

**4-H Essay**  
**By Addysen Folmar**  
**Cottonwood 4-H Club**  
**Eddy County**  
**Novice Essay Winner / to attend Youth Get-Away 2018**

My name is Addysen Folmar, I'm 11 years old and am in the sixth grade at Zia Intermediate School. I am a third-year member of the Cottonwood 4-H Club. In my free time, I am a competitive gymnast, I enjoy reading and also playing volleyball. I have two younger sisters that I hope will be in 4-H someday as well.

Our 4-H club meets at the Artesia high school Ag shop on the first Monday of every month and there are currently 35 members enrolled. We usually have a guest speaker at our meetings and we always have a great time. I plan to be an officer in the upcoming year. This year our 4-H club completed a community service project in which we donated quarters to the senior citizen center so they could play bingo. We also had an ice cream social with the Downs Syndrome community.

For my club demonstration, my friends and I all talked about showing livestock. I chose to discuss pigs, Caden talked about steers and Braden spoke on showing sheep. It was fun to have my friends with me and I didn't get near as nervous.

In my record book I have chosen to highlight my livestock projects as well as Uniquely New Mexico, however, I completed many other projects. This year I enrolled in the following projects: Citizenship, Sewing, Duded Up Denim, Uniquely New Mexico, Food Preservation, Wildlife and Range Science. In my Citizenship project, I learned about my family history. I asked my parents and grandparents about their families and then completed the project book and a family tree. In Wildlife, I studied life zones and different wildlife that lived in each zone, and for the Range Science project, I studied the tumbleweed and made a poster about it. My mom and I made strawberry jam in my food preservation project and in Uniquely New Mexico we made corn husk dolls. It was fun to dress the dolls up. My sewing project was a jumper and a top in which my grandma and I made and she also helped me with my pocket organizer for the duded up denim project.

My livestock projects for this year consisted of four pigs, one goat and three sheep. At the Eddy County Fair with my pigs, I placed first and was also reserve breed champion with my York, my Cross placed sixth, my Hamp's were fifth and sixth. This was my first year to show a goat and I placed second and was in the Grand Drive. I showed three blackface sheep and they placed first, third and fourth. I was able to sell one pig and one lamb through the auction and I made enough money to pay for next year's animals and save for college.

At Eastern New Mexico State Fair, I took a pig, two sheep and my goat. My goat placed fifth, but my sheep and pig were not quite what the judge was looking for. We had a great time at the fair and learned a lot; hopefully, next year we will do much better.

I love 4-H and the opportunities it gives me. I enjoy being out in the community and telling others about agricultural lifestyle and 4-H. I'm learning to be a leader through 4-H and I know I will reap the benefits for the rest of my life.