

## My 4-H Story

### Part 1

My name is Macey, I am 10 years old and a member of the Young Guns 4-H club, I have been in the club for 5 years now. I attend school at Mesa Vista Elementary School, but I am homeschooled because of Covid-19. My interests are baking, riding my horse and raising and showing my lambs. I also like swimming and gymnastics. I first enrolled in 4-H when I was 6. I started showing lambs and chickens at an early age. My dad gave me a very tall lamb named Nutty and she was the first lamb I showed. Soon after that I knew I wanted to show lambs just like my sister. I raise Suffolk cross sheep I sell them to 4-H kids to show at their local county fairs. This year we had some really great looking lambs, we didn't sell as much as we wanted. A lot of kids decided to purchase lambs this year because of the virus. I think this year will be great and we will get back to having our regular 4-H activities. I really do think I will stay in 4-H until I am 18, because I believe it's a program that will help me be prepared for my next chapter of my life.

## Part II

The skills I have learned from my 4-H experiences are responsibility, leadership and communication skills. In 4-H you have to be self-motivated and very responsible. You have a daily routine and you have to be consistent. Livestock need daily care and you have to bond and assist them every single day. With my animals (lambs and horse) I had to wash, feed, groom and exercise them. I did what was needed to get the job done right. I learned to be a good citizen and respect rules and regulations that were provided at the beginning of my projects. Keep all my records, including receipts. I kept records of weekly weights and amounts of feed fed daily. In the beginning, you have to set goals of where you want to go with each project. And those interests are raising sheep, riding my horse and baking projects. One learning experience was having to keep one of my lambs from being too light. I had to change feed and exercise less. It was a real challenge, but all that hard work payed off. I was elected county council delegate for the year. I attend 4-H County Council meetings and keep our club updated on any news. This was my second year as Rio Arriba county council delegate member.

### Part III

From working with other youth, I have learned manners and proper communicating skills which leads me to being a good team player. I have gotten better at public speaking and now I can present in large crowds and not be so nervous. I have also learned that others have lots of knowledge and you can learn many things from one another if you learn to listen. The leadership trainings I attended this year have helped me with my social skills. Fellow members have taught me to be a good leader and to listen to others respectfully and to lead a group responsibly. Caring for one another and being yourself is an important part of who I am and who I am proud to be.

### Part IV

I have demonstrated leadership by volunteering to help New Mexico State Senator Phelps Anderson taking papers to important people. I taught a fellow 4-Her how to work with her lambs and recommended her to call a friend of mine that could help her more than I could. My communications skills have gotten better and I am still working on slowing down and speaking louder! Because of 4-H and my parents I make decisions more wisely. I have learned that before I make a decision, I need to consider the pros and cons and how it will affect me and others. I have learned to think critically and decide what resources are out there, for instance, the quality of hay and feed and show equipment. Showing animals and the prices can add up, so anytime there is a workshop on feeding and exercise, you can bet I am there.