

Bismarck Jan 6, 2023, State Premium Appreciation Story:

Being a 4H member who is an exhibitor I have learned skills such as interviewing, communication, improvement in leadership, speaking, and more. Since joining 4-H these skills are more crucial than I thought they were. Since joining 5 years ago I have had job interviews where I didn't know what to do, say, sit, reply, etc. Since I am also in high school and still have a couple of years left public speaking is a skill, I use weekly. Before joining I was uncomfortable, shaky, and shy, now none of those things worry me. I am also in a club that is almost all younger kids, leadership has developed throughout those meetings and since being a county ambassador those skills have advanced.

The premium money that I receive is helpful in supplies for future projects like nails, paint, string, and livestock supplies. It also helps me personally know that I worked hard to earn that money and I can continue to make projects whether it is taking a past project to the next level or using it to improve my skills in future projects. I am also the first person from Dickey County in 25 years that has shown poultry at a state level. I worked hard and achieved grand champion in the market division and reserved in breeding. Premium money has also helped me purchase new breeds of poultry to expand my knowledge and skills with different chickens.

Extra Points to Talk About (possibly):

■ Getting premiums lets me know personally that the hard work and time we have put into our project, speeches, animals, etc., was not wasted and other people see the potential in our creative minds and dedication to make things.

■ Especially with my animals whom I spend the most time, money, and dedication. The premiums or just really any of the awards lets me know that I am recognized and so is my knowledge, hard work, and time that was put into these animals was just as special to me as it was to a judge or a panel of people.

■ Another way that I view premiums is I view it as a way to acknowledge the learning that took place during participation in the 4H year.

For state premiums and the fair in general, premiums also help the people who travel multiple hours to show their blue-ribbon projects or above that the drive was beneficial and see that the hard work was recognized at a state level as well as a county.

As someone who shows some livestock, the experience of youth owning and working with animals, being responsible for their care, health, and growth, and exhibiting them in a competitive environment is an incredible character-building process. While doing that and doing it well, it is recognized by the judge or judges.