



Andy Rash, of Kewanee, Ill., left, received the *2014 Outstanding Ag Alumnus Award* Jan. 25 at the annual meeting and banquet of the Black Hawk East Agri-Business Club Alumni.

Rash grew up in central Indiana, attended Eastern Hancock High School, and was very active in 4-H and FFA livestock judging and showing.

After high school he came to Black Hawk College on a judging scholarship and completed his Associate of Science degree in 2000. He continued his education and judging career at Western Illinois University. He graduated in 2002 and began teaching as an adjunct faculty member and assistant livestock coach at the East Campus. After finishing his master's degree in ag education, he was BHC's ag business instructor for the next three years.

In 2006, he accepted a position with Cargill and spent the next seven years in multiple roles of leadership. Most of his tenure was in sales leadership, and his last responsibility was a national marketing manager for the pet food and wildlife feed division. During this time he and his family moved from Illinois to Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and back to Illinois.

Andy left Cargill to pursue business ownership focused on retail agriculture, sport dog and wildlife products sold at major retail chains across the U.S. He still retains ownership in the custom packaging business but recently re-joined Cargill as a sales leader for their Ag Horizons division to lead a team that offers a risk management portfolio to Illinois farmers.

While working in academia and the business world for more than 10 years, he has been fortunate to put his love of and education in livestock evaluation to use judging many national and regional shows. This spring he will be judging the barrows at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the NJSA Southeast Regional.

Andy and his wife, Tara, now reside in Kewanee where they enjoy watching their three children start their livestock-showing careers.

[Andy Rash credits Black Hawk choice with making difference](#)
by *Dave Clarke, Star Courier*