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Bridges draws on lessons learned on the farm

ANDREW CRITCHELOW The News-Enterprise

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Submitted photos Lindsey Bridges of Elizabethtown serves as vice-president of customer experience at agricultural lending cooperative Farm Credit Mid-America. Raised on a family farm, Bridges also serves on the Kentucky FFA Foundation Board of Trustees and on the PTO board for Morningside Elementary School.

For Lindsey Bridges of Elizabethtown, her upbringing on the family farm proved to be a formative experience not just for her personal development and moral values, but her entire professional life.

From a young age, Bridges was helping out on her family's farmstead: BLT Farms in Elizabethtown.

"When you grow up on a farm, you have a very strong work ethic and you have very strong values," she said.

Serving as vice president of customer experience at agricultural lending cooperative Farm Credit Mid-America, Bridges said her early experiences in agriculture and her high school FFA program led her to where she is today.

Bridges' experience at Farm Credit dates back to when she was a senior at Central Hardin High School, working for the cooperative and Nolin RECC through the school's co-op program. After high school, she earned a degree in business from Western Kentucky University through the university's Elizabethtown campus.

Working with Farm Credit for 19 years, Bridges has worked at both the Elizabethtown branch and the cooperative's corporate office in Louisville.

Local farmer Richard Preston said he has known Bridges' family long enough to witness Bridges grow from helping out at BLT Farms to developing a career in agriculture. He has worked with her through Farm Credit and when they served together on the local Kentucky Farm Bureau board.

"It's great to see young people who are really, really bright who are interested in farming," he said. "She is really committed to making sure that family farms survive in America."

Bridges has used her experience in agriculture to give back through FFA. She serves on the Kentucky FFA Foundation Board of Trustees, which emphasizes scholarships and agricultural education programs.

Bridges said she has served on the board for the past 10 years. "I get exposed to a lot of different people from across the state who have a desire to work in agriculture and have a desire to give back to the agricultural community," she said. "To be able to meet them, influence them and mentor them has been an awesome opportunity for me."

To that end, Bridges also serves area youth through her role on Morningside Elementary School's PTO board. Serving as vice president of Ways & Means for the board, Bridges helps organize fundraising events for the PTO, such as the annual fall festival and Fun Run events.

Bridges said with the money raised from these events, the PTO made a donation this year for Morningside to acquire Chromebooks in order to institute one-to-one virtual learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We put every penny that we earn right back into the school,” she said.

Bridges also has served on the board for South Hardin Sports and currently serves as a coach for the organization.

“Being involved in my community is very important to me,” she said.

In conjunction with these activities, Bridges still helps out on the family farm, which produces corn, sweet corn, soy beans, wheat, hay and beef cattle. She often can be found selling produce from the farm Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Hardin County Farmers’ Market in Elizabethtown.

Bridges said the farm gives her an opportunity to pass down the values she learned in agriculture to her children.

“I have two small kids and they have the opportunity to have that experience, to experience the farm life,” she said. “...I wanted them to have the experience I had growing up.”

Andrew Critchelow can be reached at 270-505-1746 or acritchelow@thenewsenterprise.com.