

Scott VanderWal is a third generation family farmer from Volga, in east central South Dakota. He and his wife, Michelle, have 2 married sons and 5 grandchildren with a sixth due in April of 2024. Their operation includes corn, soybeans and custom cattle feeding.

Scott graduated from South Dakota State University, with a bachelor's degree in General Agriculture with a Plant Science minor. He was involved there with student Senate, Little International staff, and many other activities. Scott has served on many boards and committees, including county Farm Bureau board and local Cattlemen's board.

Scott's agricultural background includes an exchange trip to Germany in 1996, a tour of the soybean "frontier" in Brazil in 2001 and Brazilian cattle country in 2006. He was a member of an agricultural trade mission to Cuba in 2004, and visited Geneva Switzerland as a member of the AFBF Trade Advisory Committee in 2009. Also as a member of the Trade Advisory Committee, he traveled to Brazil, Colombia and Panama in 2011.

Scott and Michelle served on the state Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee for several years, and one year as chairman. They also were appointed to and served on the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee from 1992-1994, where Scott was elected second Vice-chairman. Scott is a member of Class III of the South Dakota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program.

He has been a member of the South Dakota Farm Bureau board of directors since 1997, including three years as Vice-president, and has served as president since June of 2004. Other board memberships that arise out of the state president's position are Farm Bureau Property Casualty Insurance Company, and the Farm Bureau BanCorp board. Scott was elected to the American Farm Bureau board of directors in January of 2006, and that has led to serving as chairman of the AFBF Audit committee, a member of the AFBFA audit committee, and co-chair of the Industry Wide Beef Check-off Task Force.

Scott represented Farm Bureau on the Monsanto Grower Advisory Council, and traveled to China in November of 2008 with the council.

He served on the Sioux Valley School Board for 9 years, including 6 as president of the board. He also served as treasurer of First Reformed Church in Volga from 1986 through 2022 and currently serves as an elder in the church.

Scott was a member of the founding board of directors of South Dakota Wind Partners, the first individually owned wind generation facility in South Dakota.

In January of 2016, Scott was elected to the office of Vice President of American Farm Bureau Federation by the delegates at the AFBF annual convention in Orlando, Florida, and continues to serve in that capacity. He represented AFBF as a board member of U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action and served as Vice-chairman through 2022.

Scott believes that the world is run by those who show up and get involved, and that if farmers don't speak out for agriculture, no one else will either. He also believes that the future of American agriculture is very exciting, as long as free enterprise and the entrepreneurial spirit of agricultural producers are preserved.