Rachel L.

**Agriculture/Veterinarian**

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As I look forward to the next five years, I see myself accomplished cultivating a future to promote, sustain, and enrich agriculture. My passion for animals and agriculture will continue to grow as a part of my daily life and career path. I look forward to utilizing my skills, education, and experiences in my future endeavors. The next five years will be grounded by the roots I have from daily life growing up on my family farm and my faith.

First chore crossed off my list is obtaining two separate post-secondary degrees. I chose to pursue an Animal Science Management and Veterinary Degree. My high school academic learning including specialty agricultural courses helps me plow a path to success within my post-secondary education. While participation in FFA helps to nurture leadership, team, social, and life skills for endurance when faced with challenges.

I plan to use my post-secondary education to achieve my personal goal of establishing an enhanced quality beef breeding program. I would like to implement this within my own herd for my future and the next generation on my family farm. I will be focusing on genetics developed to breed show quality animals for youth, as well as beef for consumers.

My professional career goal of working within a Vet Clinic allows me to provide healthcare and nutritional needs to a variety of animals. I plan to place my career focus on large animals within my local community. I have developed a great relationship with the local veterinarians and look forward to working professionally beside them. As a vet technician I will be working under their instruction enjoying a career I am very passionate about. At the same time, I will be gaining valuable experience that will open the gate to my ultimate future career goal as a veterinarian.

Utilization of my leadership, organizational, and team skills will enhance my personal career goal to help educate and facilitate youth to get involved in agriculture. I have fond memories of ag speakers at school career days, FFA, and 4-H educational events. By volunteering and educating youth, I will help to plant seeds that will grow helping youth to develop lifelong ties and careers within agriculture.

By practicing, educating, and promoting sustainable farming I will be helping to foster agriculture products for generations. These products are a necessary part of all our daily lives. Agriculture provides jobs, safe affordable food, clothing, and is an essential part of local and global economies. Ensuring the wellbeing of agriculture comes in many forms and if we will pitch in, we can continue to have access to many of the necessities our daily lives depend on.

While my chore list in life continues to grow, I know I have a lot of hard work ahead of me in the next five years. I am excited and ready to take on new challenges, while I work to achieve my goals. I am anticipating many changes in my life as I plan to get married, establish my own house to raise my children, the fifth generation of future famers on the homestead. All this while working within the agricultural industry in a career I truly enjoy and am passionate about!