

Alex Lahlum

ND House

4-H Extension

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Why 4-H matters to me

Information about myself

My name is Alex Lahlum, I've been involved with 4-H as long as I can remember, I'm a freshman at the University of Mary, and I'm proud to be born and raised a farmer. 4-H has been a large part of my family's history, both my parents and grandparents were involved in 4-H, my dad's family in particular was heavily involved, my grandma was inducted into the North Dakota 4-H hall of fame and our family is recognized as a century family as well.

Why 4-H is important to me

But why is 4-H important to me? 4-H has played an instrumental part in my life, being involved in something beyond myself and learning new skills has helped me grow exponentially. The leadership and communication abilities I have developed through 4-H shaped me into who I am today and helped me deal with challenges presented to me. Through 4-H, I met some of my best friends, people who have pushed me to do more and make the best for myself. The connections I've made and still make through 4-H have allowed me to excel in many new areas, finding mentors willing to teach me skills such as woodworking, electrical, insulation, drywall, and painting

Without 4-H, I would've never had so many amazing experiences in my life. I was able to attend National Congress in Atlanta, become a state ambassador, and show animals at the State Fair. The opportunities presented to me through 4-H gave me the confidence necessary to take

steps towards my dreams, I've started a small business with my friends, began planning small music events for one of my peers, and helped as a substitute teacher at my home parish.

I truly believe that without 4-H I would still be the anti-social kid I was. Being able to stand here in front of you today and talk about the importance of 4-H for other youth is a testament to 4-H's ability to form us into leaders and visionaries for the future of our world. It has been a great honor to be given the opportunity to speak in front of you here today, I hope you all consider how much your support on initiative #2 could impact other youth and build a strong foundation for their future. For all your past, present, and future support I give you my heartfelt gratitude, without 4-H I'm not sure I could be proud of who I am today, being able to look back and see my progress helps me to keep moving forward even when life seems bleak, I hope 4-H can continue to provide that growth to others in the future.

Thank you all for your time.