

Nuffield USA Report, By Ed Kee, President, Nuffield USA



Nuffield USA was officially established in 2016 as a non-profit Delaware corporation. It is my honor to serve as the President of the Board of Directors, which includes Jean Lonie, Vice-President; Jim Geltch, Secretary-Treasurer; Bill Northey, Bart Ruth, Kelvin Meadows and Kyle Amos.

Nuffield USA funded its first Scholar in 2017, Georgie Cartanza, a poultry producer from Dover, Delaware. In 2018, two Scholars, Brian Dougherty, an agricultural engineer and farmer from Iowa, and Archie Griffin, a farmer from North Carolina will be the Nuffield USA Scholars.

2017 was largely a year devoted to funding development and introducing Nuffield to a wide range of agricultural organisations, agri-businesses, agricultural policy makers and farmers. I made six trips to Iowa to develop funding from Iowa agricultural commodity organisations, which resulted in four investing in the first Iowa Nuffield Scholar, Brian Dougherty. In addition, a strong relationship with Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has emerged which should be helpful in getting the Nuffield brand in front of Iowa's agricultural interests as well as helping to surface potential Nuffield candidates. Jim Geltch joined me on two of these trips, including the Nuffield US candidate interview day in November.

Our other Scholar for 2018, Archie Griffin, is funded by TCGA, a part of the TIAA organisation.

In addition, I attended the World Food Prize Week, held annually in Des Moines, Iowa, to celebrate the accomplishments of Iowa's Nobel Peace Laureate, Dr. Norman Borlaug and to address global food issues. Three current Nuffield Scholars (representing the UK, Australia and Ireland) also attended the World Food Prize week along with a Scholar from New Zealand.

Jean Lonie, Jim Geltch and Kyle Amos spent a week in Texas to introduce the Nuffield Program to a wide range of interested agricultural audiences. They covered over 1,500 miles and visited 35 counties in our largest state in the continental US (only Alaska is larger).

I visited California two times, once with Jim Geltch and one alone to pursue the same mission as we all did in Iowa, Texas, Washington, DC, New Orleans, Boston and other parts of the country. In all, nearly 100 individual face-to-face meetings with potential investors and supporters were made in 2017 by Board members.

As President, it was my honor and privilege to host two Global Focus Programs groups for week-long visits – one in Delaware in March and another in Iowa in June. In addition to the educational

and experiential aspects of the GFP for Scholars, it serves as an effective vehicle or platform for USA agricultural communities and interests to learn about Nuffield. The level of engagement and the keen intellect of the Scholars that come through on GFP trips always impresses the Americans they interact with, which leaves a very positive impression about Nuffield.

Board member Bill Northey, Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture believes it's really important that a GFP group come back to Iowa in 2018 and another Iowa GFP experience is scheduled for 2018. Jean Lonie developed a list of other US States for 2018 GFP visits in concurrence with Nuffield USA, Nuffield Australia and Nuffield International. Those states include Iowa, North Carolina, Texas, Oregon, California and Alabama.

A critical part of the GFP experience is the visit to Washington, DC. Scholars visit with the Executive Branch of the US Government (primarily the USDA), on Capitol Hill to visit with Senators, Congressmen and Congresswomen and their staffs to learn about the Farm Bill, and to visit agricultural farm and trade organisations to understand the relationship to the development of agricultural policy. Each year the GFP groups are combined into two different larger groups that meet in Washington in March or June. I hosted the two groups in 2017.

Nuffield USA initiatives with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) have resulted in NASDA providing guidance, contacts, planning and helping host future GFP Washington experiences, beginning in 2018. NASDA is based in Washington, DC and represents all 50 state departments of agriculture to federal agencies in Washington. Jean Lonie and I attended the NASDA annual meeting and spoke to each of the four regional sections of NASDA, explaining Nuffield, asking state secretaries of agriculture to consider hosting GFP groups and to help identify potential Scholars for their states.

The 2019 Contemporary Scholars Conference will be held in Ames, Iowa, at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, near the Iowa State University. Jim Geltch and I made site visits and the planning has begun. A day's program at the World Food Prize Building in Des Moines will be a part of the CSC, along with tours to farms and agribusinesses.

Outreach to other states and regions will continue in 2018, ensuring we continue to strengthen the Nuffield presence in states where investors are involved as well as states hosting GFP groups. In addition, we will introduce the Nuffield mission to potential investors in the US with a national or even international footprint. Jean Lonie is exploring the potential of a major agricultural media partner to provide national exposure of Nuffield to agricultural and related audiences.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the Nuffield USA Board for their enthusiasm and continuing commitment to Nuffield USA and the Nuffield International mission. I also have gratitude to our first investors and all those who are considering investing. A truly team effort has emerged within Nuffield USA and its investors and supporters. As a result, real dividends from that spirit of cooperation are beginning to emerge.