

# Casondra Rutschke wins 4-H Scholarship



Casondra, a freshman (sophomore standing) at NDSU, has received the Emmons County 4-H Scholarship in the amount of \$200. Casondra is the daughter of Jerome and Dorinda Rutschke, Zeeland.

She was a member of the Coyote Country Club for 12 years and is now an Individual Member. Project areas she emphasized in are Communication Arts, Photography, Creative Arts, Health & Nutrition, Money Management, Healthy 4-H Club, Wood Arts, Horticulture, Leadership, Citizenship, Pets.

Special activities include Communication Arts (county, district, and state), Archery, Consumer Choices, National 4-H Conference (delegate in 2013, Youth Leadership Team in 2015, Roundtable Facilitator in 2016), Emmons County 4-H Ambassador, Jr. Leader, North Dakota 4-H Ambassador.

Below is the story Casondra wrote as part of her application.

## **What 4-H Has Done to Influence My Plans for My Future**

Growing up, I was very shy and lacked confidence. However, being a member of 4-H changed that. 4-H gave me a group of people who shared similar interests with me and encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone. Communication Arts helped build my confidence. Consumer choices and archery helped me become more sociable. But one event has had a lasting impact on my life. In 2013, I was chosen to represent North Dakota at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. I met people who loved 4-H just as much as me. I had the opportunity to meet the congressmen who influence our nation, but most importantly, the event helped me come out of my shell, embrace the person that I am, and discover my passion for the business field.

At the 2013 National 4-H Conference, I worked with other youth from across the nation to create a presentation about energy conservation. At the end of the week, we presented our plan of action to the Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency. Having the chance to work with other youth and present our ideas to officials that truly wanted to listen to us was inspiring. After my great experience as a delegate, I was eager to return to National 4-H Conference. In 2015, I was selected to serve as a member of the National 4-H Conference Youth Leadership Team. This role gave me the opportunity to work with four other youth from across the country to plan numerous aspects of the conference. Working with the Youth Leadership Team helped me discover my strengths and realize my passion for public speaking and the business field.

Because of the wide variety of projects to participate in through 4-H, I have had the opportunity to learn about different careers and discover my strengths. My involvement in Communication Arts helped me discover my passion for public speaking. Because of Communication Arts, I joined my local speech team in ninth grade. In 2015, I placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Impromptu Speaking at the Class B State competition.

4-H has given me so much. 4-H has taught me how to work with a large group of people, but also how to take charge to accomplish what needs to be done. I have overcome my shyness and developed into a responsible leader and role model. 4-H has helped me discover a passion for public speaking, and has helped me realize my interest in a business-related career.