

My Agricultural Aspirations in Cattaraugus County

If I could describe the agricultural industry here in Cattaraugus County in one word, it would be vibrant. Everywhere you look in our county, you see agriculture. From R&D Adams Dairy Farm, Eden Valley Creamery, Randolph Peaches and Cream, and even the countless Amish businesses that line the back roads, there is no better place for an aspiring agriculturalist to call home.

From a young age, I have always had a strong appreciation for our county's agricultural systems. I have always loved, and still enjoy driving by all of the farms to see the cows in the pastures, the corn growing in fields, fresh strawberries for sale on the side of the road, and even the flowers people have planted in their gardens. As I got older, I realized that this is where I want to plant my roots for the rest of my life.

I had the opportunity to be a part of 4-H, FFA, Dairy Ambassadors, Junior Superintendents, the Cattaraugus County Dairy Committee and so much more! All of these programs not only helped me realize I wanted to pursue a career in agriculture, but they also helped me realize I wanted to support the county that helped shape my passions and my goals.

As a senior currently at Randolph Central School, I plan to attend Oklahoma State University majoring in Agricultural Communications this fall. Cattaraugus County's agriculture has inspired me to do this. I developed my love for agriculture here, and once I earn my degree, this is where I plan to use my degree. I plan to return home after my time in Oklahoma to pursue a career in agricultural advocacy with the ultimate goal being to work in dairy-advocacy and promotions.

Growing up, I recognized the need for education among consumers about agriculture and other related topics, and truly this is what inspired me to pursue a career in agricultural advocacy and promotions. I strive to inform consumers about where their food comes from, and why agriculture is so important to our communities. I want to clear up misconceptions people may have about agriculture such as GMOs, animal welfare, and even the use of antibiotics. Ultimately, I want to give back to the industry and community that has given me so much. I learned the importance of agriculture growing up, and now I want to share what I know, and use it to advocate for farmers, producers, and the industry I care so deeply about.

Our county has given me the opportunity to discover what agriculture is, how it is important, and why I should pursue a career in it. There is no other place I would rather call home than where I was born and raised, and where I learned my place in the industry that means so much to me.