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Shannon McLaughlin

Howdy, I'm Shannon McLaughlin, a 2015 high school graduate from St. Joseph School in Whitecourt. In high school I played on the volleyball, basketball, badminton, track and field teams. I was captain of the newly formed and my personal favourite, the Rugby team. I attended Provincials in cross country running, and participated in Drama club and S.A.D.D.. I enjoyed fun hockey and when I was 10 I joined the local multi 4-H club and did light horse for 3 years along with crafts and upcycling. In my fourth year I really wanted to participate in the sheep project. I bought my first ewe lamb, a Suffolk/North Country Cheviot named Hershey Kisses. My ewe lamb was so lonely that I then bought a market lamb, a ram and as they say the rest is history... The rest of the 4-H sheep projects I have completed are carcass, yearly ewe, mature ewe, pen of three & flock. The learning curve was huge but there have been many knowledgeable people that have donated time & experience along the way and that have made it very fun & interesting. I was president, vice president, historian of the 4-H club, and have completed many judging and public speaking events. I have gone to the 4-H Provincial Sheep Show & Summer Synergy in Olds for the last four years. I have had the extreme honor of owning the Calgary Stampede 4-H International Youth Livestock Supreme Champion Sheep 3 years in a row with my first ewe and her offspring. Having participated in Selections this year, I was awarded a seat on the Northwest Territories 4-H Agricultural Tour-It was Awesome & highly recommended! I have been to many 4-H shows and county fairs with my sheep and have met many wonderful people with the same passion as myself. I am currently attending my first year in the faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. Being the 5th generation of my family's cow/calf ranch in the Whitecourt area and owning a few sheep & cows, I will return to the ranch upon completion of my degree and look for a nursing career in the area. Calving and lambing are a favorite and I hope I can always participate. It's been tried and said before, "You can take the girl from the country but ewe can't take the country from the girl!"