

“Passion Creates Opportunity”

It's a cold -28°C February night and there is no place I'd rather be! I sit patiently in our calving barn waiting for cow 15 “Deb” to calve, thinking about how my passion for agriculture developed and what it means for my future. I am overwhelmed with positive thoughts and a sense of pride. This passion is part of my character and facilitated the development of my best personal qualities, those that make me who I am. I can't imagine my life without my passion for agriculture. It inspires and motivates me.

As a child I was immersed in the culture of agriculture. I loved and was engaged every minute, from calving, seeding, and haying to being a 4-H Beef Club member proudly displaying my cattle genetics. My parents nurtured my passion. My dad is a livestock producer and my mom is a Professional Agronomist, both are passionate about their chosen professions. Their influences allowed me to develop an appreciation for all that agriculture has to offer. I developed a unique respect and diverse knowledge of both livestock and grain production and an understanding of how the two complement each other in production and sustainability. However it was at the age of four that I developed a specific interest in livestock which evolved to a love of cattle and a profound interest in beef production. This interest progressed as I became increasingly involved with my family's progressive commercial cow calf operation and the sport of showing cattle for the promotion and sale of genetics. Our beef operation utilizes heterosis to maximize feeder beef production. We incorporate both artificial insemination and more recently embryo transfer to rapidly improve genetics in our herd to increased beef production. It was these two breeding techniques that inspired me to devote my time to learning cattle genetics and the role proper nutrition and health has in beef production. My motivation to learn led me to become an Artificial Insemination Technician and created opportunity to network with producers that share my passion while learning about beef genetics. It is from here that I began to dream of a career in the agriculture industry that encompassed beef genetics, nutrition and health. My path to realizing this dream begins this fall at the University of Saskatchewan where I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Animal Bioscience Degree program as a beginning step to becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. My future career will be one where I can put my passion to practice, be involved and make an impact in the agriculture industry. I want the opportunity to work with producers that share my passion for maximizing production through implementing innovative methods and sustainable practices. I am motivated to be part of the information chain that our industry relies on and to be part of the evolving food production transparency story that consumers demand.

My vision for the future of agriculture in Saskatchewan is one of resiliency, opportunity and continued sustainability. A future where motivated people with passion for the industry have opportunity to excel and become leaders. The industry remains the back bone of our provincial economy, proud of its heritage but also one that understands the importance of innovation and implementing new practices to progress and remain sustainable and create transparency with our food products. I am proud to call agriculture my industry and my future. I am passionate about agriculture and engaged in the agriculture industry because I care, I love it and I believe it is my future.