

BROOKINGS, SD



DR. DETLEF HALLERMANN

Texas A&M, Clinical Professor and Director of the Finance Department

Dr. Detlef Hallermann is a Clinical Professor and Director of the Finance Department and runs the Reliant Energy Trade Center at Texas A&M University. He has created and directs the Trading, Risk and Investments Program and the Petroleum Ventures Program for Texas A&M. Dr. Hallermann has over a decade of practical experience in the energy industry. To say Dr. Hallermann is well versed in the energy and petroleum industry is an understatement. He has focused most of his career on derivatives, contingent claims analysis, trading and risk management and market behavior in the commodity sector. As part of his doctoral work, Dr. Hallermann created the only true quantitative approach to valuing political/expropriation risk in the mining sector. He has quite literally wrote the book to become certified in Energy Risk Management and has and currently sits on numerous boards both nationally and internationally advising multiple facets of the Energy industry.



JARED KNOCK

Ag Leader

Jared Knock hails from Willow Lake, SD where he and his family run a multitude of businesses. Along with farming on his family's livestock and grain operation he and his wife Katie own and operate Dakota Vision Ag, selling seed and livestock genetics. Jared Knock is an active promoter of a balanced farming system, a member of the SD Cattlemen's Association, NCBA, and recently a presenter on TEDx.



JERRY SCHMITZ

SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council - SD Soybean Association, Executive Director

Jerry Schmitz is the Executive Director of the SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the SD Soybean Association. He received his bachelor's degree in Ag. Ed. from the great South Dakota State University, where he also served as Student Body President. After graduating he returned to his family's farm in southeast SD where he operated a row crop farm for approximately 40 years. Jerry was the first President for the SD Soybean Association and later elected to serve as the Secretary for the American Soybean Association. Mr. Schmitz currently serves in advisory roles with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, SD Trade, and the SD SB Foundation. He and his wife Sally have recently transitioned their farming operation to the next generation and currently live near Vermillion.

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BEN PARKS

Risk Management Consultant, StoneX Financial Inc.

Ben Parks has been a Risk Management Consultant with StoneX since 2003, serving within the firm's commercial ag division. He works closely with a diverse client base that includes ag producers, marketing groups, introducing brokers, and end users. Ben helps structure hedging strategies, consult on market outlook, and provide clearing and execution support. Raised on a farm in western Kansas, he holds a degree in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University and now resides in the Kansas City area.



DAVID OKERLUND

Creative Communications Institute, Founder

David Okerlund is a Hall of Fame Speaker, who has presented all over the world from Anchorage, Alaska to Cairo, Egypt. He's addressed major companies including Cargill, DuPont, Software Solutions, John Deere and many others. Being a member of the International Hall of Fame for Speakers, he has shared the stage with American greats like Bob Hope, Lee Iacocca, Denis Waitley, and Warren Buffett. In 1998 David founded the Creative Communications Institute where he continues to coach corporate executives, political figures, and celebrity athletes to help improve their speaking skills.

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