

Communications



Lynsley and Freesty at the South Regional Horse Show

Presentations: A “Learn to do by Doing” Opportunity

LYNDSLEY PELTZER, Cow Country 4-H Judging Club

You might ask, “What has giving a 4-H presentation done for me?” When I started my 4-H career as a nine-year-old, I was very nervous, a little shy and definitely didn’t want to be the centre of attention. The thought of standing up in front of our 4-H club, and possibly a crowd of people, to give a presentation was downright terrifying!!!

I attended a few public speaking workshops that were hosted by our District Junior Council and that definitely helped me out. I learned how to organize a presentation and how to deliver it. It made the process of preparing my presentations much easier and a lot less stressful. Over my three years of 4-H I have come to love giving presentations and really enjoy teaching the crowd about something I am interested in. 4-H has given me the confidence to give a presentation, and at the same time, love doing it. It is all about, “Learn to do by Doing”. The more you public speak, the more confident you get. 4-H

has also given me the skills to organize and prepare a well written speech with interesting pictures, power points and funny quotes. I love presentations that have a little humor in them.

I have had the opportunity to give my presentations at the club, district and regional levels. Giving my presentations at the regional level has also given me the opportunity to meet new 4-H friends from different clubs. I see my new 4-H friends at all sorts of 4-H events like Regional Judging, Junior Camp and the Regional Heifer and Horse Shows. Last year I was given the opportunity to give my presentation “The Pony Express” at the Farming Smarter Conference in Medicine Hat. I entertained the 250 guests that were attending the conference along with two other 4-H speakers and my sister, Bryanne, who was the MC. It was definitely the biggest crowd I have ever spoken in front of. It was such a great experience! When I was finished my presentation, I was very proud of my accomplishment and I received some great compliments.

Being able to stand up on the stage with a microphone pinned on my shirt and enjoy giving my presentation is an awesome feeling and I have to give 4-H a lot of the credit for all the great experiences! Good luck to the 4-Hers giving their speeches or presentations at the Farming Smarter Conference this year. Enjoy the opportunity! 🌟

Feeling Comfortable and Confident when Public Speaking

BRYANNE PELTZER, Cow Country 4-H Judging Club

When we start 4-H, many of us feel challenged by public speaking. When I was nine-years-old and first joined 4-H, I felt this way as well. My first exposure to public speaking was when I attended a public speaking workshop that the Newell District Junior Council hosted. I was the second member to present an impromptu. The first speaker was an experienced senior member that knew what she was doing. She flew through her impromptu without a mistake; then it was my turn. I had to put on my brave face and present the topic of “School Buses” as best I could. As soon as I had finished, I raced back to my seat and cried. Fortunately, my speaking career got better with time and practise. In the next years of presenting, I slowly started to get more confident with each workshop and competition. My nervousness started to disappear and was replaced with comfort and confidence.

The Farming Smarter Conference has also helped me speak in front of crowds. Over the years, I have participated in two Farming Smarter Conferences. I have participated as a Master of Ceremonies and as a presenter. It is a whole new experience when you are speaking in front of 250 people instead of 25. Even though there is a lot of stress involved, it is a great experience that will tremendously improve your speaking skills. It has improved mine immensely. There is no doubt in my mind that every member that is given an opportunity like this should always take it. Presenting your topic that you have practiced all year boosts your comfort level at this large event.

4-H has given me many opportunities that have helped me improve my skills in many different ways: from making presentations, to emceeing events, or chairing a meeting. I have gained a lot of confidence speaking in front of large crowds. I have come a long way since running to my chair to cry! I would like to thank 4-H for this opportunity.

Good luck to all of the members speaking in their competitions and at Farming Smarter this year. If anyone has any presentation topic ideas, I am always open for suggestions! After all, I think finding a topic is the hardest part of public speaking. 🌟



Bryanne and Paisie at Summer Synergy 2015.