

**My 4-H Story**  
**by**  
**Aubry Putman**  
**Eddy County**  
**Senior Essay Winner**

## My 4-H Story

Hi! My name is Aubry Putman and this is my year in 4-H! But first here's some things about me. I am thirteen and in the eighth grade. I live in Carlsbad, NM, and go to a local school called Carlsbad Intermediate School. I am very active in 4-H but, outside of 4-H, I am also very active. I play volleyball for my school. This season just ended last week. I was the libero on my team and I even made a high school team also. I also play for a traveling team called Carlsbad Blackout. I ran track this year too. I ran the mile and 800' and did triple jump. I found out that I really like long-distance running and will look forward to doing it again this winter. In school I take all honors classes, along with a tenth grade math class. I also am in National Junior Honor Society.

This past year in 4-H I was a junior. I was able to attend Home Ec School and YGA as a camper. At Home Ec School I was in outdoor cooking. We made lunch and dinner for everyone in the camp! I had a blast cooking with some of my closest friends! At YGA I learned about many new things from how to make a fish tank to how to be a good friend. This new year in 4-H I will be a senior! I am looking forward to being a counselor and attending SLR!

I did many different activities in 4-H in the past year. I showed animals at the Eddy County Fair and the New Mexico State Fair. At the Eddy County Fair, I showed three lambs, two goats, and one dairy heifer. At the New Mexico State Fair, I showed a lamb and a goat. Out of these projects my favorite was my goats because they have so much personality and are very loving. I learned compassion, companionship, leadership, responsibility, dedication, and so much more. At the Eddy County Fair I had a pretty good run. I placed 2nd with my little goat of the 1st class. I also won the reserve champion of my division and came pretty close in the grand drive. My

younger sister Payton was the 1st of that class and came out as the grand champion! This taught me so much such as sportsmanship, character, and, teamwork. My lambs placed higher up in their classes, but they didn't do as well as I had hoped. Finally, my dairy heifer placed 2nd of her class. I sold my dairy heifer and a lamb at the Eddy County Fair and pulled my goat to move on to state. At the New Mexico State Fair, I placed 5th with my goat. I did not make the sift with lambs. Again, at the state fair I learned so much with the help of my friends and family.

From my animals I also learned how to keep track of records and how to manage my money. I had to keep track of each thing I bought for my animals and I had to plan what animals I wanted to buy and how much they cost: I tried to keep my budget low enough so that if I made the sale with one animal, I would make my money back. I was buying animals with the money I had made at the sale last year.

I also did some indoor projects. I made a painted pottery cup that was shaped like a cactus and I made a basket with different soaps, salts, lotions, and other bathroom items. These projects taught me how to stay patient, that I should never give up and precision and noticing detail. I had so much fun making these projects and I hope to do more next year! I made both my projects to the State and Eastern fairs.

I did judging competitions for the third time this year. I did meat judging, livestock judging, livestock skill-a-thon, and I was in Parliamentary procedure, but we didn't have a big enough team. At the district contest, all my teams placed very high. As an individual I also placed high. I was in the top five in livestock-skill-a-thon and meats. In meats judging, livestock judging, and livestock skill-a-thon, I learned how to work hard for what you want, to never give up, and to always be confident in your decisions.

This year I had set some goals that I would like to accomplish in 4-H. These goals include getting in the top five with at least three animals, placing in the top five with two individual contests in judging competitions, making the sift at the New Mexico State Fair, and becoming better than I was last year, as a whole in 4-H. I accomplished all the goals I had set, and I was very proud of myself. I hope to accomplish more goals next year!

One of my favorite things to do is community service. This year I did a lot of community service. I volunteered at many charity shooting competitions, made blessed bags for people in need, worked at Fall-a-Palooza (a church fall carnival), sold paper clovers at Tractor Supply Company, and did many other projects like this with my 4-H club. For school I had helped clean up the cafeteria, helped students out with their school work (tutored some students), and many other acts of community service like this.

4-H has contributed to my life in so many ways. It has taught me to work hard, stay out of trouble, be respectful, responsible, dedicated, loyal, kind, and much more. When I grow up I hope I am a positive influence on many people. In the future I want to become a psychologist or a therapist so I can help out people in need. In the present-day, 4-H has helped me want to get better grades and take harder classes to challenge myself. 4-H has also taught me how to have responsibilities and taught me many ideas about what the future holds.

This year one of the biggest concepts I learned was leadership. I love to be a leader and help people. I was secretary for the Eddy County 4-H council multiple times (some of the time I filled in as president) and I was my Parliamentary Procedure team president multiple times also. This past year I was the president of my 4-H club the Kountry Klovvers for the second time. I have been newly nominated to be the Eddy County 4-H Council president also. My new term will start

in December. I like to work with a team and communicate with other people. Next year I'm hoping to do public speaking.

In 4-H this year I have had to work as a group or a team. I have learned so much from this. I learned about sharing, empathy, social skills, cooperation, critical thinking, stress management, character, teamwork, and leadership. I attended Youth Getaway in Glorietta for the second and everything we did revolved around teamwork. We had to group up to accomplish so many things. I also went to Home Ec School where I had to work as a team to feed almost 200 people. I had such a fun time and can't wait to go back this year as a counselor!

This year in 4-H has just been a rollercoaster of emotions. From experiencing winning to great loss. I had an amazing time throughout everything I've done. I am so lucky to have joined 4-H because through it I have learned so many important things, made priceless memories, and made friends from all over New Mexico that I will never forget. I had such a good time this year winning or losing, good or bad. I will look back on this year for many more to come. I couldn't imagine this year without 4-H. I will be doing 4-H for many more years to come!