

Synovia Bates

11th Grade

Columbia High School

What Drives You?

As a child, I had a constant curiosity of natural resources. From learning about forestry and animal conservation, to water quality and crop production. At such a young age however, I never fully grasped the importance of agriculture in this growing world. It wasn't until high school that I truly homed in on my passion.

When I began my freshman year, I was enrolled in an introductory agriculture class. As I started learning about the need for more food production and land preservation, I decided to join the local FFA chapter. In the past three years, I have learned about and competed in dairy cows and foods, nursery plants, landscaping, equine studies, poultry, and veterinary science CDEs. As I traveled and competed, I found a true love for the industry.

Many elements affect the productivity of the farms, whether it be drought, drops in market prices, soil nutritional deficiency, or the cost of equipment. Being the fifth generation in a long line of farmers, I've witnessed first-hand many of the hardships the agriculture industry has faced. The majority of today's farmers don't have the insight or financial discernment to properly invest in technology that would maximize their production while also saving time, money and resources. Once I have received my technical certificate in Geospatial Technology and my Agriculture (AAS), I want to share my knowledge with struggling farms and ranches.

I've met several people in my life who have had to sell out their farms because they don't know how to keep up in this ever changing world or they don't have any successors who wish to take over a failing operation. With my skills that I will learn from receiving a higher education, I can help these people that are seeking a way to improve their crop production and gain financial stability.

My passion for agriculture is what drives me. There will always be the demand for food, and as the world continues to grow and advance in technology, we need

more people who have that desire to learn about agriculture and expand this dying industry. My goal is to build up business experience and social networking by working for a company that helps farms and ranches learn how to operate machinery outfitted with the newest technology. After several years of working through a company, I want to start my own small business and begin working for small farms, showing that there is a better way of farming than there was twenty years ago and optimizing the use of modern technology on agriculture operations, as well as maximizing the financial support and stability of your local farmer.

With my degree in Precision Agriculture and Geospatial Technology, I can help to keep the agriculture industry alive and profitable. I look forward to attending college greatly, with a desire to make my impact in this world driving me to do the best that I can and work towards a brighter future for the agriculture industry.