



IOWA FARM BUREAU'S

# ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2019

MANAGING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES.

DES MOINES MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN JUNE 28, 2019

## BIO: Adam Ornawka

I grew up on a mixed farm in northwest Saskatchewan. We grew a mix of small grains including wheat, barley, canola, oats, and pulse crops, as well as raising purebred polled Herefords. I took a keen interest in agriculture at a young age eager to run machinery and joining the local 4-H beef club. This interest led me to the college of agriculture in at the University of Saskatchewan where in majored in agronomy with a minor in agriculture business. During the summers I worked a range of jobs including retail, hi bred canola seed production, and not for profit agronomy research.

Upon graduation in 2004 moved to Alberta where I worked for a grain company buying grain and selling inputs for a short time before taking a management role at an independent crop input retailer. This career eventually led me back to saskatoon in 2008 where I took on a purchasing manager role for another independent crop input retail.

In 2009 I found the opportunity to purchase some farm land and began my return to the family farm. With the cattle now gone we expanded from 2800 acres to 5000. As the workload continued to grow on the farm full time work was no longer an option, as a result I shifted to consulting work. My consulting business focused on precision farming, including creating variable rate prescriptions and soil testing using ion resin technology and crop modeling software.

In 2015 650ac of organic farmland rental was offered to me. This was an exciting opportunity to diversify given the recent enthusiasm towards organic food. Unfortunately this meant I no longer had the time to dedicate to my consulting business and farming became my full time focus. After two years of honing my organic farming practices I discovered the opportunity to contract organic hemp grain as a lucrative cropping option and have included it in my rotation ever since.

I now farm 6000 ac with my father and with the recent addition of a busy little boy to our family I'm eager to keep building the farm for generations to come.