

Hi my name is Haley Cowan. I am from Williams County. I am attending NDSU for Agribusiness. I am a current state 4-H ambassador. I am here in support of Bill 1020.

4-H has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. From a very young age I was told that 4-H was a great organization to be a part of. I was told that it would teach me things that I would not be able to learn anywhere else. But at the time I was just happy to be gluing random things together and taking pictures of my dogs and garden.

I can say today with full confidence that I fully credit 4-H for the person that I have become today.

It was not until I started to show livestock that I started to fully realize the impact that 4-H was starting to take on my life. My one market lamb quickly turned into a flock of sheep and goats. Through showing and raising my livestock, my 4-H for livestock quickly grew. I took every opportunity to help younger youth in my county. I want to help set them up for success so that they would be able to have the same great experience that I had. In 2020 I was fortunate to attend the Agri-Science Summit in Washington DC. We learned about different avenues you can take in agriculture beside animal and crop productions. Some of these things included lobbying and working with technology. During this conference I discovered that I want to make a career out of Ag. I want to be a voice in combating the misinformation and fear mongering of marketing agricultural products and technology.

I have been part of the ambassador program since 2018. During my time in the program I have held many roles. I am currently one of three overalls. This position is comparable to the president of an organization. During my time in this role I have really found myself seeing and understanding the big picture, and being able to guide people through different situations. I have gained confidence in my skills and knowledge, that I am able to find and identify a problem and bring solutions to the table. Foundation board member

4-H has prepared me more for life than school or sports or my parents could have. I was able to spend last semester in Phoenix interning with the Arizona National Livestock Show. It was my experiences and skills I gained through 4-H that made me competitive for this position. Now I am developing a fundraising campaign with skills that I learned during my time there to help support our 4-H Extension Youth Conference.

Throughout my time in 4-H I have been surrounded by adults that want to see me succeed. 4-H is a program that truly does give back the time you put into it.