

My name is Gracie LeBlanc. I am a grade 12 student at the Estevan Comprehensive High School and plan to attend Lakeland College in Vermilion, Alberta this fall. I am pursuing an Agribusiness Diploma with the future intention of continuing in the Agriculture Technology Degree program. I grew up on a fourth-generation grain farm near Estevan. Growing up on a farm has taught me very valuable life lessons, including grit, determination, and a strong work ethic. These are all things I am very grateful for and will continue to use in my post-secondary education, as well as my future career. These skills have also helped me in my high school education, as I always strived to obtain the highest grades I could. I have made Honor Roll each year and have made Principals Distinction for two. I will also be graduating with a bilingual diploma in June.

I started cutting grass on our riding mowers when I was eight years old, and by the time I was 13, I was running a combine on my own at harvest time. I also enjoy running machinery such as discing, land rolling, picking rocks, and running the sprayer.

My passion in agriculture is through the lifestyle it provides farmers with. Seeing nature and what it provides for us as a society is truly amazing. Each sunrise and sunset viewed through the tractor and combine cab reminds me how amazing this industry is, and how lucky I am to be a part of it. I am also very passionate about this industry not only because I love working in it, but because of the value I see in it for society. The agriculture industry provides countless opportunities for people my age to begin and pursue an exciting and rewarding career. This is why I am very excited to begin mine.

Throughout my childhood, I was in the field with my Dad, but also in the office with my mom watching and helping with the books that keep our farm operational. This has sparked my interest in the business side of agriculture, which is why I chose the Agribusiness Diploma. I hope to find a career in the industry that allows me to interact with farmers regularly. Whether it be selling chemical, seed, educating farmers on technology, or marketing grain. I hope to be able to play an active role in the industry and help farmers with their day-to-day challenges and needs. I would also like to come home and help on our family farm each year with more knowledge from my education and career to help in producing profitable crops. Any career in this amazing industry would be sufficient, as each part plays an integral role in feeding the world. The agriculture industry has so many amazing opportunities and I hope to use my education to find a rewarding career in Agriculture.

Saskatchewan's agriculture is very crucial to our economy and identity as a province. We have already done so much to advance agriculture; however, I believe there is much more to come in the future. New chemicals, seeds, and technology are unveiled each year, with each becoming necessary and useful to our industry. The future of agriculture in Saskatchewan will only become more advanced, and I am very excited to be a part of it.