

Good Afternoon, Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Audrey Herman, and I am from Mandan, North Dakota. I wanted to talk to you about State Fair Premium Checks.

The State Fair is more than just an annual summer event. It is the reward for months, sometimes years of hard work. For me, it's a tradition. It brings our community together, teaches us responsibility, and gives us a chance to show what we've learned. The premium checks motivate us to keep improving and taking pride in our work. It also tells me that North Dakota values its young people, our agriculture, our traditions, and the future we are building.

I want to share a story with you about how powerful a premium check can be to a kid in North Dakota. There was a story on the radio that shared a story about a kid and the difficulties they faced trying to participate in the animal events at the fair. He explained how this family did not have the means or the resources for their daughter to raise and showcase a farm animal. She had a deep interest in farm life but didn't have the opportunity to live the lifestyle. With help from her community, she found a way to get started. Through her hard work and dedication, she was able to earn premiums that helped her cover the next year's feed and supplies.

That story has stuck with me. It opened my eyes to just how important these premiums are. They are not just extra cash for us kids. It is a ticket back into the ring next year. It represents an opportunity for kids, regardless of their circumstances, to learn, grow, and be part of something bigger than themselves.

I am here today not just for myself but for the kid who doesn't have the resources or the lifestyle to participate. Because of those kids, I am asking for your continued support of State Fair Premium Checks. Your investment is shaping the future of North Dakota by giving every 4-H member the opportunity to learn responsibility, develop skills, and take pride in their hard work.

We are not just kids at the fair; We are your future. We are future farmers who will feed our communities, future business leaders who will drive our economy, and even future politicians who will one day sit where you are now. With your help, no child will have to miss out on this invaluable experience due to financial hardship.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate your support. My sister and I now stand for any questions.