



Curry County 4-H Record Books

My 4-H Story

What do you call a happy farmer? A jolly rancher! Hi, my name is Kyle Wood. I am 12 years old and a 6th grader at Grady Middle School. I have been a member of the Grady 4-H club for 4 years. I hold the Chaplin office for the 4-H Curry County Council, and I am the Song and Rec Officer for Grady 4-H Club. I come from a family of four. My little sister is a part of 4-H as well. My mom and dad were 4-H and FFA members growing up. So, I have a big influence in the 4-H program and what it has to offer. I am from Broadview, NM and I live on my families ranch where my family has been for the last 5 generations. I attend church at Grady Baptist Church where I love my Sunday School class and I am faithful in being a door greater. I also love playing basketball with my classmates, hunting, and shooting sports through YHEC.

My favorite project I have done through 4-H has been my beef project. At the beginning of this 4-H year I was able to see my steer project all the way through to meat on the table. I was given the privilege of seeing his carcass hang and learned a lot about meat quality. Moving into my new beef project that I was able to show at a jackpot and at the Livestock Expo this year, I focused on learning the feed going into the steer. The quality of feed makes a difference in the quality of meat you will provide to the consumer. With my beef project I was able to sell half the meat to my grandfather in exchange for a heifer to start my own herd. In the future this will provide an income for years to come. This will make me a Jolly Rancher!! I received

recognition on my steer at the Jingle Bell jackpot with a Breed Grand Champion and the Livestock Expo with a 2nd place in my class and pulling into the Reserve Champion drive.

I have had a year of many great and different opportunities. I have been able to judge livestock, horses and livestock skillathon virtually. I have never done this virtually before, but appreciated being able to be a part of it. I enjoyed it and tried new contests I have never done before. It being virtual opened up a door for me to discover new things and I think I might just stick with livestock skillathon along with my love I already had for livestock judging.

The year 2020 has brought some changes for my 4-H year. I have shown pigs in the past, but with a lot of unknowns my family and I choose not to purchase pigs this year. I didn't want that to stop me from learning more about market swine and completing my project. I was able to do a demonstration to my club about taking care of pig in the fall of 2019. This summer I put together a poster on different breeds of pigs and shared the information I learned by submitting my poster in the indoor livestock expo. I received a 1st place with my project.

I participated in the Tech and Design virtual workshop. It was a lot of fun getting to work with other 4-H member across the state. I learned a lot of new computer programs and apps. The one that was the most useful to me was the power point and google slides workshop. As I am a 6th grader now we are being asked to do a lot of them in our assignments. I was ahead of my class with understand how to put one together and was able to help my classmates with their projects. I entered one of my school assignments using power point in the Tech and

Design Expo and received great comments back from the experts that reviewed digital presentation.

Our County 4-H Awards Banquet was in December and I had a very blessed night. I received pins in both swine and beef projects. I was recognized for being active in several programs, camps and workshops throughout the year. The award that meant the most to me was The Most Improved In A Project Award. I worked all year in the barn, but most of all I was able to improve because the help I reached out for. I asked a family member to help me with my feed program. I reached out to a senior 4-H member to help me with my showmanship. So, when I received this award it felt good and made me feel like I accomplished my goal.

I was also able to be a part of the Virtual Livestock Camp. I learned from experts about how to care for my beef project. I understand more about the importance of hair care and handling them every day. Attending this camp has also helped me with setting new goals for this year. Moving forward into the new 4-H year I want to apply what I learned in the camp. I have also set a goal to learn more on doctoring cattle and vaccinating them. I would like to learn how to give them medicine when needed and why we use the vaccines that we do. The more I can learn about raising cattle the healthier they will be and the better their meat quality will be when they are sent to market. I am moving into being a Junior member this year and my goal for service would be to help other 4-H members with their projects like I have received over the first few years I have been in 4-H. In leadership I plan to run for office in my county council and my club. I would like to be the Chaplin again in the county council as I am able to share my faith within my 4-H experience too. In my club I would like to be the Reporter. This

will give me the opportunity to learn the responsibilities on a club level before going for a bigger officer on the county level.

All in all this last 4-H year has been different and had challenges but we are thought in 4-H to overcome and learn from our fears and obstacles. I look forward to my new 4-H year starting and being a part of what all is offered. I plan to continue my beef project another year. I have not decided if I will continue with market swine, as I have found that I have a stronger love for market beef. Whatever the new year brings I know it will be fun and there will be lots for me to learn.