

# About Reuben & Mike Youngerberg



Mike Youngerberg and his father Reuben on the family farm.

---

**T**his scholarship is given in memory of Reuben Youngerberg, and in honor of his son, Mike Youngerberg, senior director of field services at the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. Reuben farmed all of his life. Mike grew up helping on the dairy farm, watching his father’s passion for the land and livestock and quickly learning the definition of a Midwestern work ethic. Mike spent his evenings after school, not playing sports, but working on the farm alongside his father.

After graduating high school and serving in the Marine Corps, Mike Youngerberg studied diesel mechanics at South Central Technical College, where he learned of biodiesel, then referred to as “soy diesel.” He joined the staff of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association in 1986.

Mike soon began looking for ways to help create a biodiesel industry and retail network in Minnesota in 1997. He helped to create the Minnesota Biodiesel Council and became its first executive director. He also helped lawmakers draft the framework for what would become the first state mandate for biodiesel in the United States, a law other states have since adopted.

Mike credits much to his father, who passed away in 2011. He fondly recalls Reuben as a “perfect gentleman” who always had time for tractor rides and playtime with the grandkids.