

Good evening my name is Molly Stanavage and I am a junior at Lyman Memorial High School, home of the Lebanon Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Center in Lebanon, CT. This year I have had the pleasure of serving as the Vice-President of the Lebanon Regional FFA Chapter

Everyone has to make decisions in life and one of the hardest decisions for me was deciding which high school I wanted to attend. When I was an 8th grader I had the option of attending my home high school, Bacon Academy in Colchester or attending the Lebanon Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Center in Lebanon or one of the numerous other schools such as private schools or the Tech High Schools. The right school for me was the Agricultural High School in order to pursue my lifelong dream of being a Veterinarian. I knew that AG would be right for me, going to a school with an agri-science program would give me a head start on the knowledge I would have to know to become a Vet.

During my junior year I choose to focus on animal science and am currently studying equine science and cattle in hopes to one day become a large animal vet that specializes in equine dentistry. The skills I am learning in class are reinforcing my desire to become a large animal vet. At our Ag center students have the opportunity to deliver newborn animals, give shots, do physical exams, and even necropsies on animals that have passed away as well as doing daily chores with the school animals.

As with all Ag centers all of the students in our program have to have a Supervised Agricultural Experience project all four years that they enrolled in agriculture education classes. As for my SAE I am a beekeeper, and have now kept honeybees since my freshmen year of high school with some help from my advisors in the AG program. Choosing an AG school was by far one of

the best decisions I have ever made, AG has truly changed my life and continues to do so on a daily basis getting me closer and closer to my future career.

Agriscience programs are very important to me for I know the many opportunities that these programs offer. I have met new people, made new friends, took up a leadership role, and participated in activities that I would never get a chance to do anywhere else. There are activities like poultry judging, forestry, public speaking, tractor driving and many others, AG programs have an activity for anyone with an interest in agriculture. Everyday I walk into AG class to find that it is not like every other academic class. AG classes are unique and specific to what I want to learn for my future career. Already in my years in the agriscience program I have learned about animal reproduction, animal systems, veterinarian procedures, plant science, and some basics in AG mechanics all of which will help me in the future.

This is why Agriscience programs need increased funding so that students like myself can learn about agriculture, to follow their dreams and lifelong passions or maybe to enrich themselves in various areas of agriculture, that cannot be done in other classes. Without AG I would not have the knowledge that I do. I would not know basic restraints, equine emergency first aid, or various vaccinations. AG programs are supplying not only me but other students with knowledge that will help us in our future careers.

Please increase the funding for the agriscience programs by adopting the ECS Task Force School Choice Funding recommendation into the Governor's Proposed Budget. By increasing funding for AG programs, many students like myself will be able to engage in many unique activities and learning opportunities, increased funding is needed for the future of agricultural education. This funding will allow our program to increase these opportunities for my classmates and for future classes at our ag center. Thank you are there any questions?
