

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



DAMIAN MASON

Professional Speaker and Farm Owner

Damian Mason is a professional speaker, entertainer, writer, businessman and farm owner.

Long before Damian enjoyed professional success in business or on the speaking circuit, he was a farm boy. At age 8 he had his first job, bottle -feeding calves on the Indiana dairy farm where he was raised.

Like many children of agriculture, he was involved in FFA and was a ten year 4-H member. Damian has a degree in

Agricultural Economics from Purdue University. He has also studied comedy writing and improvisation at The Second City in Chicago.

Few people are hilariously funny and farm knowledgeable. Damian is! He's delivered his hit program "Humor for the Heart of Agriculture" to the most recognizable names and organizations in the agricultural industry.

Since 1994, he's made over 1400 appearances, entertaining crowds in 50 states and 7 foreign countries.

Damian is passionate about the industry of feeding, fueling and clothing the world. His presentations are funny, smart, professional and, above all, respectful to the people of agriculture.

Damian is a member of the National Speakers Association, the Screen Actors Guild and the Indiana Farm Bureau. He and his wife Lori live (and work!) on a 200 acre beef, grain and timber farm in Huntington, Indiana.

Damian Mason is "Agriculture's Professional Funny Man!"

AGRIFUTURE FEEDBACK

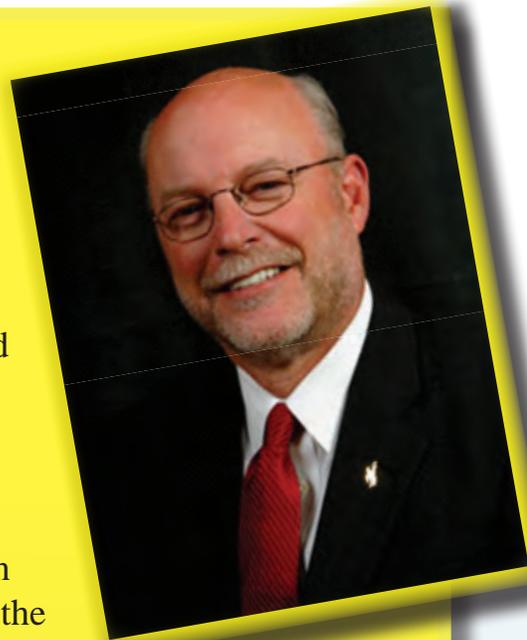
It was inspiring to be around the combination of young people and producers and industry leaders

TOM BUCHANAN

University of Wyoming

Tom Buchanan, President, University of Wyoming, has had a career in higher education that has spanned more than 35 years, as a student, teacher, and administrator. A native of New York, Buchanan attended the State University of New York at Cortland where he graduated with his undergraduate degree in 1973. He earned his master's of science from the University of Wyoming in 1975 and a Ph.D. from the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1979. After completing his doctorate, Buchanan returned to Wyoming as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Wyoming. Over the next 30 years, he rose through the faculty ranks to full professor, and has held various administrative positions including department head, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and vice president for academic affairs. On July 1, 2005, he was appointed the 23rd president of the University of Wyoming.

As UW president, Buchanan's priorities for the University have included excellence in academics, promoting access to higher education in Wyoming, and enhancing economic and workforce development in Wyoming. Buchanan is the recipient of numerous awards recognizing excellence in teaching and administration, including the Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching award and the Seibold Professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences. He serves on the governing boards of the Mountain West Athletic Conference, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications. He is Wyoming's representative to State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO).



AGRIFUTURE FEEDBACK

A fantastic conference! I wish more people would attend, I will definitely be back next year. This is an immense benefit to everybody involved, and I have a new excitement of the future of Ag!

MATT TRIPOLI

EuroMonitor International

Matt Tripodi is the US Government & Trade Relations Manager at global market research firm Euromonitor International. Mr. Tripodi has more than 15 years' experience in research and strategy consulting for leading multinational corporations, government agencies and trade associations. He presently serves the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the Economic Research Service, all state departments of agriculture and more than 130 US trade organizations in understanding global export opportunities through the use of Euromonitor's award-winning data systems and custom research services. Mr. Tripodi has been a guest speaker at numerous conferences and events, including:

- Produce Marketing Association's Fresh Summit – "From Russia with Promise – A Look at the Emerging Russian Marketplace"
- National Restaurant Association (NRA) – "Nutritional Trends Affecting Your Business"
- ANESA Region Business Conference – "Uncovering New Export Markets in the Africa, Near East and South Asia (ANESA) Region"
- Food Export Marketing Forum – "Outlook for US Food Products: Consumption and Export Trends"
- Michigan Food & Agri-Business Symposium – "Domestic and International Opportunity Outlook for Michigan's Agricultural Products"
- Joint meeting of the Food Service and Packaging Institute and the European Food Packaging Association – "The Asia-Pacific Consumer Foodservice Market: Opportunities and Challenges"

He is regularly featured in the media with mentions in the Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, Dallas Morning News and the Chicago Sun Times.

Prior to joining Euromonitor, he served as Vice President at Research Pros, Inc. in Chicago, where he provided research services to leading consulting and CPG businesses. Mr. Tripodi was a founding member of the Chicago Chapter of the Diabetes Exercise and Sports Association and chaired the marketing committee for StreetWise, a publication in Chicago that supports the homeless by providing gainful self-employment and job training services.

AGRIFUTURE FEEDBACK

The 2012 conference gave me the want and need to share my opinion and inform more people about the industry. I have made many connections that will help me in the future.

ROBERT TSE

USDA Rural Development

Robert Tse works with USDA Rural Development and is responsible for developing regional rural economic development strategies in California including integrating policies, resources and initiatives through federal, state, local government and public-private partnerships. He is the USDA lead for the Strong Cities – Strong Communities, White House pilot initiative in Fresno.

Prior to this position he was an international consultant focusing on food and agriculture. He served as the Deputy Director for International Trade in the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and as Deputy Secretary for Trade Development with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). He also served on the Governor’s California Recovery Task Force on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from 2009-10. He was the Director of Trade for CDFA and is a 17 veteran of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Robert Tse holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Boston College Law School, a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University, and Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from Brown University. He was a California Agricultural Leadership, Washington, D.C. Fellow and International Career Advancement Program Fellow. He is a member of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, World Affairs Council Board of Sacramento, and Board of Advisors to Drexel University Sacramento Center for Graduate Studies. He is also a recipient of the USDA Secretary’s Honor Award.



PAMELA ROSE

USDA Rural Development

Pamela Rose joined the Canadian Consulate in Denver as Consul and Trade Commissioner for Agriculture in September 2011. Prior to this assignment, Pamela was posted to the Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC as First Secretary (Agriculture and Fisheries), where she took the lead on bilateral livestock, fisheries and meat trade files. Before going to Washington, she was Deputy Director of the Regional Trade Policy Division with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, where she was a lead negotiator on several of Canada’s bilateral free trade agreements. She joined the Canadian public service in 2000, and her education includes a Master of Public Administration degree from Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. Pamela grew up in an air force family in Alberta and Ontario, as well as in the United States and Belgium.



JAMES R. FISCHER, PH.D., P.E.

J.R. Fischer & Associates

Jim Fischer's working knowledge of renewable and energy efficient technologies as well as environmental and agriculture issues provides him with unique insights on building synergy in public/private sector partnerships within the energy-environment-agriculture nexus. As a result of his leadership in energy, agriculture, environment and higher education, he has spoken extensively both nationally and internationally to public and private sector audiences, including universities, government agencies, industries and associations and has served as a consultant to universities, federal and state governments, foundations and other entities. Topics include renewable energy production from resources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass, as well as enhancing efficient use of energy. His unique insights on the energy-environment-agriculture nexus have been fused by extensive experience in each of these sectors.

Jim grew up on a family crop and livestock farm in Missouri. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia. As a USDA research engineer in the 1970s, he published the design specifications for the original integrated on-farm renewable energy system. Dr. Fischer has served at three universities (holding Professorial and Dean positions) — Missouri, Michigan State, and Clemson. He has provided leadership for numerous national organizations as well as led national programs envisioning the future of state and land-grant universities which have resulted in responsive research and outreach programs and relevant curricula at universities that address the critical issues impacting society today, such as agriculture, food, environment and energy. He has published more than 100 papers, contributed book chapters, testified before Congress, and served on peer review panels and advisory boards.

In 2003, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs of the U.S. Department of Energy. As the Senior Technical Advisor (Academe) he developed innovative partnerships and models of collaboration with universities, especially land grant universities, USDA, foundations and the agricultural, industrial and business communities. In January 2007, he and his wife, Sharon, formed James R. Fischer and Associates, LLC; a consulting firm focused on technology and management issues at the agriculture/environment intersection. Dr. Fischer worked with the Undersecretary for USDA's Research, Education and Economics mission area and facilitated the first USDA Strategic Energy Science Plan, which included the conduct of BioEnergy Awareness Days (BEAD). He also develops energy outreach educational programs for DOE. He served on the planning committee for the USDA/DOE Renewable Energy Conference held in St. Louis October of 2006 and worked with the State Department as chair of the R&D Theme for Washington International Renewable Energy Conference held in DC March 2008. Also, he assisted the National Council on Competitiveness's Energy Security, Innovation & Sustainability Initiative. He served on the planning committee for the Farm Foundation's Transition to the Bioeconomy series of workshops and presently serves as Project Director – Energy for the Farm Foundation based in Chicago. In addition he advises several university clients on issues related to developing their energy portfolio. In addition, he serves on the Missouri Energy Council, the Board of Directors of the Missouri Energy Initiative (Secretary)(<http://www.moenergy.org/>), on the Board of the University of Missouri College of Engineering Foundation (Treasurer) and on the College of Engineering Alumni Board.

He has received the Southern Directors Association's Excellence in Leadership Award in Agriculture, the US Department of State's Superior Honor Award, the US Department of Agriculture's Honor Award for Excellence, US Department of Energy's Distinguished Career Service Award and Superior Performance Award and the Missouri Honor Award for Distinguished Service in Engineering from the University of Missouri.

Jim and Sharon have three children (all three with Agriculture degrees) - Benjamin, BS Horticulture, purchasing and new product development Manager for Mea Nursery, Lindale TX; Matthew, Masters Agricultural Economics, Farm Manager at Clemson University; Margy, BS Agricultural Journalism, editor Farm Journal and Implement & Tractor, Mexico, MO. For 20 years, Jim and Sharon owned and operated a beef production and marketing business.

LOYD WILSON

Missouri Dept. of Agriculture, Director

Loyd Wilson began his employment with the Missouri Department of Agriculture in 1995 as an Agriculture Promotion Specialist. He was promoted to Cooperative Marketing Specialist in 1997, Domestic Marketing Program Coordinator in 1998, and Director of the Division of Market Information and Outreach in 2002. Since then he has served as Director of the Agriculture Business Development Division and as Director of the Grain Inspection and Warehousing Division.

In 2012 Loyd was appointed Senior Policy Advisor by Director Jon Hagler. In this position he participates in state and federal agricultural policy development, working closely with producers, industry organizations, and elected officials. He has served on the 2012 Farm Bill Development committees for the Midwest Governor's Association and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He also works with the Director and Deputy Director on the day-to-day administration of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

In addition to his career activities, Loyd currently sits on the Boards of Directors for the Agribusiness Council of Kansas City, Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow, and the University of Missouri Bradford Research and Extension Center. A native of Thompson, Missouri, Loyd is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia with a B.S. in Agriculture and a Master's degree in Public Administration. He and his wife Carol have two grown children and live on a small cattle farm near Columbia, Missouri.



DALLAS MOUNT

UW Extension

Dallas Mount, UW Extension Educator based in Wheatland and serving Southeast Wyoming. Dallas co-developed the High Plains Ranch Practicum School that is an eight day course focused on profit focused ranching. Dallas has served as a UW Extension Educator since 2001. He and his wife Dixie have 2 children and operate a small irrigated grass operation near Wheatland.



AGRIFUTURE FEEDBACK

I learned what a broad range of topics agriculture covers; in the future I will be considering things like energy, regulations, marketing and sustainability

GREGOR GERTZ

USDA Farm Service Agency - Wyoming

Gregor was born in Wheatland, WY and grew up on a farm 20 miles south in Slater. Three of his grandparents homesteaded within 7 miles of where he grew up and resides today. After high school he attended Western Wyoming College in Rock Springs, WY before returning to the family farm. He purchased his first farm in 1974 and expanded it into Laramie County, WY in 1976, leasing land for 25 years until additional land was available in the Slater area. The operation has grown to 24,000 acres of leased and deeded land with 5,000 acres of that being farmland and the balance grassland. The Goertz family runs 330 bred cows and retains all of the calves over as yearlings selling the majority of them as grass fat. In the year 2000 they certified the farmland as Organic and by 2005 the farm and livestock were 100% certified organic.

Gregor has been married to Cindy for 34 years and they have three children, Jason (31), Matthew (28) and Tori (23). Jason is currently running the farm and ranch. In 2004 Gregor and his wife Cindy started Wyoming Pure Natural Beef, a direct marketing beef company, with their children. Wyoming Pure continues to expand by selling more of the herd annually directly to the consumers.

Outside of his agricultural operation Gregor served on the Platte County ASCS Committee in the early 80's. He served one term as Platte County Commissioner from 1986-1991. He served on the founding board of the Wheatland Area Development Corporation. Other boards he has served on are the Platte County Fair Board, Wyoming Wheat Growers, Platte Manor Senior Apartments and various church boards. In 1995 Gregor was appointed to the Wyoming FSA State Committee (STC), serving as Chairman for four years. When Bush was elected in 2001 Gregor was reappointed to the STC for four years. He was instrumental in starting the Slater Wind Energy Association in 2007 to promote renewable energy in the area and has continued to serve as Chairman. Gregor accepted the appointment as State Executive Director of the Wyoming Farm Service Agency in July of 2009 taking over the role on August 10.



KERIN CLARK

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

Kerin Clark serves as the media and member relations director for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Clark began her career with the organization 18 years ago as an intern. Her responsibilities now include serving as editor of the monthly newspaper, media relations, website development, leadership development programs, county field services and serving as the Young Farmer and Rancher Coordinator.

Raised on a cow/calf operation north of Laramie, Wyoming, her agriculture roots run deep. Her family just celebrated 125 years in agriculture, a tradition of which she is proud and that makes her even more determined to continue her work for agriculture.

Clark's ranching background along with her participation in FFA and 4-H guide her work today. She was honored to serve as a Wyoming FFA state officer and is a former Miss Rodeo Wyoming. Clark received an agricultural communications degree from the University of Wyoming in 1998. She and her husband, Jake reside in Torrington, Wyoming. They have two children: Kadra, 10 and Kyler 7.

RICK COYLE

Northern Ag Broadcast Network

As Director of National Sales for Northern Broadcasting System Rick Coyle draws on a strong background in production agriculture, education and industry marketing to fill a key position on the network's sales team.

Rick was raised on an irrigated farm and purebred cattle operation in Fromberg, MT. He attended Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming and later graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman with a B.S. degree in Agriculture Education.

During Rick's 10 years as Vocational Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor in Pinedale and Kaycee, Wyoming, many of his students went on to become state officers, proficiency and speech winners, and most importantly...agriculture leaders in their local community. Since moving back to Montana in 1992 he has continued to work with 4-H and FFA youth as an alumni member in activities across Montana and Wyoming.

Today Rick Coyle is deeply involved in some of the most successful Ag Marketing programs in the Rocky Mountain West, working on a daily basis with several of the leading suppliers of agricultural goods and services. He develops the broadcast marketing plans for companies such as DuPont, Cargill, Pfizer, Bayer, and Corral West Ranchwear. Rick is an associate member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, a member of the National Ag Marketing Association, the Huntley Project FFA Alumni, and a charter member of the Big Sky Association of Leather Artists.

Rick and his wife Tammy Jo live in Worden, MT. For entertainment Rick enjoys tooling leather and teasing kids!

