

Candidate Profiles District 2

Jacob Neil – I have been a proud member of the Polk County community all of my life. My family operated a farm southwest of Bolivar, which is still where I call home. For 9 years I taught high school at Dallas County R-1 Schools and recently began a new career at Southwest Electric Cooperative in Bolivar. I would be honored to be considered for this position and would be proud to serve this community.

Barrett Pierce – I am a lifelong resident of Polk County. I grew up on a cow/calf operation and continue to farm on the same place that I grew up, but things look a little different now as we have switched from beef production to raising hair sheep. After a stint in the Army, I returned home and went to school at Missouri State University to get a degree in agriculture with a minor in agronomy. I work for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Resource Conservationist. I am very passionate about grazing lands and helping farmers to conserve resources while increasing profitability. I have a great enthusiasm for the use of native warm season grasses in a grazing operation and am always excited to talk to anyone that will listen about them. My wife Lucia and I love to travel whether it be to the sands of Florida or the red rocks of Utah. Our daughter Hannah is a sophomore at MSU and studying business with an emphasis on fashion. Along with my family, dad and brother and his family, we are adamant about the future of agriculture, health of our country, the great enjoyment of the outdoors and the legacy of generational farms and that way of life

LaNelda Presley – I am a lifelong resident of Polk County and a graduate of Bolivar High School. I have owned and operated The Book Cellar in Bolivar for over 30 years. Along with The Book Cellar I also have an alteration business all on the square in Bolivar. I have served on the Polk County Extension council for several terms through the years - serving as secretary many times. I also served as a county 4-H project leader and club leader for Eudora 4-H.

Donnie Pulley – I currently reside in my hometown of Pleasant Hope where I work as the Operations Manager for Best Beef Missouri. I am a graduate of Pleasant Hope High School and am actively involved in school and community relations. I have been a member of the community leaders committee since it was formed. I also serve on the school ag department advisory committee. I am actively involved in our FFA chapter as an alumni supporter. My wife is the Health Services Coordinator and head volleyball coach for Pleasant Hope. We have a total of 7 amazing children who are actively involved in sports and FFA. George Washington famously said, "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man". This statement shows that from the beginning of our nation agriculture has been a cornerstone and I hope that it remains one.