

Grace Kingery

4-H has left a long-lasting impact on me that no other youth program could. I was involved in the Horse department for around 14 years, but also took projects in sewing, nutrition, and rabbits. One of the things I'm most grateful for during my time in 4-H is how The Wood County 4-H program truly developed some of my deepest friendships. Everyone has their school rivalries growing up, but 4-H is one place that brings together all those rivalries and turns them into connections. Some of my closest connections I would have never met if 4-H hadn't made me take a step out of my comfort zone to mingle with others. Not only did 4-H introduce me to people during my time in the program but it has given me a shared interest and connection with my future classmates and coworkers from outside of Wood County as well. In addition to friendships, this program has developed a variety of my professional skills. I am better at public speaking, interviewing, understanding how to interact with all age ranges, and communicating with an open mind. All thanks to opportunities such as interview judging, project preparation, social events, opportunities to speak to other clubs, and community service projects as well. Finally, the biggest impact 4-H has made on me was helping me to understand my true passions in life. I always knew I had a passion for animals which 4-H helped to strengthen, but it helped me to find my passion for helping others and working with youth. It gave me the opportunity to interact with youth as a 4-H camp counselor, introduce youth to 4-H who otherwise wouldn't have known how to get started, as well as assist youth at fair in the horse department. Thanks to the opportunities 4-H has provided me I know for a fact that I will be a Veterinarian so that I can follow my passion of working with animals while getting to make an impact on the lives of others and give back to future 4-H'ers and their animals.

