

My name is Ethan Parsons, and this is my sixth year in 4-H. Originally, I joined 4-H because my parents recommended it to me after the final year of rabbit judging. Wanting to still stay with rabbits, I started with just showmanship, for about three years, then wanted to expand into a meat pen. Throughout my entire 4-H career, I have always tried to be a role model and leader to those around me. This year I feel like I have finally accomplished this.

My first year in 4-H, I just took rabbits, and had no clue what I was doing, until an FFA member came and helped me learn and talked me through my troubles. I ended up taking grand champion that year because of her help. What makes this story so much more rewarding is the fact that this year, there was a new FFA member, who I was able to help, and talk through just like what happened to me my first year. The FFA member I helped ended up taking grand in showmanship which is really rewarding to be able to pass on my knowledge to others especially when everything comes full circle. This year I was able to purchase a brand-new Mini Rex, of the broken variety, who I named Coco. She is now a proud mother of six black Mini Rexes. Overall, this year in the rabbit barn has been an experience to remember and cherish for the rest of my life.

When I had completed a few years of 4-H, I wanted to earn some money, by doing a market animal, but did not know which one. When going through the choices, steers, pigs, and sheep were ruled out because of the size, amount of space they needed, and the stupidity of sheep. So, the only option was taking a goat. Now, we were unsure how to care and raise a goat, since we live in town, and could not have a goat in town, but across the back alley behind our house, was considered out of town so we consulted with our neighbors, and were able to lease a corner, and build a fence to allow a pen to be created. This year has been a roller coaster, with the extreme heat, putting them off feed, and the illness that passed through my goat twice. This

inflammation of the stomach ended up giving my goat severe diarrhea causing him to lose weight faster than normal, because all the food he did eat, which was not much, went straight through him. This year all together, has been very eventful and interesting trying to deal with the immense heat, and diarrhea.

Although this year has had its challenges, it has not stopped me from doing many other things throughout the year. Not only have these challenges helped me grow as a person, but also as a 4 H member. Throughout this year, I have become the secretary for the Elk Mountain Outlaws, which has improved my time management and writing skills allowing me to excel in English for school. Throughout the year, the club has cleaned along the highway, as a community service project. This year I also was able to get my first job, working at Double A Aces, that has taught me how to work with children better and taught me more patience than I could have ever needed. Through the after-school program, I participated in the Alice in Wonderland play, got the role of the White Rabbit, and enjoyed it tremendously.

Overall, this year has been a rollercoaster of highs and lows but has been able to show me more skills that I can apply further in life. Although I had some struggles, with the struggle of goats, the extreme heat has been a lesson that allowed me to grow more as a person.



During the Fashion Review, I was the Master Coordinator and read the scripts for the girls who participated in modeling.



This was at state fair in Douglas, and this kid wanted to pet one of my rabbits. So, I decided to let him hold and pet one of my precious buns.





This was at our County Fair, during the goat show where extreme dedication and intenseness is needed.





This is during 4 H camp, before lunch, we were making jokes, and dancing. This specific dance is the Church clap.