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“I’m Passionate about” Scholarship- Submitted by Andrea Ulrich

I have been surrounded by agriculture since I was little. My name is Andrea Ulrich and I live on an acreage north of Redvers, Saskatchewan. We have many horses, donkeys, cats, and a dog. I have immersed myself in the animals in agriculture. I have a passion for the cattle and sheep in this industry. My love of the agricultural way of life has led me to pursue a degree in Animal Science at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan. I am beyond excited to be taking pre-veterinary courses. I hope to be accepted to the WCVM in a few years so I can take my passion of animals in Ag and pursue a career with it.

I have worked at the Head for the Hills veterinary clinic for 3 years now. I love being able to see all kinds of new things and learn so much. I get to help with C-sections, calving, preg checking, hoof trimming, casting broken legs; the list is endless. The vets and staff are very willing to show me various procedures. I am very fortunate to work during the winters at a close family friend’s beef and sheep farm. I couldn’t count the number things I’ve learned from her. I’ve learned the ins and outs of producing great quality beef cattle and market and breeding lambs. I work very hard here, cleaning pens, moving animals, and feeding. I also get to help vaccinating, deworming, tagging, weighing, and castrating. I have witnessed many calvings and lambings. I have even gotten to pull a set of triplet lambs. These experiences have only reassured me that a career in agriculture is perfect for me. I have such a strong passion for the animals that not even calves with scour or a day filled with cleaning dirty pens with only a pitchfork and sled can deter me from doing what I love.

The people in the agricultural community are very friendly and knowledgeable. The staff at the vet clinic as well as the farmers who bring in their livestock are always more than willing to show me a thing or two about cattle because I did not grow up on a beef farm. My employer on the farm who works alongside me will always try to teach me something new or show me something new. I’ve even been fortunate enough to go showing sheep with her too. These people have helped to fuel my passion for agriculture.

My vision of agriculture in the future for Saskatchewan is bright. I believe that producers are finding it more important to find ways to waste less and produce their products in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way. The invention of edible baler twine will greatly help to reduce plastic waste on farms. I hope to focus on helping producers create and perfect their herd health programs to keep livestock healthy and producing. An edible vaccine that cattle could drink from their water or get from a mineral lick would greatly reduce waste of single use syringes and needles. There are many brilliant minds with a passion of agriculture that aim to create an even better future for Sask Ag than anyone could ever imagine.

I am excited to begin a career in agriculture. I’ve been told that if you do what you love and love what you do that you will never work a day in your life. I cannot wait to pursue my passion in agriculture and never work a day in my life.