



Curry County 4-H Record Books

My 4-H Story

Goals are a funny thing you set them because you want to improve, gain more knowledge and to see how far you have come. Well, be careful what you wish for. This year was a year of growth for me in many ways. With that growth came a busy schedule that kept me going in so many different directions but I wouldn't trade it for the experience and knowledge I have gained. My name is Kyle Wood. I am a part of the Grady 4-H club in Curry County. I have been in 4-H for 4 years now so you would think I know how goals can change you. I started the year off wanting to expand my beef project by getting more show steers and entering the New Mexico Youth Beef Feeder Contest. I did both; my goal was to gain more knowledge of the beef industry but most of all in the feeder stage and marketing. Through several workshops, I believe I have accomplished my goal.

Learning as much as I can about the beef industry is important to me because I have started my own herd. A couple years ago, I sold one of my show steers in exchange for a heifer. This year that heifer saw a bull for the first time and I look forward to the calf that it will have this February. I chose the NMYBFC because of the workshops it offered. I knew it would

keep me busy but the different areas it was covering in the beef industry was what I was looking for. I really enjoying getting to meet other youth from across the state that had the same interest that I did in learning. A part of this contest outside of having the feeder steer was writing a speech to give at the end. I had attended a workshop for the contest at the New Mexico Cattle Growers Convention. There I was visiting with Dr. Winslow from NMSU on some of the hot topics in the beef industry. He suggested that I write my speech on Cattle Growth Implants. He told me they are not used very often in the cattle industry because of the lack of knowledge. I took this home and began researching information on the topic, and then I asked a teacher and once FFA adviser to help me perfect my speech. I worked many hours putting it together and practicing it for the contest as well as District FFA and 4-H County and District contests. I am very grateful to Dr. Winslow in spending the time to talk with me and because of this; I learned something completely new within the beef industry that is actually very interesting and profitable.

Writing my speech was not the only thing that I took away from my beef projects this year. I learned a lot attending the different workshops and enjoyed getting to go to new places. The workshop in Albuquerque was fun learning about the different cuts and marketing beef to consumers. The Beef Council did a great job of showing that the partnership producer have with

them is important to your beef getting to the table. Most people know about the steak cuts you see in restaurants and your hamburgers but the Beef Council is great in teaching people about other cuts that are just as good. This marketing is what is helpful in selling your whole beef because I do not know of any cattle made up of just T-bone steaks. In Las Cruces at NMSU campus were able to learn from some of the students in the meat lab about cattle diseases. This was a fun hands-on workshop that really taught me just how important vaccines for cattle are. In addition, while in Las Cruces we were able to start developing our speeches in a workshop with NMSU students, Faculty and Alumni. They showed us some great tips on overcoming speaking in front of people that came in handy for me, as that was something I had struggled with. I felt a lot more confident in myself after that workshop going into giving my speech throughout the year at all the different contest.

Another one of my goals this year in 4-H was to focus on Leadership. I have been an officer in my club and County Council for several years but I wanted to do more. First, I wanted to take on an officer position that required a little more from me than just at the meetings. I chose to run for Reporter in my club and County Council. It was an honor to receive the office in both. The County Council Reporter is responsible for giving a report for the monthly 4-H newsletter. In my club as reporter, I am responsible for bringing new

information from the council meetings and reporting to the council on my club meetings. Focusing on leadership through out the year I volunteered to help with field trips that the Extension office put on. I had fun making pumpkin pie for the 5th graders at the pumpkin patch and I enjoyed leading a group of 3rd graders around for Farm Safety days. Both made me appreciate the time and effort that teachers and adults have put into great activities like this for me over the years. As a County Council officer, we decide to host quarterly events for all of Curry County 4-H youth to attend. It was rewarding seeing everyone together having fun at the Roller Skate night, Christmas Dance and Family Fun Night. 4-H has given me friendships that I would not otherwise have and through nights like this, I hope others gained friendships as well. Being a Council officer opens many doors for you to be involved and help. I was able to attend the craft fair and see items from the concession stand to raise money for the county clubs. I was also asked to lead a station at project exploration day for youth to learn about projects in 4-H. My favorite thing to do this in in leadership was attend the Curry County Commissioner meeting. We were there to present the National 4-H Week proclamation. We were able to tell the commissioner what 4-H meant to us as well.

Well I wished for it and I got it, a year of goals met and knowledge gained. I would say I had a successful year of growth in my beef projects and my leadership. I am proud of how I did at the contests and in the show ring, but I would say the thing that I am the most proud of is stepping out and learning more about beef, giving a speech 4 times, being there for my county 4-H as a leader.