Lydia Shaw Parma High School What drives me

What drives me-I think the answer is simple, but in order to explain this, I have to tell you a little about myself. I have grown up spending time working on our family ranch. My great grandfather actually started the ranch after returning from World War 1 with just a single heifer that his neighbor gifted to him. He grew his herd into a successful ranch business, and I am now the 4th generation on our family ranch. It is my family and the legacy they have built that has made me who I am today. They have instilled a love of agriculture in me. Agriculture is the root of who I am.

Agriculture is what drives me! But it's more than agriculture. It is the importance of respecting the land and animals that help provide for the farmers and ranchers that raise and care for them. It's families working together to grow a product. Agriculture is an amazing industry that feeds and clothes this nation and the world! It is important to me as the world changes, and adapts, that we share the stories of farmers and ranchers. Very few people have a good understanding of where our food comes from and how it is raised. I feel like agriculture is sometimes misunderstood.

I want to work in the agricultural industry, my parents have always encouraged me to be an advocate for agriculture and that is the path I want to take. I plan to major in agriculture communications and marketing. I want to help tell the story of agriculturalists. I want to share its importance in our society today. We cannot live without it, and yet I feel it is often ignored or mis-interpreted. I want to change that!

I have been lucky to be involved in a number of clubs and groups that support youth in agriculture. This involvement has helped me realize that agriculture is an industry full of caring and kind people! As the worlds population grows, farmers and ranchers are challenged to continue producing more food with less land. I hope I can help the agriculture community share their stories and promote agriculture.

I have started my own photography business. It will be a great opportunity to learn to tell stories of agriculture through photos and hopefully videos as well. I plan to attend the University of Idaho in the fall. I will earn my bachelors in ag communications with a minor in marketing. I also hope to get my masters degree.

I want to promote and advocate for the extraordinary industry that provides the world with so much. The agriculture industry has given me so many opportunities, leadership experiences, and educational growth. I look forward to giving back to this extraordinary industry.