



**Kayleigh Hamilton**

Kayleigh is the daughter of Scott and Elizabeth Hamilton of Eaton, CO. She is a 5 year member of Blazing Clover 4-H Club and was involved in shooting sports, leather craft, breeding/market rabbit, poultry to name a few. She is a home-school graduate planning to attend Northeastern Junior College to study Agricultural Education in Extension Service.

When the idea of college arose, Kayleigh struggled to find a career she wanted to pursue, but knew that she wanted to be the first one in 4 generations to attend and finish college. She began taking riding lessons from a friend who stated that she had gone to college for agriculture education and that intrigued Kayleigh. At that point she had graduated high school at age 15 and was uncertain of what the path ahead of her held. The pieces came together when the county fair came around. It was then she discovered her path. She wanted to be an extension agent and help others. In the fall she will be starting college studying for a masters in agriculture education. After years of seeing the impact and much needed assistance that teachers and 4-H/FFA leaders, and especially agents give to those who need it the most in their community, she feels that finishing college and becoming a teacher or extension agent is what is was meant to do. She hopes that someday a youth will seek her for advice on the same decision.

Because of the years in 4-H and the different programs with all the responsibility, and leadership skills she gained, she came to the conclusion that what she wanted to do with her life was to help and encourage other kids who are in need of something like 4-H and what better way to do that than become an Extension Agent. Kayleigh has found that there are so many more opportunities here in Weld that she had ever dreamed she could find in 4-H. The other 4-Hers were always helpful when she didn't understand the way things worked and have made her feel more at home.

She is excited to start her college education in the fall so that she can continue to help the others around her like she has wanted to do for so long. Because of 4-H she has become the woman she is today and if she had to do the last 5 years over she wouldn't change a thing because through 4-H she has lived and will continue to live her dreams and help further others dreams as well.

Kayleigh Hamilton is the recipient of the Weld County 4-H Foundation Scholarship.