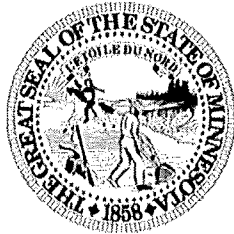


**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Executive Department



**Governor Tim Walz**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT**

RECEIVED

APR 5 2022

**Erica Sawatzke**

President of the Senate

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Livestock Producer**  
**Board of Animal Health**

Effective: April 5, 2022

Expires: January 5, 2026

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 31, 2022.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

Reappointment

Filed March 31, 2022  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State  
Steve Simon

# Erica Sawatzke

32687 County Road 28 South, Farwell MN 56327 – (320)808-9477 -ericanelson9477@gmail.com

**Objective:** To obtain a government appointee position on the Board of Animal Health

## Professional Experience

Oakdale Farms, Inc. April 2017 – present  
**Farm Owner/Manager**  
Kensington, MN

- Develop effective farm staff through initial training and daily support
- Operate 16,000+ turkey operation through turkey management and facilities management
- Manage and collect routine National Poultry Improvement Plan laboratory samples

Minnesota Turkey Growers Association August 2013 - March 2017  
**Ag Program Specialist & Membership Coordinator**  
Buffalo, MN

- Alert members of disease threats in coordination with the MN State Poultry Testing Laboratory
- Coordinate promotional activities on behalf of the turkey industry
- Update members through weekly information articles

NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Services June 2008 – March 2012  
**Laboratory Assistant**  
Fargo, ND

- Prepped cases for diagnostic testing
- Maintained daily records to comply with quality control regulations
- Created and revised standard operating procedures to comply with regulations

## Education

North Dakota State University 2012  
**Bachelor of Science: Animal Science**  
Fargo, ND

## Associations

Minnesota Turkey Growers Association  
Minnesota Ag in the Classroom Board Director, Vice Chair

## References

Steve Olson – (651) 270-3439  
John Zimmerman – (952) 807-6886  
Dr. Ken Greiner – (218) 849-2451

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APR 25 2022

President of the Senate

# Erica Sawatzke

32687 Co Rd 28  
Farwell, MN 56327  
(320) 808-9477  
ericanelson9477@gmail.com

## EXPERIENCE

### **Oakdale Farm — Farmer Owner**

April 2017 - PRESENT

Raise turkeys from 1 day old to 12 weeks, manage farm biosecurity plan, manage feed, coordinate loadouts, conduct on-farm necropsies to help identify poultry illnesses.

### **MN Turkey Growers Association — Ag Program Specialist & Membership Coordinator**

August 2013 - March 2017

Promoted turkey industry at various public events and school functions, organized Poultry Day at the Capitol, managed association membership, provided membership with industry education & updates.

### **NDSU Vet Diagnostic Services — Lab Assistant**

June 2008 - March 2012

Prepped cases for diagnostic testing, maintained daily records for quality control regulations, writing and updating Standard Operating Procedures.

## EDUCATION

### **North Dakota State University**

2012

Bachelor of Science: Animal Science

## REFERENCES

John Peterson, Ferndale Market - Cannon Falls, MN (605)321-6789

John Zimmerman, P & J Products - Northfield, MN (952) 807-6886

Karin Schaefer, MN Farm Bureau - Eagan, MN (651) 353-2459

## SKILLS

Attention to detail  
Communication  
Critical thinking  
Problem solving

## AWARDS

2021 MN FarmFest Woman  
Farmer of the Year Top 5  
Recipient

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APR 5 2022

President of the Senate

12/1/21

Dear Governor Walz,

It is with great gratitude that I submit my application for the Board of Animal Health Livestock Producer position. I have been greatly humbled to serve one term on the board and believe my experience and background as a farmer provides the board with valuable production animal industry knowledge.

After receiving a degree in Animal Science from North Dakota State University, I served the turkey industry as Ag Program Specialist and Membership Coordinator for the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association. In that role, I strived to not only promote the industry, but to specifically support our farmers as they worked to provide the healthiest and safest supply of turkey products in the world. My job included working with farmers, educating the public in such realms as community events and the State Fair, and reaching out to youth through school visits.

During the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 2015, I was embedded in the tireless efforts of informing poultry producers as the outbreak spread, informing the public of the impacts of the outbreak, and providing a producer's viewpoint of the hardships that farmers are going through as the outbreak spread. Being a current member of the board, I am an Emergency Disease Management Committee member and participate in routine industry discussion to ensure preparedness in the event our industry would be affected again by HPAI. So many of my decisions today about how our family operates our farm are impacted by what transpired during that outbreak.

My family has operated Oakdale Farm since 1866 and has been raising turkeys since the early 1900's. With a rich history as a turkey breeder farm, we transitioned to raising market turkeys in January 2020. As the sixth generation on our farm, I'm truly very lucky to experience and understand both sides of the turkey industry. My husband and I look forward to continuing to improve our operation and hope to pass on the farm to the seventh generation.

Livestock production is in my blood. As a member of the Board of Animal Health, I will continue to work to ensure that farmers have the support needed to provide the best living environment for their animals as possible. As our industry changes, so do our practices that ensure animal health. I believe that it is crucial for the Board of Animal Health to have members that are currently producing livestock and have a vision for the future of livestock production.

It is for all the aforementioned reasons that I submit my application to serve as a livestock producer on the Board of Animal Health. Please see my attached resume and application for further information and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Sawatzke

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APR 5 2022

President of the Senate

**Application for the position Livestock Producers Application Date: 12/1/2021 10:31:19 PM**

**Part I: Position Sought**

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**Agency Name:** Board Of Animal Health  
**Position:** Livestock Producers

**Part II: Applicant Information**

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**Name:** Erica Irene Sawatzke  
**Phone:** (320) 808-9477  
**County:** Pope  
**Mn House District:** 12A  
**US House District:** 7  
**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False

**Part III: Appending Documentation**

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**Cover Letter and Resume**

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

**Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)**

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

**Veteran:** No Answer

**Part V: Signature**

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**Signature:** Erica Sawatzke  
**Date:** 12/1/2021 10:31:19 PM

**EVO PDF Tools Demo**

**RECEIVED**

APR 15 2022

President of the Senate