

Growing up on a family farm in Southern Saskatchewan, agriculture has become a big part of my life. I have developed a passion for cattle farming that stems early on in my childhood from helping my dad work with our cattle. Whether it be helping sort, assist with calving, vaccinating and even just feeding bales and bedding, I love everything there is to do with cattle. This interest is the reason that I have decided to pursue Animal Science Technology Program at Vermillion Campus this Fall. I am beyond excited for this opportunity since I am a hands on learner and this program allows us to take care of animals on a working farm as well as the classroom learning that goes along with it.

I have learned so much from working with cattle. From seeing a newborn calf enter the world or a cow that has bloated, cattle has taught me many life lessons. I have been a member of the 4H Beef Club for a few years now and I have had so many wonderful opportunities. I have gained so many skills from 4H such as team work skills, animal husbandry, public speaking as well I was able to go on to Provincial Judging. Working with my 4H steers and heifers is something I really enjoy. From halter breaking to travelling to various shows, I love all of it. I take a lot of pride and satisfaction in showing my animals and all the work that I have done to get them there. These are all skills that I will take with me as I move on to the next chapter of my life. This past year I was able to start building my own herd and purchased some bred heifers. I am excited for my future in agriculture! Showing the best calf you have ever had or growing an amazing crop are all things that I am going to work hard for to achieve.

There are so many possibilities that come with the agricultural business and opportunities for jobs such as in marketing, sciences, feeding and owning your own successful farming operation. It is a fast paced, rapidly changing industry that will require new ideas and innovations in order to keep up with the demand of the ever growing population. I am excited to bring new ideas to help face the challenges that will come with trying to feed even more people than we are now. Farmers will have to find a way to increase production in sustainable ways that will preserve the land in the best condition possible. There is no more land so we must take care of what we already have. I believe it's the young people starting out in this industry that will bring to the table new ideas and concepts that will do just that. The next generation of farmers must be open to change in order to become more economical and producing more product in sustainable practices. I believe I will be an important asset to the agriculture business. My long term goal will be to eventually own my farming operation with cattle and grain. I am very excited to start my agriculture education getting me one step closer to this dream. Farmers of all kinds are such an important part of our lives. It is an ever changing business that will continue to keep progressing. I want to be a part of this and that is why I have chosen this industry for my future.