

# FARM JOURNAL Legacy Project

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## SPEAKER BIOS



**Johnne Syverson** has more than 40 years experience in helping individuals, families and business owners design and plan their futures. He is a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) Practitioner and one of only 1,800 practitioners in the United States who is credentialed as an Accredited Estate Planner (AEP). Johnne serves as a resource to other professionals in the area of charitable tax planning, a strategy that enables individuals to increase their income, reduce taxes and preserve their estate for their heirs and the charities of their choice. This strategy incorporates their philanthropic values into the traditional planning process. Johnne is one of only 60 Certified Heritage Professionals (CHP) in the United States who has been certified by The Heritage Institute. Johnne teaches families how to pass on their values to the next generation and prepare their heirs to receive their financial and emotional inheritance. Johnne is past president of the International Association of Advisors in Philanthropy (AiP) and past president of the Mid-Iowa Estate Planning Council. Currently, Johnne is a member of Familybusiness.ag, a network of consultants who help farm families with their business transitions. He also serves on the board of directors of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI). Johnne holds a Master of Science degree in Financial Services (MSFS) from the American College in Bryn Mawr, Pa. He and his wife, Linda, live in West Des Moines, Iowa, and have three adult children and nine grandchildren.



**Paul Neiffer** is an agribusiness CPA and business adviser for CliftonLarsonAllen. He specializes in income taxation and accounting services specific to the farm community. This includes succession planning issues and opportunities related to taxes and compliance. He writes a monthly tax column for Top Producer and blogs at [www.AgWeb.com](http://www.AgWeb.com). Paul went to the University of Washington and obtained a degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. He started working with Moss Adams in Yakima, Wash., in the early 1980s. Paul then started a CPA firm in Bend, Ore., with two other partners and was an owner for about nine years. Since 1998, Paul has been located in central Washington and provides tax and accounting services for many types of farms as a partner with CliftonLarsonAllen. Paul was also actively involved in running a plastic packaging and printing business for about five years before it was sold in 2004. Although it was not a farming operation, many of the management lessons he learned there also apply to farming. He was raised on a dryland wheat and pea farm in Washington and was actively involved in the farming operation during his teen and early college years. Paul still enjoys driving the combine during harvest.



**Kevin Bearley** is director of the tax research department with Kennedy and Coe, LLC. He coordinates sophisticated tax and estate planning strategies across various industries, reviews estate and gift tax plans and returns, speaks at family business and tax conferences, and resolves numerous IRS appeals level cases. Since 1997, Bearley has been with Kennedy and Coe working to make a difference in the lives and businesses of the firm's clients. He believes clients look to the firm for advice in personal, family and company issues and that Kennedy and Coe "walks the walk" of becoming their business partner. Most of Bearley's work revolves around agriculture clients, he says, because of recent increases in land values, which encourages owners to take advantage of current estate laws. Bearley enjoys the challenge of meeting an individual's needs and goals and says getting to know client's on a personal level has been the biggest benefit of his Kennedy and Coe career. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a Master of Business Administration degree. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University of Law and his LL.M and MA degrees in tax from the University of Denver Law School.