



EXAMPLE RECORD BOOKS

SECTION 6 – MY 4-H STORY

The examples contained here are from actual 4-H youths' record books who won division-wide or overall championship titles for their record books. Personally identifying information has been deleted to the extent possible and in some cases records were recreated electronically, but otherwise the examples are in the state that they were submitted in.



WYOMING 4-H

SECTION 6 MY 4-H STORY

Hi my name is and I am 13 years old. I am currently enrolled in Laramie Middle School. I have completed the 7th grade and I will soon be starting the 8th grade. This is my 5th year in 4H and I am currently only competing in shooting sports and archery.

In October of 2015 my club elected officers. I was elected secretary. I have been taken and reporting the clubs notes for the whole year. I really enjoyed doing this because it taught me how to speak in front of people more comfortably along with learning how to pick out information that was important to report to the club. I also participated in several school activities. My activities are the following: band, cross country, track, and nordic skiing. I was also nominated to volunteer as a Docent at the Laramie Plains Museum at the Ivinson Mansion, which I volunteered 115 hours over the summer.

In December our club had a Christmas Party. We had a potluck and played mean Santa, which is a game where everyone brings a gift, you pick a gift from the pile, and if you don't like what you got you can steal a gift from someone else.

In February I started Shooting Sports and Archery, which were my only 4H projects this year. I also was finishing my nordic ski season and MBNA skiing class. I tried a biathlon competition in Casper in February as well. Lastly I helped set up my clubs shooting sports booth at Carnival.

In March I continued Shooting Sports and Archery practices and added Jr. High track to my activities. The only thing that happened in May was Demonstration Day with my club. June and July were my most busiest months. In June I had County Shoot for both Shooting Sports and Archery. I didn't do as well as I hoped in Shooting Sports because I switched to precision in rifle and my pistols weren't sighted in. Archery went better then I expected and I scored higher then I had in a long time. I learned to check the sight of my pistols and spent more time practicing the precision shooting techniques to help improve my scores. State Shoot was in July and rifle and pistol went better then Country Fair, but Archery was really bad because my bow wasn't sighted in. But if I can get it sighted in, next time should go better. Fair Shoot was also in July. Even though I didn't score 300 or above in any of my shoots including fair in air rifle I scored a 309 in .22 rifle at Fair Shoot which made me really happy. In Archery I scored better then I had previously, and I had a stroke of luck and I robin hooded an arrow. During fair I helped my best friend Hailey with her goats and pigs and I helped my other club members when needed as I didn't have any animals at fair and enjoy helping others. I also, helped my club set up our decorations on the stalls along with our signs. Our decorations were themed for Olympics.



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I did lots of volunteer work over the summer. One of the big things I did was work at the Laramie Plains Museum at the Iverson Mansion. This was very informative. I learned things like better public speaking, answering phones, running the front desk, and learning how to operate a cash register. I also did chores around the Mansion which included sanding, sweeping, window washing among other chores. This taught the value of hard work. Giving tours was really fun and occasionally we received tips. Giving tours also helped me learn how to memorize key facts and stories about the house, the Iverson's, the history of Wyoming and the United States. Which will help me in many of my classes this year. This job helped me learn important life skills that will guide me throughout the rest of my life and I recommend it to anyone who gets the chance.

This year in 4H and outside of 4H was very enjoyable. I gained lots of knowledge and experience. I hope to add more projects next year in 4H. I looking forward to another great year in 4H!



I am and this is my first year 4H. The club I belong to is Critter Creek. I am the Club Historian. I was born in Laramie.

I chose to take two projects. My first project is Archery. The best part of archery was when we shot candy because it was harder to aim. One of the toughest challenges we had was when we got to shoot balloons. When I would shot at them they kept moving and they were hard to pop. There was this night when me and my friend McKenzie was shooting side by side and her and I shot at the same time. My arrow went right into the fletching of her arrow Her arrow stuck and mine was hanging off of hers. That was so funny. The thing I really enjoyed about archery was shooting at big 3D animals. I got to shoot at a dinosaur and mesquite

The other project I took was Cake Decorating. I love to draw and be creative and I wanted to try it on cake. I love frosting too. I learned how to decorate with Fondant. Fondant is easier to use instead of frosting but the frosting taste better. My favorite time when I was decorating was my first cake. I had so much frosting that it was piled up high. On another cake I was working on I got frosting all over me as I was trying frost it, it was funny. I made a lot of different cakes. My favorite was my Easter Cake. It was fun because I got to make a basket and bunnies. I tried to make stars but they didn't work because I make them too tiny.

I really liked being in 4H. One of my favorite times in my club was when I was selling poinsettias and cactus' as a fund raiser. I liked to see the faces of the people after I asked if they wanted to support our club. 4H did take a lot of time. The one thing I didn't like about 4H was all the meetings and how long they were, but the best part is I got to get all the good food and snacks afterwards! I think that 4H helped me be not as shy as I was, but I'm still a little shy. I want to stay in 4H to learn different projects like Air Pistol and Air Rifle.



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My name is [REDACTED]. I am 12 years old and I am in 7th grade. I just moved to Louisville, Colorado and started school at Monarch K-8 school. This is my fourth year in 4-H and I was a member the Wild Brumbies 4-H Club. In the past, I served as my club historian and secretary. This year, I served as my club treasurer. Ever since I attended my first club officer election, I wanted to be the treasurer because I wanted to manage the club's funds and I like math a lot. There is a lot to being the club treasurer. I sit at the front table during each meeting to help run the meeting and give a report on the club's finances. I tell the members about all of the money spent and all money received, and also the current bank balance. Between meetings, I make deposits of the checks for the income, write checks for the club's bills, and update my treasurer records. Now I am working to get the treasurer's book ready to turn into the extension office for the end of the 4-H. Also, I am a boy scout working on my Eagle rank. As part of my required Personal Management merit badge, I prepared a budget for my club, and after tracking expenses for three months, I compared the actual amounts we spent with the budgeted amount.

This was my fourth year in the archery project. I wasn't able to go to the Thursday practices because of hockey. I practiced on my own. I also missed county shoot and state shoot this year due to hockey and other summer activities. My grandfather gave me a new recurve bow and arrows last year but it was too heavy. This year I used it to compete at the county fair archery contest. The weight of the bow seemed fine and I think I have grown into it. However, the arrow rest broke during the competition. We tried to glue it but I ended up borrowing one of the bows from the county program to finish up the indoor part of the contest. This was my first year competing as an intermediate so my scores were lower than last year since the distances to the target are greater. I ended up taking Reserve Champion in bare bow at the county fair. Next year I hope to do better with

the longer distances to the target.

This is my second year in the rabbit project. I still I adopted have the Holland Lop I adopted last year and I showed him at county fair. This year I also showed at the county fair a Minirex that we adopted. Neither rabbit was very competitive in the fair classes. I learned that the Minirex may be a cross between a Minirex and a regular rex because it is much bigger than the other Minirex that showed at the fair. She did not get disqualified but I learned from a Minirex breeder that this can happen at shows in the future. If I continue in the rabbit project, I would like get more competitive rabbits that will do better. Also, I would like to learn some tricks to keep your rabbits from molting at fair time because this has happened to me both years and it means my rabbits don't show as well.

This was my third year in the leadership project and, like last year, it was my most successful project. For the fair, I researched two important leaders who experienced more failures than successes, but in the end they were successful. They were Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill. I learned about the important part that failure can play in building a leader and how a leader shouldn't give up just because they experience failure. My project won Grand Champion at the county fair and a purple ribbon at State Fair.

4-H has taught me a lot about leadership, money management, and responsibility. I also learned to stick with a commitment even when I don't feel like it. Determination can lead you to success in whatever you do. These skills help me in all parts of my life including hockey, school, and boy scouts. I am glad I had a chance to be a member of the Wild Brumbies 4-H Club and Albany County 4-H for four years.



2016

2015-2016 4-H Year

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My name is _____, I am sixteen years old, and by turning in this record book, I am completing my ninth year in 4-H. This year I was enrolled in six projects: Meat Judging, Dairy Cattle, Breeding Beef, Knitting, Market Swine, and Veterinary Science. I was elected President of the High Plains 4-H Club at the beginning of the year, so I spent the year presiding over 4-H members and making leadership decisions.

As you may discern from my list of projects, some are merely seasonal, and some last all year long. Thus, at the beginning of the 4-H year I was only involved in Breeding Beef, Dairy Cattle, Veterinary Science, and Knitting.

My knitting project was a baby afghan made of pretty, purple yarn I had special ordered a couple years before to make a sweater from. The yarn turned out to be the wrong weight for the sweater, so knitted a baby afghan out of it. I had already started the project prior to the 4-H year, so the pattern was established, and all I had to do was knit 200 more square inches (sounds so easy!)- although I had left off on a row with a big mistake that I had to fix first thing.

On the first day of the 4-H year, I worked with my breeding beef heifer. Her dam is one of our favorite cows, and she was in the corrals since we had AI'd her to a specific bull. She was already pregnant by October, but was waiting to go out with a trailer load of bred cows. This was perfect for me since it meant I got to work with my heifer, 104, every day.

My Jersey cow Mercedes was confirmed pregnant to a nice Jersey bull and she was out to pasture in the mildest climate we could find for her. I checked on her every day, but I did not halter and work with her every day. I halter broke her in 2014 when she was a yearling.

Last fall, I started my junior year of high school. One of my classes was English 1010. In this class, I was assigned the 'controversial topic' of antibiotics. From there, I was allowed to pick my assignment as long as I argued a valid point. I decided to argue that preventative antibiotics should be used on commercial dairies because they prevent a vast majority of mastitis cases. Some of my classmates got mad at me, thinking that I was trying to kill them by pouring antibiotics in their food. I did my best to educate them on proper antibiotic use, as well as where their food really comes from. I then took my topic of preventative antibiotic use and turned it into a display for veterinary science.

In December, the rest of the 4-H club and I baked cookies for all the local firefighters. We took them to the individual fire stations and thanked the firefighters for their work and commitment. After that, we went ice-skating and had a Christmas gift exchange. This was the only meeting for which I did not have to prepare an agenda.

I spent the first weekend of January in Denver, CO at the Western National Roundup representing Wyoming 4-H. I won the opportunity to attend by winning prepared speech and livestock skill-a-thon contests at Showcase Showdown, and I was excited to go. The National livestock knowledge contest is in a far different format than the state contest, so my teammates and I did not win, but we came home with valuable information to pass onto the next national contestants from Albany County. I did not win the public speaking contest either, and I do not think I flatter myself when I say that I was just not sleazy enough to win. My speech was not about what a great person I am; the winning speeches were. I really enjoyed the dance I attended at roundup because my dance partners helped teach me new dances.

In February, I became more active in my seasonal 4-H projects. I started looking for pig

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sales to attend and purchase pigs at, and I started meat judging practice. The start of meat judging practice is something I look forward to every year and this year was no exception. At the first practice I was very pleasantly surprised by how many kids came that were new to the project. I had been hoping that at least a couple people would join because as things were, the senior team could use an additional member or two. The senior team obtained one new member, but the vast majority of the new members were assets to the junior team.

I especially enjoyed meat judging after a couple weeks since I got to help teach. If our coach, Harley, had to step out or help an individual, he would ask me to take over talking through the slides. During the practices I did not help teach, the other experienced judges and I would set up a laptop and go through slides or learn something new – like yield grading.

104 (my beef heifer) had been weaned in November and had been at pasture with very little human interaction until February. In February, 104, my siblings' beef projects, and all the Jersey cows were moved into a pasture close to a set of corrals where I could work with 104 and Mercedes at least once a week. I was relieved to discover that 104 had not forgotten everything I had taught her when it came to halter manners, and we pretty much picked up where we left off.

In April, we shut all the 4-H beef projects into a corral with a Jersey cow who had gone lame to be worked with daily. We could also monitor and control their feed intake better this way.

I attended the April Parker Pig sale and bought the second to last pig. She was a blue butt gilt out of a bore that Pat swore threw good growth rates. When we loaded her up into a kennel in the back of the pickup, Mrs. Parker came by and said, "Bye-bye, little white girl!" As soon as we got in the pickup, Mom looked puzzled and said, "Did she just call you a little white girl?" I laughed and explained that Mrs. Parker had been talking to the pig who had never been in sunlight and was very pale. From then on, I called that pig L.W.G. or Lou, for short.

I had one pig, now, but that was kind of a problem since they are such social creatures. I solved this problem by going to Sanders' and buying a baby pig that I thought could make weight if I really fed him good. I named him Lee, since it went well with Lou. He was quite wild at first, but became tamer after a few days of being fed and watered directly by a person.

On April 30th, I competed in the state 4-H meats judging competition. When I gave my beef carcass reasons, the officiant who listened to my reasons actually gave advice and comments on my reasons, which I really appreciated. The Albany County Senior Team only placed fifth, but I scored my all-time high. This was in all likelihood our coach's last year, and I will miss him and his coaching skills next year.

The week after Mother's Day, my siblings and I moved our market pigs out of the building, down to a three-sided shelter in the corrals. Most of the pigs went very willingly and behaved beautifully. Lou, however, freaked when she saw pure, unfiltered sunlight, and lots of it. She went and hid in the very back corner of the building and loudly protested when I urged her to leave the corner, much less the building. My siblings and I resorted to walking her to the corrals with her sides and back blocked by pig boards. It worked. Then I put lots of sunscreen on her!

Mercedes gave birth to a pretty, little heifer on the 24th of May. I had AIed her to sexed semen, but was not expecting a heifer since she was calving a week late – clearly, I was pleasantly surprised.

I was still working with 104 and knitting on my baby afghan at this point. It was fun to take my knitting to waiting rooms (at the Dr.'s office, car garage, wherever), because without fail, somebody would strike up a conversation about my knitting with me. Most of the women who were knitters would say something like "Oh, you're brave. I did a ripple pattern afghan once. But that was all; once was enough for me." Yep, they were highly supportive.

Showcase Showdown was in June and this year I only competed in the prepared and impromptu speaking contests. I took my veterinary science research, turned it into an informative

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presentation with PowerPoint visual aids, and presented that to the prepared contest judges. My impromptu topic was "Real learning does not occur in the classroom," which was a very easy topic to expound upon, and I placed in the top three with both speeches. This earned me another opportunity to attend WNR, and I intend to represent Wyoming in the impromptu speech contest this January.

July was filled with preparations for fair. I finished knitting my baby blanket, wove in the loose ends, and blocked it. I finalized my mastitis prevention, vet science display. I gave 104 a new haircut after watching a few YouTube videos. I wasn't sure if I did it right, but at least she didn't look weird; on the flip-side, I'm probably not going to be hired for calf fitting at the stock show anytime soon. I gave Mercedes a clipping, too, but the big clippers broke before I finished, and I had to do a lot of touchup with little clippers. I worked with my pigs, but they did not actually get their first baths until fair week. We checked out the extension scale and discovered that Lee and Malea's little pig would not make weight for fair.

I interviewed for both my indoor projects on the last Thursday of July. I was pleased when they both placed well enough for state fair.

On August first, I took Mercedes, her baby named Cloe, 104, Lee, and Lou to fair. I had considered taking a yearling Jersey heifer to fair instead of Mercedes, but opted against it because the heifer would be in heat during fair. Besides, it is always fun to show a baby Jersey; the whole audience always thinks that they are the cutest things alive. 104 adjusted to fair amazingly well – better than Mercedes who has been there before (perhaps because she was worried about her calf) – whenever a visitor to fair wanted to pet a cow, I always took them straight to 104.

Beef and swine showmanship were on the same day, and I did not place well enough for the championship drive in either one. On the following day, my feeder pig placed better than my market hog. I also won the opportunity to compete in Round Robin through dairy cow showmanship on Wednesday. Thursday was a quiet day, and on Friday I won Reserve Champion Round Robin Showman and we took all the livestock home (which took two trips due to how many breeding animals my family brought), except for the pigs consigned to the sale.

On Saturday, Mr. Madden was auctioneering when it was my turn to sell. When I walked in with my pig, he immediately informed me that I was cute and could probably get more money if I sold my pig with a kiss. I informed him that I was not interested in selling kisses, which made the audience laugh. After all was said and done, however, I gave my buyer lots of kisses (as a thank you gift) – the Hershey kind.

Even though fair is over, my efforts are not. I have endeavored to get Mercedes and 104 bred to the right bulls. I took Lee to the butcher, and sold him to a couple that needed pork. I sent my indoor projects to state fair, but I'm still waiting for somebody to have a cute little daughter that I can give the baby afghan to.

I finished the 4-H year by resigning my position as president of the High Plains 4-H club, and declining nominations for all other positions. 4-H is supposed to be a tool to develop leadership skills in youth and help them grow up and become responsible adults. I believe 4-H has helped me develop and grow, so this year, my senior year, I will take on other responsibilities and start to transition from a 4-H youth to capable, contributing member of society. I have started spending more time on school, taking dual-enrollment classes, I'm helping with political elections, and I've joined the CattleWomen. These are all things I may not participate in were it not for 4-H, and I am and will continue to be grateful for the learning opportunities 4-H has afforded me.

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2013-2014 4-H STORY

The 4-H year started for me on September 16, 2013, at the High Plains 4-H Club Club (the extra “club” is a typo on our club’s constitution that has been there for years and has survived multiple constitution revisions) meeting. For the previous year, I had been club president, but for this year I decided to step down from that position. I got the position of treasurer instead. Treasurer was a big difference from being president. First, I had to be assigned to the club’s account. My family and I went to the UniWyo federal credit union with Mrs. Hewlett, our club leader, to put my name on the bank account. Then, I got an email with the club treasurer’s book. “It’s not that hard,” the email said. I looked through it, and I agreed, it was nothing compared to the secretary’s book. I would soon learn how untrue that statement was.

In October, I had my first chance to try out being treasurer. Our club voted to put together two boxes for Operation Christmas Child as a community service, and I would have to write the checks to pay for the stuff we bought to put in them. The boys of the club met at Walmart one afternoon to pick out stuff for the boy box. I had gone to town earlier in the morning to attend class at LCCC, and then the roads had closed. I had planned to go home, and pick up my mother and three siblings and the club checkbook, and then go back to town to buy the presents. That didn’t work out. Instead, the boys picked out presents, and Mrs. Decker paid for them, and then I paid her back later.

In October, I also started working on a project that would kill two birds with one stone. I asked Mary Louise, our extension agent, if I could make a web site for a community service and computers project that contained all of the old record book forms, new record book forms, and the judging standards that could be burned onto a disk and given to members so that they could complete their record books without the help of the internet. She gave me the go-ahead, and I built a web site using Microsoft VS Express for Web 2012, a watered down version of Microsoft Visual Studio 2012 that only has web page functionality (Visual Studio Standard allows developers to create web sites, Windows applications, databases, custom Microsoft Office plug-ins and more). I first created the website using Microsoft Active Server Pages .NET (ASP.NET) because it allowed me to create page templates and not have to reuse code in each page. I noticed something funny, though. If I opened each page in my browser without launching it from Visual Studio, it would just look like a blank sheet. I later learned by asking on StackOverflow.com that ASP.NET is processed by servers and then transformed into HTML and that’s why I couldn’t see anything. I switched to HTML and completed the project by January 1.

In November, we preg-checked out cows. I was excited to learn that my registered Brown Swiss heifer, Nattie, was pregnant. I had A.I.ed her to a Brown Swiss bull, and we hadn’t let her go out with the beef bull so that she would hopefully have a registered Brown Swiss calf. I was disappointed, however, to learn that she would most likely calve right around the time of the Colorado Dairy Youth Extravaganza, a show in June that we like to go to. After preg-checking, we turned all the cows out to pasture with the bull.

Around that time, I volunteered to look up some new fundraising ideas for the club. We were in the middle of a fundraiser selling Bammy’s cookie dough and needed something else for the spring. One of the places I called was Papa Murphy’s Pizza. I got in touch with the manager of the stores in Laramie and Cheyenne, and she told us that she would sell us coupon cards that we could sell. I told her that I would tell the club about it, and that we would get back to her sometime in the next year.

In December, our club had its annual Christmas party. We ate lunch, exchanged gifts, and held a talent contest at the extension office, and then went ice skating. I solved my Rubik’s Cube in less than five minutes for the talent contest. Then Jedidiah Hewlett and I showed our talent at the ice skating rink when Quintin Kelly tried to skate while holding our hands. Shortly after the Christmas party, Hewletts, Kellys, and we went to the nursing home and caroled in the hallways with the residents for a community

service.

In January, meat judging practice began. We went to the UW meat lab where Kelcey Christensen, the manager of the meat lab, had set up a retail ID line and some meat cuts for the teams going to the national contests in Denver to practice judging. We practiced on those cuts and discovered how much we had forgotten over that last year. Thankfully, Harley Cushman, our meat judging coach, got back from winter break the week after that, and he started teaching us what we had forgotten. He also brought Lara Beth Allnut, who had judged on the UW meat judging team the previous year, to help us refine our placings and reasons.

That month, we went to the annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Brown Swiss Association. We learned that Brown Swiss people are as weird as Dr. Honken used to tell us they are. While we were there, though, Mrs. Wailes, who, along with her husband and father-in-law, raises the largest Brown Swiss herd in Colorado, and one of the largest in the country, told us that she had sold a Brown Swiss heifer to someone else in Wyoming whose contact information she had lost. I was excited about that, but I didn't write down the name: all I could remember was that the girl who bought the cow was from Rozet, WY. I tried later to find out more, but the Wailes' phone number went to a fax machine, and the extension agent in Campbell County didn't seem to know anything about someone with Brown Swiss.

In February, Mr. Johnson, from the Butcher Block invited us to come watch him cut up half a beef. After watching that, it suddenly made sense why certain cuts have certain names. I became quite a bit better at Retail ID after that. Mr. Johnson invited us back to watch him butcher pork, but we never did get to watch that.

Also that month, my family was commissioned to build "The High Plains Carnival Contraption," as it came to be called. We had some spare motors and other parts that our friend, Mel the Machinist, had given us. We wanted to use it to build a machine that made the targets that the participants shot at move. We also wanted it to be able to have targets that flopped down when someone shot them, and came back up by themselves. I built a model of the machine in AutoCAD and took printout of it to the club to ask permission to buy the remaining parts we needed to build it. They said yes, and we built the carnival machine to show them at the next meeting before 4-H carnival.

I also gave my presentation at the February meeting. I had done some research the year before on what it took to create Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) so that I could hopefully write a computer program that would calculate EPDs. Although I had not written the program yet, I gave my presentation on the steps required to create an EPD. Unfortunately, it went over most of the club members' and even the leaders' heads.

Then we had 4-H carnival. When Mrs. Hewlett announced what the carnival theme was, I believe her words were, "It'll be alright. Really, we *will* survive." The carnival theme was "Duck Dynasty." I had never seen the TV show, and didn't consider it necessary as research to watch it before carnival. All I knew was that it was about guys with long beards who wear camouflage. While we worked our club's booth, which was decorated to look like a duck blind (with alligators, which I'm still not sure belonged), it appeared my impression was correct. My younger brother Thaddaeus and I wore fake beards while we worked the booth, and then passed them on to the next workers. I'm not sure any other worker wore them, but it was fun.

Our "High Plains Carnival Contraption" was a big hit at carnival. People either loved it or hated it, but even those who hated it had to try hitting the targets at least three or four times before they decided to hate it.

In March, I called Papa Murphy's back and told the manager that we did want to sell the coupon cards. She told me that she would give the club the cards to sell as long as we returned the cards we did not sell. I told her that was no problem, and we arranged to pick up the coupon cards. My family went door-to-door at some of the UW housing and sold the coupons to college students. In the end, the fundraiser was successful; the club raised \$440.

At some point around then, I got the bright idea of retargeting my gestation calculator computer program to Windows 8 so that I could sell it on the Windows Store. I had a lot to learn. In Windows 8, I had to change the drag-and-drop interface to XAML, make it touch-friendly, use AppBars, and many more things. What should have taken a few minutes to do took many hours, but finally I had it done except for adding gestation period settings. Then I had problems with making the settings appear according to Windows 8 standards. I tried different approaches, but finally I had to wait until my Dad

updated our computer to Windows 8.1. Then I used a premade settings pane template, and everything worked like it was supposed to.

In April, the Albany County team went to the State Meat Judging contest. While we were there, I placed one class exactly correctly, and I got over 40 points on at least one of my reasons. Our team got fourth place overall, not bad considering that half of us have been doing meat judging for two years, and the rest for only one.

About that time, our family decided that we were definitely not going to show pigs at fair that year. I decided to keep the project and make a poster for fair, that way I could do it next year. Then we learned that Carlson Show Pigs, where we had bought our pigs for several years, were dispersing and wouldn't sell pigs anymore. It made me think a little bit harder whether I should keep the project or not, but I didn't drop it.

In April, the Hewletts and our family starting filming to make movies for the FilmFest at Showcase Showdown. I wanted to make a documentary about how the old west wasn't wild, and Jedidiah wanted to make a western about a bank robber (very ironic). We asked permission, and went to the old west town in the back of the territorial prison and shot a few scenes. We also went to Coe library and filmed a few scenes for my documentary. Then later, we went to my house and shot the last scenes for my documentary with our big wall tent. We also filmed a few bloopers that I made into a blooper movie. I edited both of my movies and sent them to the FilmFest. Unfortunately, Jedidiah wasn't able to get his put together, but he sent a few other movies.

The last weekend in May, my sister Malea, my mother and I went to the Torrington Fuzzy Goat show. The show is kind of goofy because there are two judges who judge the same animals. Malea wanted to show the goats in ring A, and let me show the goats in ring B. Both of the judges said the same thing about both goats. In showmanship, however, I did get some practical advice from the judge on how to improve my showmanship skills.

The first weekend in June, my family went to the Colorado Dairy Youth Extravaganza. I had made a leather cow halter to donate as a prize for the show. I also thought that I should try to sell a few other leather goods at the show. My dad and I made a display box for me to set up at the show, and I polished up a few things I had made last year and made another cow halter to put in it. Unfortunately, I didn't sell anything, but I did get some free advertising from Keith Maxey, the man who organizes Extravaganza: he really likes the halter I made for the prize.

For the show part, I took my heifer, Meg. Meg was out of Charolette, my first Brown Swiss cow. Meg exhibited strength, but lacked dairiness, and I told the judge so when he asked me to evaluate my heifer in showmanship. I had clipped Meg with these faults in mind, and the judge disagreed with my evaluation. He gave Meg Reserve Champion Other Breeds Junior Female.

When we got home from Extravaganza, we got to go to County Shoot. There had been so many kids at the shooting practices that year that we only got to go to two practices since January. We still got decent scores. I got 7th in air, and 3rd in .22. My sister Amanda got 3rd in air, and 7th in .22.

About that time we started A.I.ing our dairy heifers and cows. Amanda A.I.ed all of the little heifers, and I A.I.ed all of the big cows. About this time, it became obvious that Nattie had lost her calf and got rebred by the beef bull, because she was nowhere near calving.

We also got a phone call from Mary Louise then asking us if we wanted to tour Burnett's dairy in Carpenter. We said "Of course." We got to go with the Master Cattleman youth group and tour Burnett's dairy. It was different from Mr. Edstrom's dairy that we visit often in Kersey. The Burnett facilities were quite a bit more modern, and Mr. Burnett liked to experiment with the latest and greatest in dairy science. It was also very interesting because so much is done on site at Burnett's, such as feed growing and mixing, and manure processing. I did disagree with Mr. Burnett on one thing, though, when he said that Jerseys are meaner than Holsteins.

The week after the dairy tour, we went to Showcase Showdown. Jedidiah Hewlett, Amanda, and I formed a Livestock Skill-a-thon team and got 3rd place. I did a prepared presentation on "Quantitative Genetics," a broadening of my topic for the club and got 6th place. I did an impromptu presentation on "How to be the best 4-H club member" and got 10th place. Amanda, Thaddaeus and I also went to the livestock judging workshop, where we learned that "You want your steers to look like football players, and your heifers to look like cheerleaders."

In July, we took a vacation to Idaho and got to see our friend the vet Dr. Honken. It made the month seem to go by quickly, and it was time for fair before we knew it.

Fair started out with fair shoot. I got 1st in Air Rifle and 2nd in .22. Then on Tuesday, we did indoor interviews. I took a leather tablet case that I had made, and it got a purple ribbon. I also took a poster on retail ID for meat judging which got Grand Champion, and a poster about quantitative genetics for beef cows, dairy cows, and swine, which got Grand Champion. I also took my record book website and Gestation Calculator for Windows 8.1, which got Reserve and Grand Champion, respectively.

On Wednesday, I showed dairy cows and dairy goats. The judge for both was the same as my showmanship judge from the fuzzy goat show. I placed 3rd in my showmanship dairy goat class and Reserve Champion in my Dairy cow showmanship class. This judge didn't like Meg as well as the judge at Extravaganza did, so she didn't win anything special.

On Thursday, I participated in the first annual Ag Olympics at the Albany County Fair with Jedidiah Hewlett and some of his relatives. Everything went great until we got to the last station, where each team member had to find a piece of bubble gum in a plate of whipped cream and blow a bubble with it. By the time we got to the bubble gum, it had mostly dissolved in the whipped cream. We tried to blow bubbles, but the gum just came apart. Finally, the referees said that we should just stretch it out and blow into it, so we did. The other team didn't seem to get the message and kept trying to blow bubbles for another minute. Our team won the Ag Olympics. Jedidiah was excited because he thought each of us would win at least a hundred dollars from it. I just had fun. After the Ag Olympics, our team gained a few extra members to participate in the tug-of-war. First, our team beat Dalton Johnson's team. Then our team lost to the WyoTech team (my sisters, who were watching in the crowd, insisted that WyoTech cheated by having too many members). Then Dalton Johnson's team challenged us to a rematch, and we beat them again.

On Friday, I didn't get to participate in Round Robin, so I held cows and exchanged them between shifts. As I was waiting for one shift to be over with, I talked with Kyle Despain about past Round Robins.

"How did you like showing dairy cows?" I asked him.

"I liked that the cows," he told me.

"I'm glad you did; some people seem to wish they'd never seen a dairy cow after Round Robin."

The conversation broke up then because that shift was over. As one of the girls who had been showing handed me a heifer's lead, she growled, "I do not understand these things at all!"

After county fair, I sent all of my indoor projects to state fair. Everything got a purple ribbon and a big blue rosette, except for my tablet case, which got a red ribbon.

After state fair, Nattie calved. She had a bull calf, which was good since it was a beef calf. He was very cute and he had no playmates, so he liked to play with me when I went down to do chores.

Then the Edstroms invited us to come down to their dairy in Kersey and watch them type appraise their cows on Labor Day. We had never seen type appraisal done before, so we went down to watch. In type appraisal, all of the cows are locked into their headstalls, and the appraiser walks down looking at each one and then calls out a number for each cow. The numbers usually range from 70 to 94, and higher scores mean prettier cows.

That was the end of my 4-H year. I got to experience what it was like to be treasurer, and how much work it was. I got to learn how to clip a heifer. I learned that StackOverflow.com can save a lot of time on programming questions. Next year, I hope to use everything I learned and save the best 4-H year for my last.



Hi, my name is

We have lived in Wyoming for 10 years. Some of the things I enjoy are: riding horse, taking care of my animals, science, writing, hiking, riding bike and spending time with my family. For 4-H this year I did Meat Judging, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goat, Poultry, Crochet and Rifle.

Meat Judging

I am one of the few but mighty Albany County Meat Judgers. This year there were only 6 meat judgers plus our coach Harley. My family made four of the group and the Andersons, Kelsey and Haley, were the two others.

Every Tuesday night from late January until the competition April 25th we practiced. Harley had slides put together that we either identified, or placed and gave reasons. One of the most memorable nights was when we placed pork hams. After pacing around trying to remember my reasons, it was my turn to go in. I went in and started as usual with, "I placed this class of hams...." When I had finished my reasons Harley gave me some tips but told me I had placed the class right. As soon as I went back in with the others everyone asked, "How did you place the class?" I told them and they all said, "that is what Harley said but we all placed it this way." Harley explained to them why it was placed the way it was. It was nice to know that I had placed a least one class correct.

When the state competition came around I was very nervous. My number was 2001b which meant that I would be in a group with no one from our county. But I had a lot of fun. One little girl got lost from my group in the freezer, I felt bad for her. In the end the Albany County Jr. Team placed Reserve Champion and the Sr. Team got 4th and lost to the team in front of them by only a few points. Thank you Harley for teaching us all you know!

Dairy Cattle

This year my 4-H cow is Teddy. She was due to calve in March. We brought her and another cow home to calve. Because it was so cold and they were heifers we got up every night in the middle of the night to check on them. She had her little calf on March 7th; it was a little heifer calf. Her sire is Galvanize so we named her Gal.

This year we decided to put bottle calves on all the dairy cows. We went to the sale barn and said we are not paying that much for a calf. So I began to look different places to get a calf. I found a calf in Torrington and we decided to go get it. We found out that the person selling him just buys and sells bum calves. When we got home we had to convince the calf that he wanted a meal from the cow and not us, which took a long time. It was not just that day. To this day he is a very, very friendly calf.

Teddy and her calves went out to pasture until 2 weeks before fair. We brought them home so that I could work with them and clip them. At fair Gal showed way better than Teddy. On Friday I was getting Teddy ready for round robin when I looked at Teddy and realized she was bloating. She did not get to do round robin.

Teddy is now home and is doing alright. She is here and we are waiting to see if she is pregnant. This year she is bred to a bull named Golda.

Thank you to Dr. Christy of Animal Health Center for helping with the bloat.

Dairy Goat

This year I had a varying number of goats. Right now I have six goats. Last years breeding season seemed very long. Daisy, the doe I was trying to breed would not come into heat. We took her to the vet and they said that she was not bred. I called my goat expert, Dr. James Haught, I have bought most of my goats from him. He told me that she could have a false pregnancy and other things. He told me to Lutalyse her and then try to breed her, it worked. The next time I took her to the vet I was able to see the kids on the ultrasound myself. She was due to kid mid-May.

On May 10th, Mother's Day, we were snowed in. Around then we had a cow due to calve so every so often we would go out to check on her. We had Daisy in the building because she was also due to kid in a week. I went outside to the building to check on Daisy and there were two little baby goats with her. I ran to the house and downstairs because that was where my family was. I shouted, "Daisy kidded she had a buck and a doe." Dad looked at me and told me to slow down and try to tell them again. So I did. We then grabbed some towels and headed outside. Last year I left the kids on Daisy but something happened to the inside of her udder so I decided to bottle feed the kids this year. I went outside and milked Daisy and brought the milk in to feed the babies. I named the buckling, who was two times his sisters size, Felk and the doeling Fiala.

During May there is a dairy goat show in Torrington. This year I showed my buck Dobbin there and yearling doe Surata. I took along the kids so chores would be easier for everyone who stayed home. Daisy had begun to have the same problem she had last year so we dried her off, and fed the kids cow milk. When we got to the show we found out that we did not have pens. But another goat breeder, Janel, was kind enough to let us use some of her pens. After we set up we went to the hotel room for the night. The next morning when we got up we found out that the car battery had died so Thaddaeus and I walked to the fairgrounds to take care of the goats and get ready for showmanship while Mom grabbed the rest of the things we needed. Thaddaeus got 3rd in his showmanship class. In my class I got champion. Later when it was time to show Surata she lost to her full sister Sonata in both rings. I also showed goats for other breeders throughout the whole show. That night while I was waiting to go into the show ring James came up and helped me get Dobbin ready to show. Dobbin is out of Kastdermur's Rhone, a buck that died and only has a few kids. So Dobbin is very special. He told me that I should get him collected. Dobbin lost to the Champion LaMancha buck. At the show I sold Felk.

At the goat show I had talked to a girl who I thought was a very good showman and had LaManchas, I found out that her name was Cortney and she had Surata's half-sister named Surya. A little while later I was looking at Craigslist and saw a LaMancha doe for sale, it ended up that it was Surya. We bought her and started feeding her milk to Fiala.

At fair everything with the goats went well.

Fiala is what is called an American LaMancha which means she is not quite a purebred LaMancha. The American Dairy Goat Association sent me experimental papers. One night at supper we were talking and I suddenly realized that Fiala's papers should have read different than they did. I called the association and Natasha told me to send in the papers and she would fix them so now I have the right papers, not experimental papers.

It is now close to breeding season again and I like to keep track of when the does come into heat. Surya came into heat and so did Daisy but Surata has never come into heat, We are going to take her in to get an ultrasound. She jumps the fence a lot so I think she is bred.

I have taken the advice I gave gotten and am now looking to get Dobbin collected. There is one goat who I have not said anything about so here he is Duke; Duke is my wether that keeps Dobbin company.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me. Special thanks to Dr. James Haught, Janel, Cortney and my family.

Poultry

I only showed one rooster this year, a Porcelain D'ucle bantam. I named him Roadrunner. At the beginning of the year I was not planning on showing him. I was going to show my two Brahma hens but one died and the other does not do so well without her. Then I was going to show a trio but they began to molt. So I looked around and thought Roadrunner still has feathers and he is very pretty. Roadrunner, for being such a flighty rooster, showed very well for me.

Crochet

This year I did something very simple, a scarf. I made it with some left over yarn from other projects. It is a tri colored scarf pink, purple and brown. I added tassels to the ends. When I blocked it I had a lot of fun. I also made a few washcloths for washing dishes but I did not turn these into fair.

Rifle

This year was the first whole year I shot with a sling. I only shot rifle, but I had fun watching my siblings shoot pistol and rifle. I shot the Albany County Shooting sports rifles. The gun I shot for air is number 22 and the gun I shot for .22 was D7. The competitions I shot at were county and state. At county I shot my high scores. I do not remember what they are though. I made it onto both the air and .22 teams for state. The .22 team got 1st and the air got 2nd. Overall I enjoyed shooting this year. Thank you to all the shooting instructors.

At the beginning of this year I thought that I would do breeding beef, however the cattle that I wanted to show I did not start halter breaking in time. This year I have already started to halter break a little heifer for next year.

Thank You, I hope you have a great day.