

Brody Nemecek, 15 – Iola, KS
Southwind Extension District 4-H & Iola FFA Chapter member
Testifying For SB415
Oral Testimony

I am Brody Nemecek, a 15 year 4-H and FFA member from Iola, Kansas. I live on a small farm with my family where we raise registered Simmental cattle and Hampshire, Duroc and Berkshire hogs. I have exhibited at the Kansas State Fair since I was 9 years old.

Participating in youth livestock events at the Kansas State Fair improves my self-confidence as a livestock producer. I raise my own cattle and hogs, and exhibition at the State Fair gives me a gauge as to how the quality of my projects compare to others across the State. It is an honor to show at the largest and most competitive youth livestock event in the State of Kansas.

For me, exhibiting livestock is not about the ribbon or the premium money received for awards. Showing the livestock I raise gives me a sense of pride, in knowing my livestock genetics are as good as any. To be able to raise the best Hampshire gilt or Hampshire barrow in Kansas is something special to me. When I have qualified for the “green chips” or the Grand Drive at the Kansas State Fair, I know I have reached a goal that is not often accomplished by youth my age.

Finally, I value the Kansas State Fair because it allows me to make connections with nationally known industry leaders in livestock. The judges that are hired are nationally recognized, and are people I look up to for their insight and expertise.

I have been fortunate to have shown hogs in the Grand Drive, brought home a few showmanship buckles and even participated in Legislative Showmanship. This is just my beginning – and I am confident my future will involve agriculture and I can give some credit for my motivation and leadership to the Kansas State Fair.

My experiences at the Kansas State Fair have encouraged me to be an agricultural leader for life, and your support of Senate Bill 415 will ensure the Kansas State Fair is able to continue to grow and offer more amazing opportunities to future generations in the Sunflower State.