

Former Steuben 4-H'er says 4-H is the key to the doors of the world

By Jeremy Elliott-Engel, CCE-Steuben 4-H Alumni

Growing up, I would spend hours playing with farm toys and I spent hours planning out farms. When I was 10 or 11 years old my Mom came home and mentioned about an organization for kids who also were interested in agriculture. I was pretty sure I had found "my people!"

I attended my first Southern Tier Livestock 4-H Club meeting, in January 1997. My first project was an order of 25 chicks from the Hemlock Agway. I poured through the copies of the hatchery catalogue that they had provided. I had to make the right decision and, of course, there are so many types of chickens. I credit this experience as my first livestock judging experience. Judging competitions provide opportunities for the development of critical analysis and oral communication skills. Over the next seven years of membership in Steuben County 4-H, I would become heavily involved in poultry and livestock judging, which allowed me to attend state, regional and national competitions.

You too can enrich a young person's life through 4-H experiences. You gift can provide ribbons at fair, new technology equipment, or scholarships to camp. Call us at 607-664-2300 to see what you can do. How can you help?



My involvement in 4-H helped me have many

interactions with higher education institutions across the state. Through these experiences I was exposed to agriculture as a college major and the possibilities of a career in agriculture.

Numerous caring adults in my 4-H club and in the CCE office supported my leadership growth through many endeavors to plan and implement poultry and goat showmanship clinics. Long before the 4-H program had developed the Teens as Teachers model, I was compelled to create learning opportunities with my peers. These experiences were some of my first experiences teaching and organizing people - skills and experiences that have become central to my professional work. 4-H also provided me opportunities to travel to Washington, D.C. for Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) trip and National 4-H Conference.

CCE HELPED ME...

"...unlock many opportunities for my future."

Jeremy Elliott-Engel

During my six years as a Regional 4-H Youth Development specialist in rural Southwest Missouri, my first position after graduating from Cornell University with a Masters in Agricultural Science Education, I regularly reflected on my many positive experiences in Steuben County 4-H. I coordinated statewide trips to provide youth opportunities to get excited about government. And I traveled with youth to many different states across the Midwest for livestock judging contests.

I will graduate with a Doctorate in Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education from Virginia Tech in August 2018, and I will take over the statewide leadership responsibilities for the Arizona 4-H program in September.

I do attribute Steuben County 4-H as being my catalyst. As a delegate to National 4-H Council, I stated "4-H is the key to the doors of the world." Steuben County 4-H unlocked many opportunities for me. I deeply believe that it can do the same for all youth. Whether they are super excited for their first order of chicks or if they cannot wait for their Lego-NXT lego kit to arrive in the mail, 4-H can be their catalyst.

Single mom uses CCE to live better

CCE HELPED ME...

"...make healthier low-cost meals and snacks. This program was a great learning experience. I have been trying to eat less sugar and smaller portions. I still struggle with this, but fruits are a great alternative to processed snacks. The nutrition papers with tips also help a lot, and I have started taking more walks."

Jessica, EFNEP participant