

Regarding Bill #1061, An act concerning increased funding for agriscience programs

Hello, my name is Alyssa Salva and I am a senior at Nonnewaug High

School. I have lived in Prospect all of my life, and chose to attend Nonnewaug because of the vo-ag program. Now that I have been through the program, I couldn't think of a better high school experience. I immediately became involved in the FFA. I was on numerous teams, including horse judging, livestock judging, opening and closing ceremonies, and officer teams. This year I am happily serving our chapter as our Reporter. One other team I competed on, Agriculture Communications brought me all the way to our national convention in Indianapolis. At the convention, we placed 4th as a team out of 28 other teams.

Each year after freshman year, we are required to have an agriculture related jobs and obtain a minimum of 200 hours. As many of my peers know, 200 is an easy number to obtain. I have over 2,000 hours from over the past 4 years. I currently work at two horse barns, B&R Riding Stables and Turning Point Farm. At B&R we give trail rides to the public. I have worked there for the past 3 years, and have grown from a volunteer to training our young horses, driving the hay wagon team at the Holiday Hill Resort, leading the trail rides, and much more. I began over a year ago at Turning Point Farm which is a lesson and boarding farm. There I have used much of my knowledge from the Vo-Ag program at Nonnewaug and have

grown from a volunteer to assistant farm manager. Thanks to the knowledge and leadership in my horse management class I gained more than a job, I gained valuable experience doing something I truly enjoy.

With my time at Nonnewaug coming to an end, I have chosen to move on with my dreams and attend the University of Findlay in Ohio to double major in Equine Western Training and Equine Business Management.

Thanks to all of the leadership training, education, and the support of the Vo-Ag Department staff, I have learned very important life lessons and had a great time doing so.