

My 4-H Testimony

Sam Devick

My name is Samuel Devick and I am proud to share with you how North Dakota 4-H has benefited me and made me into the person I am today. I hope my testimony will influence the committee in approving the Ag Extension budget so that this wonderful program can continue to positively impact the youth of North Dakota.

I would like to highlight some of the 4-H events and contests that are made possible by the 4-H program and that are guided by the North Dakota Extension Agents.

First, I would like to mention the North Dakota 4-H Pollinator Habitat Ambassador program. This program has been directed by Dr. Leigh Ann Skurupey who is the Assistant Director for the Center for 4-H Youth Development.

This opportunity was made possible through a grant by Coteva Agri-Science. Dr. Skurupey applied for the grant and has been instrumental in guiding the program.

This program has helped me to become a leader through educating 4-H clubs about pollinators and assisting in planting pollinator habitat. It has also taught me new things about the world and developed my interests in science, agriculture, and the environment.

Another great opportunity made possible through 4-H is the Crop and Range Judging contests. Because I was born in Fargo and my family does not own any land, I never thought I would get much exposure to agriculture.

But through participating in the Crop and Range Judging contests, I have discovered a passion for agriculture and the natural world. I am so grateful for the mentorship I have received from Kyle Aasland, the Ag Extension Agent for Cass County. He has been an excellent coach and through his advice, I have found a summer job working at the Albert Ekre Grassland Preserve which is managed by NDSU.

The final example that I would like to mention is the 4-H Communication Arts contest which is held on county, district and state levels. This contest has helped me gain confidence in public speaking and writing.

The contest has also taught me project management skills, specifically when working with my 4-H friends on a dramatic presentation. We practiced multiple times each week, wrote our own introduction, and created costumes

ourselves. We were able to present at the Communication Arts Contest as well as at my church's talent show, and for school groups.

I could give many more examples, but to conclude, I would like to point out that if helping North Dakota youth become leaders, develop their talents and improve their communities is a value of our state, this committee should support the 4-H program.

Thank you.