

DR. VIRGIL R. BREMER



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TO MY FUTURE COLLABORATORS

I'm a faith-driven, entrepreneurial leader with a burning passion to put better food on tables while developing high-performing teams that transform rural challenges into sustainable solutions for the future of production agriculture. Whether stewarding \$1.4B in rural revitalization efforts or scaling agricultural operations to 3,300-head capacity, I lead with humility and emotional intelligence to help the collective reach its full potential.

My driving mission is to steward systems, people, and ideas in ways that serve redemptive good and build legacies that outlive me. I'm energized by complex challenges that others see as obstacles, particularly those affecting rural economies, food systems, and community resilience.

Where I create exceptional value:

- **Strategic Vision and Innovative Problem Solving:** I bridge the gap between big-picture thinking and operational precision, having successfully secured and deployed \$60M+ in grants while building profitable agricultural enterprises.
- **Systems Transformation:** Whether it's rural economic development, agricultural operations, or organizational turnarounds, I design and implement frameworks that create sustainable growth.
- **Collaborative, Team-Focused Leadership:** I excel as a turnaround CEO, contract COO, interim director, or strategic advisor while partnering with execution-focused teams to achieve breakthrough results.

Impact in Action: As founder of Blue River Beef, I built a 14-site integrated cattle operation while simultaneously leading Rush County's economic development as Board President. This dual role enabled me to champion a \$300M manufacturing facility, secure \$10M in Lilly Foundation grants for community infrastructure, and create an agricultural investment acceleration strategy in partnership with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

I thrive when partnering with mission-driven organizations and leaders who need strategic clarity, operational systems, or breakthrough thinking to scale their impact. My greatest fulfillment comes from investing in others' growth while building ventures that transform challenges into community value. Let's explore how we might collaborate to multiply impact in your sphere of influence.

SINCERELY,

DR. VIRGIL R. BREMER

CAREER EXPERIENCE

AG STRAT LLC | FOUNDER, CEO, VISIONARY

2023 - Current

- Bridges vision and execution as CEO/COO/strategic advisor, building high-performing teams that multiply impact
- Transforms complex rural challenges into sustainable solutions
- Invests in others' growth while creating legacy systems that serve redemptive good, specializing in rural economies, food systems, and faith-rooted leadership development across agricultural and community ventures

BLUE RIVER BEEF LLC | FOUNDER, CEO, VISIONARY

2021 - Current

- Develop and implement growth strategies that scale operations from startup to 3,300-head capacity
- Champion capacity building and organizational efficiency while leading vision and culture alignment across company leaders and contractors
- Direct 14-site cattle backgrounding operation with owned and contracted facilities, overseeing risk management and financial decision-making

B & B CATTLE LLC | FOUNDER, OWNER

2013 - Current

- Lead strategy and operations for 250 head capacity cattle backgrounding and finishing operation
- Developed and operationalized a direct-to-consumer production model

ELANCO ANIMAL HEALTH | SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST

2010 - 2016

- Technology licensing and technical assessment of food animal performance enhancing products
- Built and led a global (4 continents and 8 countries) network of research collaborations developing technologies for food animal production

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA | ETHANOL PROJECT COORDINATOR, GRADUATE STUDENT

2004 - 2010

- Created biology-based models to predict livestock operation profitability and environmental impact
- Conducted meta-analyses on the effects of ethanol industry byproducts on feedlot cattle performance
- Critically evaluated precision, accuracy, and quality control of laboratory procedures
- Managed 3 feedlot trials, 1 metabolism trial, and 10 laboratory experiments
- Published 47 research reports, 13 journal articles and 4 software programs
- Teaching assistant for 2 undergraduate classes

DR. DARREL J. KESLER UNDERGRADUATE BOVINE REPRODUCTIVE RESEARCH GROUP | RESEARCH PROJECT LEAD

2001-2004

- Led an estrus synchronization research project on timed AI in beef cows (540 cows)

EDUCATION & AWARDS

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ANIMAL SCIENCE - RUMINANT NUTRITION

University of Nebraska-Lincoln | 2010
Dissertation: "Feeding Ethanol Industry Byproducts to Feedlot Cattle"
Advisors: Dr. Terry J. Klopfenstein and Dr. Galen E. Erickson

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ANIMAL SCIENCE - RUMINANT NUTRITION

University of Nebraska-Lincoln | 2007
Thesis: "Water Solubility of Phosphorus in Feedlot Cattle Feces and Manure"
Advisors: Dr. Terry J. Klopfenstein and Dr. Galen E. Erickson

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS *Purdue University, Indiana | 2018*

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION *Kelley School of Business, Indiana University | 2018*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ANIMAL SCIENCE *Food Animal Production, University of Illinois-Urbana | 2003*

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COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT

Indiana State Board of Animal Health, *Board Member*

COUNTY GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Accelerate Rural Indiana Regional Economic Development Authority, *Board Member*

- Secure and deploy \$50M in READI grants that enables \$1B+ of regional economic and community development

Board of Zoning Appeals and Area Planning Commission, *Board Member and Ordinance Review Committee*

Rush County Broadband Taskforce, *Committee Member*

VOLUNTEERING

Rush County Economic and Community Development, *Board President*

- Secure and implement \$10M Lilly grants allowing the creation of a \$20M+ community center, removal of residential blight, improved broadband infrastructure, and updated parks as part of a county wide rural revitalization initiative
- Secure private company commitment that resulted in building a \$300M+ dogfood production plant
- Created a regional ag economic development strategy
- Collaborate with the Indiana State Department of Ag to develop ag investment acceleration strategy
- Implemented and chair a weekly meeting with county and city community leaders to execute county opportunities

Indiana Farm Bureau, *Rush County Farm Bureau Board President*

Purdue Extension, *Rush County Advisory Board Member*

Park Chapel Christian Church, *Men's Ministry Leadership Team Member*

Carthage Volunteer Fire Department, *Member*

ADDITIONAL SKILLS & EXPERTISE

TRAINING

- Research • Designing, conducting, analyzing, and interpreting hypothesis driven research
- Computer • Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access)
- Livestock • Proficient in livestock handling and trained in carcass data collection
- Evaluation • Collegiate level meats and meat animal evaluation

HONORS

- Indiana Agrilnstitute Ag Leadership Program | Class 18 Graduate
- University of Nebraska Cooper and Sharpless Graduate Student Fellowship Recipient
- 4-time University of Nebraska Whitmore Memorial Fund Recipient
- Graduated with Highest Honors at the University of Illinois
- American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Academic Award Recipient
- University of Illinois College of ACES James Scholar and Jonathan Baldwin Turner Research Scholar
- Illinois State FFA – Section 25 President 1999-2000
- 10 year 4-H Member
- Boy Scouts of America – Eagle Scout