

Madam Chairperson and Members of the Committee...

My name is Kirstin Leonhardt, that is K-I-R-S-T-I-N L-E-O-N-H-A-R-D-T, and I am from Rosebud County. I am currently serving as the Montana Extension Advisory Council Representative for the State 4-H Ambassador Team. This is my 10th year in 4-H.

There are several projects I have had the ability to use extension resources. When conducting a science fair experiment on the nutritional value of Hay I was excited to learn that I could send my samples for testing through our local Extension Office as well as gathering other pertinent information relating to my project. I went on to win several awards for this project with in my school and in Billings.

Another example is when I started my market and breeding beef projects. From raising goats I knew that nutrition is very important. Thanks to help from local agriculturalists who are involved with extension, my animals received the proper nutrition and rations that enabled for my Reserve Champion at our country fair.

4-H has also helped me to develop great leadership abilities; from something as simple as giving a demonstration to conducting a meeting. I thank 4-H for helping me to grow through leadership.

My leadership abilities allowed me to be chosen as a State 4-H Ambassador Officer last July. Being a State Ambassador has allowed me to teach fellow 4-H members and to travel all over the state giving workshops which include 4-H opportunities, Teen Leadership, Quality Assurance and even Etiquette.

IN CLOSING: Madam Chairperson and Members of the committee I would like to thank you for letting me speak today, and, more importantly, I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be in, to learn through and to grow through 4-H. TY