

I am Passionate About Ag

My passion for agriculture comes through in the little moments; the sunset through the tractor window after a long day of work, the sound of runoff flowing through the culvert in early spring, the adrenaline rush of the near misses and the big successes. Agriculture is the backbone of our province. Every aspect of my future revolves around it but as someone who is relatively new in the industry, I recognize that it's going to be a long road of learning, messing up, and trying again.

For the most part, I grew up in the city. As a friend would have put it - I wouldn't have known the front end of a cow from the back. In the summer of 2017, my parents made a leap of faith and turned their lives upside down to take over our family farm. It was a shock and as you can imagine, I was clueless. At first, I had no interest in any of it but everything comes with time. A few years down the road, I found myself flooding my dad with questions, bugging him to let me drive the drill and combine, and begging him to let me get a cow or two - the answer to this was always a no. The learning started with the obvious questions and the little tasks. I remember finding pride in every little thing that I had learned. It was usually something so minor that every farm kid had done hundreds of times before but for me, it was a big step. I wanted to be able to help out, not just be the farmer's daughter.

Although our operation at home is strictly grain, I have always been more interested in the animal and livestock side of agriculture. Years of begging for every animal from cows to ducks to goats never did pay off but I discovered the next best thing; visiting the neighbors. More recently, I've spent many hours on other farms absorbing any bit of information I can get out of them. This year I got to stay during calving and I got the whole experience in a couple days. After dealing with mean cows, sick calves, and everything in between, they asked me, "Are you sure you want to go to school for this?" With a smile on my face, I answered, "Yup!"

The whole world is in some way dependent on agricultural success. On a more personal note, farming is not a "9 to 5 job", it's a lifestyle. Sure, it puts food on the table and a roof over your head but it also shapes you as a person. I often think of how lucky I am to have had the opportunity to learn skills that most kids will never know, to work for what I have and to gain a sense of responsibility. Living on a farm is the only lifestyle I can see in my future. Especially in today's world, I want to build a family on the values that I was raised with. I want my future generations to understand the importance of honest hard work. Using my own family farm as an example, it was built from nothing over 100 years ago, and for four generations my family has passed down not only the land, but the values that came with it. That is why agriculture is so important to me - that is where my passion roots from.

Looking back at how far I have come in the past 5 years, it seems so little compared to where I want to be someday. There is so much learning in my future and this next year is a huge turning point in my life. I will be attending the University of Saskatchewan to study animal science - something I had dreamt about even before my family began farming. I have also considered the option of studying to become a vet later on, but I'm still exploring this idea. I am unexplainably grateful for the freedom that agriculture has presented to me while planning my future. I hope my degree will open up opportunities for me to work with other farmers as well as to help me build my own dream life. I want to present my kids with opportunities that I didn't have and share my passion for the opportunities that I did have. I consider myself very lucky to be a part of this incredibly rewarding way of life.