

Hello, my name is Rhett Laib and I am a 6th grader at Turtle Lake-Mercer school. I am also a member of McLean County 4-H, where I am part of the Livestock judging team and the Meats judging team, along with showing livestock and exhibiting static projects. I am here today to ask for your support in providing funding for the North Dakota State Fair.

My family and I have been showing livestock and taking static projects to the State Fair since 2012. Every year we look forward to going to the State Fair because it is a week filled with showing my animals and spending time with my friends. I show many animals—rabbits, goats, pigs, cattle, and this year I will also be showing sheep for the first time. State Fair is my favorite time of the year because I can show my animals in a number of different shows during the week. Some of my favorite memories from the State Fair are winning Best in Show with my rabbit and Overall Grand Champion Goat. I have met many people through showing at the State Fair and I look forward to seeing them every year. I don't have many people at my school who show animals, so the only time I get to see my show friends is during show season and the State Fair means a whole week of spending time with them.

I have learned many things through my involvement in 4-H. I have learned how to judge livestock and meats and give reasons which helps with public speaking. I am able to stand here today and testify because of my public speaking skills gained through 4-H. I ask you to continue supporting 4H and the State Fair. The premiums I earn through my projects at State Fair are used to help pay for animals for the next year. The money is important, but the experiences I have had at the State Fair are even more important. The State Fair is our yearly family vacation. My parents have asked us repeatedly if we would rather go on a vacation instead of going to the State Fair. Every time we are asked, we always answer, "No." The State Fair means more to us than going on a vacation somewhere else. The fair IS the highlight of our summer and we look forward to it every year.

Please support the State Fair as it is a big part of the lives of many people. Through the State Fair I have gained many friends and had many positive experiences. My life would not be the same without the State Fair.

Thank you.