies. Erin spoke with such enthusiasm and knowledge about the topic that my students wanted to know more and flooded her with questions. She has since given several presentations to my students, and to experts in the agriculture field. Her passion outside of agronomy is teaching youth leadership skills through a variety of organizations. The 4-H Teen Ambassadors speak with glowing praise of all that Erin has taught them, how she pushes them to be better, and how ready she is to offer words of encouragement when needed. Through Erin's leadership, the 4-H Teen Ambassador program has flourished, as has the local chapter of DeMolay which focuses on teaching leadership to young men. Erin is an exemplary leader in her field of Precision Agriculture and agronomy, and a role model and mentor for the youth in Agriculture in the Mid-Columbia. As such, she is deserving of being inducted in the Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Years of Community and Agriculture Service

May 2017-Present Agronomist, RDO Equipment: Develop agronomic studies, understanding, and educational opportunities as it relates to John Deere Equipment's role in agronomic management in Washington and Oregon State

Oct 2012-Present Benton-Franklin 4-H Teen Ambassadors General Leader

2014-2020 Washington State 4-H Advisory Board

March 2019 Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Precision Agriculture Specialist awarded from Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies

March 2016 Certified Crop Advisor awarded from Soil Society of America

Aug 2006-May 2017 Agriculture Resource Technician, Benton Conservation District: Work with the local Agricultural, Urban, and Land User shareholders to meet or circumvent Natural Resource Concerns.
Format and implement government cost-share programs for conservation of natural resources.

2012-2015 Countywide Educational Direction Leader

Oct 2009 - Present Alpha Delta Pi Sorority

- 2019- Current House Corporation Board for Upsilon Chapter Fundraising and At Large Member: Raised 650,000 for major structural improvements and continuing communication for fund use transparency Volunteer Position: Fundraiser 2015 Raised to goal fundraising amount of \$10,000 dollars in three months using mailers, emails and Facebook as outreach. Funds collected by check and a gofundme.com account. Fundraiser 2010 Raised 10,000 dollars to capital improvements of property Event Planning 2009-2012 Planned Sorority Centennial featuring: 184 attendees sit down dinner 56 attendee brunch event 60 attendee Tailgate Party hosted by WSU Athletics \$5,000.00 raised towards international philanthropy of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Spokane

Jan 2003 - Present Order of Eastern Star Order of Eastern Star: Member in good standing.

- 2003 Fund Raising Concessions at Baseball Park with Washington Buelah # 132 Chapter
- 2013 Memorial Day outreach with Washington Sunshine # 94 Chapter
- 2017 Alma #100 Warder
- 2018- Current Alma # 100 Secretary
- 2017 Alma #100 Warder 2018- Current Alma # 100 Secretary
- 2019- Washington State Martha Lecturer Winner 2023- Associate Conductress
- 2023- Associate Conductress Member in good standing.

Mar 2015 - Present The Ninety-Nines, Inc. Science and Technology

- 2015-2019- Membership Chair Mid-Columbia Chapter: Ensure membership is maintained within the local community 2017-2019 Section Secretary 2015-2019- Membership Chair Mid-Columbia Chapter

- Apr 2016 - Aug 2017** **Washington Pilots Association:** Chapter Secretary: Helped establish new bylaws and information management of chapter.
- Jan 2017 - Jun 2022** **International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Washington Idaho**
November 2019- June 2020 Mother Advisor and Advisory Board Member
Work with youth to increase community service, and work to increase life skills including public speaking and time management
- Nov 2019 – Present** **DeMolay International Advisory Council:** Worked to increase public awareness of the organization Work with youth to increase community service, and work to increase life skills including public speaking and time management.
- 2017 – Present** **Washington State University Alumni Association: Tri Cities Chapter Volunteer:**
Planning events to encourage Alumni participation Planning events to encourage Alumni participation
- Dec 2019 – Present** **Order of The Amaranth Inc Member:**
The Order of the Amaranth is a Masonic-affiliated organization for Master Masons and their Ladies founded in 1873. The Order of the Amaranth was formed as a fraternal and charitable organization whose membership of men and women with Masonic affiliation share in major Philanthropic endeavor is the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation that raises funds which are provided, in the form of grants, to researchers selected by the American Diabetes Association. 100% of the funds raised are provided for use by the ADF as the Foundation is elected from our membership and no administrative expenses are incurred.

Awards

2023 Cross of Honor Recipient issued by DeMolay International in recognition of conspicuous meritorious service to a chapter and exceptionally outstanding efforts on behalf of DeMolay.

2015 Benton Franklin 4-H Council Leader of the Year

2013 Washington State University Leadership and Engagement Awards of Distinction (LEAD), President's Award for Leadership

2007 WSCC South Central Area Employee of the Year issued by Washington State of Conservation Commission

Recent Publications

- How Technology Has Revolutionized Safety in Agriculture
Precision Farming Dealer · Sep 20, 2023
- Podcast Ep. 189: Smart Apply with Guest Erin Jul 20, 2023
- AgriTalk Radio 7/10/2023 with Machinery Pete's Greg Peterson
- Reasons to Invest in Spraying Technologies to Create a Dynamic Response 6/21/23
- Why Your Customers Should Invest in New Sprayer Technologies Jun 15, 2023
- Podcast Ep. 187: Planting Season Overview with Guest Erin Hightower May 18, 2023
- How Growers Used Data from Their Connected Machines to Forecast Seed Planting Quality
Apr 1, 2023
- How to Create a Winning Growing Strategy with Precision Agriculture Mar 22, 2023
- Barriers to Success with Precision Agriculture Technology — That Actually Are Not Barriers
Dec 21, 2022
- Module Telematics Gateway: An Overlooked Interim Step to Autonomous Agriculture Nov
22, 2022
- Starting Harvest Like it's a New School Year Nov 7, 2022\
- Smart Orchard Field Day: Smart Apply/RDO Demonstration Oct 10, 2022
- Barriers to Success with Precision Agriculture Technology — That Actually Are Not Barriers
Sep 21, 2022
- 4 ways to get more value out of Ag Equipment and Tech Aug 12, 2022
- 6 Ways to Help Growers Evaluate Ag Equipment Demonstration from Dealerships May 26,
2022
- Playing Chess, Not Checkers in Precision Ag: 3 Key Moves to a Data-Driven Resource
Management Strategy Apr 13, 2022
- 4 Important Things the Rubik's Cube Can Teach Us About Precision Farming Mar 2, 2022
- Thoughts on tillage implementation Dec 21, 2021
- How to Start New Habits That Help Create a Safety Culture in Agribusiness Sep 23, 2021
- Podcast Ep. 143: See and Spray Select May 13, 2021
- Help Maximize Agronomic Data with a 6 step approach Feb 16, 2021
- Podcast Ep. 114: 10 Precision Ag Technologies for Your Operations Mar 31, 2020
- Podcast Ep. 113: GLOBALG.A.P. Mar 12, 2020

Attachments

- Articles for **StripTill Farmer** <https://www.striptillfarmer.com/authors/153-erin-hightower>

Erin Hightower

Erin Hightower is an agronomist for RDO Equipment Co. based in Pasco, Wash., where she consults with growers on precision agriculture adoption. She has a Master of Sciences in Agriculture, and Bachelor of Sciences in Agriculture Economics and Management from Washington State University. Email Erin at @ehightower@rdoequipment.com or connect with her on Twitter [@RDOErinH](https://twitter.com/RDOErinH).

ARTICLES

Technology Makes Strip-Till Safer

By [Erin Hightower](#) posted on September 20, 2023 | Posted in [Precision Agriculture](#)

Farmer health and safety is a part of more conversations than ever, and the latest agriculture and equipment technology offers new levels of not just productivity and efficiency but safety, too, through real-time communication and data.

[Read More](#) →



How New Sprayer Technologies Change Yields, Reduce Inputs & Manage Risk

By [Erin Hightower](#) posted on June 15, 2023 | Posted in [Equipment](#), [Crop Protection](#), [Precision Agriculture](#)

"While we can't predict the weather, pests' activity, or the price to reduce their strain on next year's crop, we can unlock spraying technology to improve any operation's agronomy," says agronomist Erin Hightower.

[Read More](#) →



What Winning Teams Can Teach Us About Precision Agriculture

By [Erin Hightower](#) posted on March 29, 2023 | Posted in [Precision Agriculture](#)

When the planters come out, like baseball, anticipation builds in those first few weeks. The pace of a game or planting season is determined in the first few minutes as you start to assess the strategy implemented by the other team.

[Read More](#) →



- Articles in **Precision Farming Dealer**: <https://www.precisionfarmingdealer.com/authors/117-erin-hightower>

ADVERTISE FOLLOW US  ITEMS

Safety in Agriculture

By [Erin Hightower](#) posted on September 20, 2023 | Posted in [Precision Agriculture 101](#), [Autonomy & Robotics](#)



Farmer health and safety is a part of more conversations than ever, and the latest agriculture and equipment technology offers new levels of not just productivity and efficiency but safety, too, through real-time communication and data.

Read More →

Why Your Customers Should Invest in New Sprayer Technologies

By [Erin Hightower](#) posted on June 15, 2023 | Posted in [Precision Sales](#), [Product Innovations](#)



"During a recent field technology day with Pacific Northwest growers we focused on helping growers to manage their minimum till operation as it changes throughout the growing season," says RDO agronomist Erin Hightower. "Growers asked us questions like: What tool can help me to manage pesticide application and input costs as the needs of my crop change?"

Read More →

What Winning Teams Can Teach Us About Precision Agriculture

By [Erin Hightower](#) posted on March 29, 2023



Farm data captured by farm management software systems is like playing "Money Ball" with your operation. With it, you could have a 2002 Oakland A's baseball team's storybook season instead of the 2013 Houston Astros team's season with the longest losing streak in the baseball team's history.

Read More →

Sample of YouTube Videos



Episode 187 | Planting Season Overview With Erin Hightower

RDO Equipment Co. [Subscribe](#) 5.67K subscribers 1 Share Save

81 views 5 months ago #farming #agriculture #planting
RDO Agronomist Tony Kramer and special guest Erin Hightower take us through planting season 2023 in the Northwest, Southwest and Midwest. While all regions have different challenges heading into this season, they're here to explain how using data analytics with a precision agriculture strategy improves efficiency. ...more



Agriculture Technology Podcast Episode 143 | See & Spray Select

RDO Equipment Co. [Subscribe](#) 5.67K subscribers 4 Share Save

131 views 2 years ago #agriculturetechnology #sprayer #farming
On this episode of the Agriculture Technology Podcast, Erin Hightower, RDO Agronomist, joins host Tony Kramer, to discuss John Deere's new See & Spray Select - the first commercially available Deere machine factory-equipped with this advanced spraying technology. ...more



John Deere TruSet Variable Tillage Applications

RDO Equipment Co. [Subscribe](#) 5.67K subscribers 16 Share Save

1.8K views 5 years ago
Erin Hightower, RDO Equipment Co. Agronomist based in Pasco, Washington, performed a field trial with the John Deere 2730 ripper equipped with TruSet technology. The field trial utilized a prescription tillage map to alleviate field compaction, resulting in significant fuel savings compared to traditional tillage. ...more

Speaker at No-Till Conference Spring 2024

No-Till Classroom #5


Optimize No-Till Decisions Using Your Precision Data

After 20 years of working with no-tillers in Washington and Oregon, **Erin Hightower**, based in Pasco, Wash., defined 3 proven strategies to ensure thriving no-till cropping systems. The agronomist at John Deere dealer RDO Equipment Co. takes a deep dive into the data you need to optimize your operations — whether you're planning the planting process, monitoring seed growth, starting variable fertilization applications or managing harvesting season.


You Will Learn: What specific precision ag technology can enhance your farming practices, how to collect and organize data, and how to analyze your data collection and use it to inform your farming decisions.



Helping the 4-H Teen Ambassadors with Projects and Events

 Erin Hightower is at Columbia Basin College.
October 11 at 9:17 PM · Pasco, WA · 🧑

First 4-H Club meeting of the year and.... they kind of have BIG ambitions this year!
All in! Get ready world... [Benton-Franklin 4-H Teen Ambassadors](#) is back at it

 Erin Hightower
October 20 at 8:40 PM · 🧑

4-H Bunco Night
Lots of fun and lots of things learned

A hand-drawn sign for "4-H Bunco Nite" with pricing and a photo of people at a table. The sign features the text: "4-H Bunco Nite", "\$3/Person/Game", and "\$10/Person for 4 adms". The photo shows three people standing around a table outdoors.

Nomination for Agriculture Hall of Fame for Erin Hightower

Erin Hightower
August 21 · 🧑



Erin Hightower
August 1 · 🧑

I am so proud of my 4-H family for putting together an awesome/fun and community empowering event



Nomination for Agriculture Hall of Fame for Erin Hightower



October 7 at 7:05 PM · 🧑🏻‍🦱

Spent an awesome day sharing National 4-H Week by teaching about 4-H to 45 people that came to our 4-H Project Fair and 7 signed up on the spot for this year! They learned about Goats, Pocket Pets, Rabbits, Horses, Sheep, Geology, Robots, Cats, Dogs, Sewing, cooking, entomology, Poultry, [WA State 4-H Know Your Government](#), and more about the [Benton-Franklin 4-H!](#)

So proud of my team's hard work!!

The collage consists of five photographs arranged in a grid. The top-left photo shows a group of people, including children and adults, gathered around a booth. The top-right photo shows a woman standing by a table with informational displays, talking to a child. The middle-left photo shows a woman and a child looking at a display. The middle-right photo shows a woman and a child looking at a display. The bottom photo shows a woman and a child looking at a display.

Helping with DeMolay Activities



Erin Hightower
October 28 at 6:19 PM · 🌐

Spending my day with @midcolumbiademolay at @wademolay
WADA



- 17 June Mini Golf
Kennewick at 9 a.m.
- 27 June Arcade
To Be Determined at 6 p.m.
- 4 July See us at the Pasco Parade
Pasco at 8 a.m.
- TBD July Service Project- Field Cleanup
To Be Determined
- 12 August Hiking Trip- Ginko Forest
To Be Determined
- 17 August Swimming at Pelican Bay
6:00 p.m.
- 17 September Board Game Night
5:00 p.m.

THE ROAD BEGINS HERE

Register to learn more about DeMolay and for events details
MidcolumbiaDeMolay@gmail.com or <https://beademolay.org>
For over a century, DeMolay has provided mentorship and life-skill programs so that young men can succeed in school and life.

Helping with International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Activities



Washington-Idaho
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

TRI-CITIES #66
SUMMER EVENTS

SIGN UP AT: TCRAINBOW66@GMAIL.COM

JUNE 15		MINI GOLF Kennewick- 6:00 p.m.
JUNE 29		FAMILY DINNER Richland- 6:00 p.m.
JULY 5		PARK CLEAN UP Richland -TBD
JULY 20		FOOD SORTING Pasco-5:30 .m.
JULY 27		CBC PLANETARIUM Pasco-TBD

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (Rainbow) is an inclusive, philanthropic, and leadership organization for girls ages 11-20. Our international motto is: "Rainbow Gets Girls Ready for Life!", in which girls learn leadership, communication, and organization skills

Community Guest Speaker Events

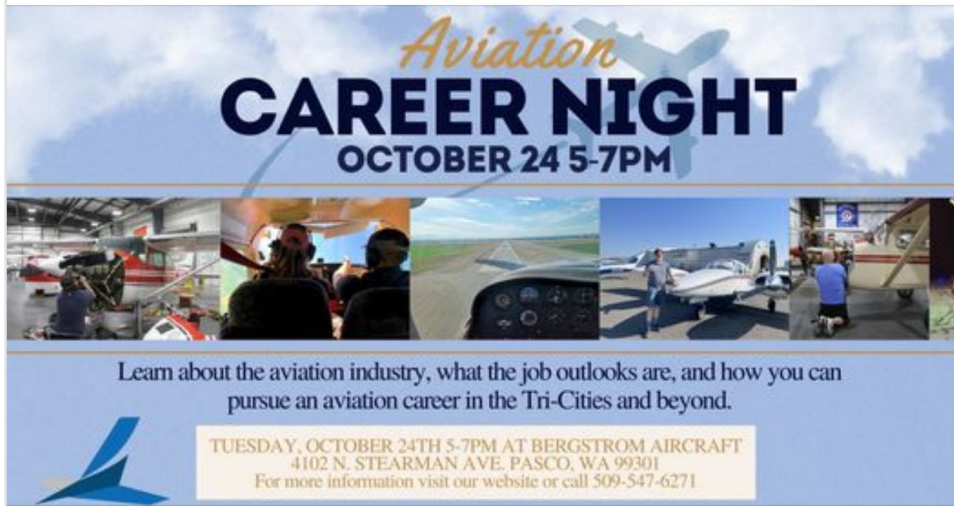


Erin Hightower

September 27 · 🧑



Got a high-school kid who wants to be in aviation?
Great opportunity to see what it takes



TUE, OCT 24

Bergstrom Aircraft Aviation Career Night

Pasco, WA

40 people interested

☆ Interested

The 99's Science and Technology Group

