



May 16, 2014, Urbandale, IA – Validus is proud to announce that Jacob Phipps of Gower, Missouri has taken on the position of Animal Welfare Specialist.

Jacob was raised in the small town of Gower, Missouri. His family has a farm back home, and it is one of the oldest family owned farms in the area. Phipps hopes to be at least part owner of the family farm someday. He went to school at East Buchanan, was a member of the baseball team and was very active in FFA. His freshman year of high school he joined the FFA Trapshooting team where he decided that agriculture was to be his field of study and work. He held three offices while in FFA; Sentinel as a sophomore, Treasurer as a Junior, and President Senior year. Phipps has received many awards and recognitions including his State FFA Degree and American Degree, proficiency awards, awards from FFA swine shows, and in 2009 he was a Missouri State Champion FFA Trapshooter.

Phipps' first experience with pigs was at the East Buchanan swine farm. He began raising his own show hogs on the school farm and helped with management alongside his advisor. After about two years of doing this, he began to help teach younger students on the farm. In 2009 Phipps had an Overall Grand Champion Hampshire Barrow at the Missouri State Fair.

Phipps is a recent graduate of Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, where he completed his B.S. in Animal Science in three years, with honors. While at school, he was a member of Collegiate FFA, Horticulture Club, Criminal Justice Club, Delta Tau Alpha Ag Honor Society, and also worked closely with the Animal Science department staff. During his years at Northwest, he helped teach animal science labs at the university swine farm, focusing on breeding and animal movement.

Phipps wants to make a difference in the animal science industry and we are pleased to welcome him to our team!