

Avery Corbiere is the latest winner (2025) of the \$1000 Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Education Foundation bursary. Avery hails from Vermilion AB and is currently enrolled in her first year of elementary education at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grand Prairie AB. Her family has been involved in the sheep industry since before she was born, beginning with her older sisters joining the local 4-H club and eventually, her brother Clay. She started showing at the Vermillion Fair when only two years old, in an outfit complete with pink cowboy boots, and instantly fell in love with raising and showing sheep.

From there, her family experimented with a number of different breeds, Suffolks, North Country Cheviots, Khatadins, Dorpers, and Dorsets, before finally settling on Hampshires due to their ease in handling and ability to gain weight. She bought her first two purebred Hampshire ewes when 12 and began growing her flock from there. She then attended the 2019 All Canada Classic in Humboldt, Sk where she watched Clay exhibit four of his own animals, a yearling ram and ewe as well as a ram and ewe lamb. Her siblings acted as huge role models and she would not have the skills she exhibits today without them. Avery even branched out with goats when she took on a goat project for 4-H that lasted three years.

She took over the family flock in 2021 as all her siblings had moved out. The flock was recently sold to another 4-H family when Avery left for school but she thinks a few more might be purchased for the summer....

Throughout high school she juggled staying on top of her studies with raising sheep, 4-H, and sports but would not have asked for it any other way! Over the years she raised and sold many purebred stock as well as acquiring a number of different bloodlines from across North America and the UK. After spending 11 years in 4-H, including her cleaver years, she was given the opportunity to go on a rural 4-H Agricultural Exchange trip to Ireland. It was on this trip she was able to meet 4-H members from across Canada, while exploring mixed farms, sheep farms, dairy farms, and even water buffalo farms. What she found interesting were the varied shows, grooming, grazing techniques, and the various breeds she had never seen before. This trip broadened her knowledge of sheep, and allowed her to see how sheep compared to other farm animals. This year she also judged at Western Canadian Judging, and was able to step out of her comfort zone to judge a class of mature breeding ewes.

Although she is not currently enrolled in an agricultural field, raising sheep allowed her to be involved in 4-H, thus bringing about the inspiration to work with children in the field of education. She is still interested in raising sheep and wants to teach youth about how impactful raising animals like sheep and 4-H is. She is grateful for the chance to encourage the next generation and we are grateful for having young people like Avery!