

13 March 2018

Over nine years and thousands of experiences, I have learned a thing or two about being a Routt County 4-H member. As I start my last years in the program, I, Karyn Forbes have some words of wisdom, as we say, for any new member, young or old.

Number one; never assume anything because no question is the wrong one. No matter how many times I have gone through a fair or event and filled out paperwork, I always ask questions. My favorite to ask is, "Is this right?". It is always better to have a full understanding of what you are doing and where you are going than to just guess.

Number two; follow 4-H Time even when not at a 4-H event. "If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late. And if you are late, you better worry". This has become a great life skill for me and has taught me more than proficient time management. It is always a good idea to be early to get introduced to the situation than to be that one person that shows up late and has to be caught up.

Number three; nobody is perfect, so do not try to be. Every time I walk into the show pen, I know I am prepared and focused, but anything could happen to change that once the gate is closed behind me. I have become as confident as I am by finding my own quirks in life but this was only possible because I did not try to fit into any sort of mold. I advise new members to find your their way and be an original, because a copy is never worth as much.

Number four; always make the best better. Whenever I have been working on a project, I find myself asking, "Is this the best that it can be right now?". Most of the time the answer is

going to be “no”, so I work until I can proudly say “yes”. My advice to new members is to not settle for satisfied and go for gold.

My fifth and final note of advice; make friends and have fun. I have shared more memories with my 4-H family than I have with my blood relatives and I remember each one like it happened yesterday. If it was not for those who became my friends through 4-H, I would not want to dance every day nor would I be ready to see what waits for me when I move away.

These have been the best years of my life, as I hope they are for anyone in this amazing organization. I would advise any member, new or old, to make the best of any opportunity and enjoy every moment because it will come to an end way too soon.