

Youmans' Hopes for Profitable Poultry Business

Our winner this month, is Central DeWitt High School Freshman, Cheyenne Youmans. Youmans' SAE consists of Poultry Production Entrepreneurship where her current flock consists of about 15 Rhode Island Red, Plymouth Rock and Australorp laying hens.

Youmans' moved out to the country, north of DeWitt in rural Clinton County, IA about five years ago and always knew she wanted to raise livestock, especially laying hens. Youmans' stated that her mother always liked to cook with farm fresh eggs, so Youmans' soon realized how many other people might appreciate having the same option of farm fresh eggs to cook with as well. When Youmans' joined FFA, she knew this would make a great Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project since she already had some experience and knew how to raise chickens.

Youmans' knows the amount of time and hard work it takes to care for a healthy productive flock. Day in and day out, Youmans' does several daily tasks which include: collecting eggs, washing, and then selling them to family and friends. She also cares for her flock by feeding and protecting them from predators. To ensure no predators are harming the flock, Youmans' has a trail cam set up in her barn so she can keep a close eye out. She counts her flock daily to make sure they are all accounted for. The profit she receives from selling eggs she reinvests back into her flock by purchasing more chickens.

Youmans' goal is to expand her flock to 40 laying hens, market broilers and to keep investing in her project for a successful business! In addition to selling eggs and expanding her flock, she also plans to show market broilers and laying hens at the Clinton County Fair and Iowa State Fair this summer.

Youmans' SAE project teaches her responsibility, hard work and proper record keeping skills. She spends countless hours tending to her flock and collecting those farm fresh eggs. Keep an eye out as Youmans' works to expand and build her laying hen business. Congratulations, Cheyenne!

For additional information please visit: www.dewittcentralffa.com