

Where I Am Now



Update on the 2009 Chuck Wagon Scholarship Recipient

Back in 2009, I was the lucky recipient of the ACWA annual scholarship. As a freshly graduated senior, I had plans to attend Colorado State University in the fall, and then pursue Veterinary School. My plans changed, as most best laid plans do, and my goals shifted slightly. I graduated Colorado State University (CSU) in December of 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and minor in Business administration. Thanks to the generosity of the ACWA's Scholarship fund, I was able to graduate with very little debt, as well as have many other amazing opportunities such as studying abroad in Limerick, Ireland in the Fall of 2012. During my studies, I also was active in school functions such as fall orientation for incoming students, a block and bridle club where I got to educate other students about the livestock industry, and many intramural sports. I also got the opportunity to attend the chuck wagon events at Cheyenne Frontier Days and cook with my family while in college, as it was only an hour away from CSU! I was offered a position as a graduate research assistant to obtain my Master's degree in animal science in the fall of 2013, and I am currently finishing my fourth semester in my graduate studies and hope to defend my thesis this fall. I have had the privilege to research the prevalence of two major swine diseases in Colorado and work with pig producers, the Colorado Pork Producer's Council (CPPC) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) during my research project. In addition to my research, I have gotten involved with the National Pork Board to educate the public about the pork industry, as well as volunteering at the Denver Rescue Mission. After obtaining my Master's of Animal Science, I plan to continue working in the swine industry, and eventually pursue my PhD after working in the industry for a few years. Being a recipient of this scholarship allowed me to further continue my education by pursuing a higher degree. My involvement in the chuck wagon community has taught me valuable lessons of independence, creativity, and perseverance, attributes I have come to value even more in my graduate school career. I will also be forever grateful for the sense of community that embodies those that participate in this sport; it seems I am always running into people who are a part of its history or have shared an experience at one of the many events. Thank you ACWA for all the wonderful opportunities you have given me!

Sarah Stallard