



## NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

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### The Aggies of Ag Month

By Andela Taylor, NCTA News

Learning by doing reinforces every NCTA student's understanding of their chosen academic pathway and helps them build confidence and grow in areas of leadership, communication, and community engagement. In my roles in recruiting, marketing, and media relations, I see the positive impact of this strategy as students eagerly assist us by telling their stories on radio and social media, among other recruiting activities. Here are two examples of featured students who are perfect for celebrating National Ag Month!

Taylor Wilson from Hastings is studying Animal Science and plans to transfer to UNL after she graduates in May. She recently shared how appealing NCTA was to her as a homeschooled student from a small town. Getting to know the instructors and their focus on helping students reach their goals was a deciding factor for Taylor, as well as classes incorporating hands-on learning.

Taylor enjoyed an ideal summer internship at the US Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, where she assisted with essential tasks such as calving, artificial insemination, and managing the feedlot operation. She hopes to launch her career in a cow-calf operation at this research center close to home.

Like most NCTA students, Taylor is involved in the clubs and teams reinforcing academic programs. Taylor's Livestock Judging team achieved remarkable success, securing 3rd place in Dairy Judging and Livestock Management at Nationals last year. On the NCTA Rodeo Team, Taylor is learning the ropes of this challenging sport. To round out her college experience, she is a Collegiate Cattlemen member, gaining access to the industry network and resources it brings.

Alexis Kreikemeier is a self-proclaimed "city girl" from Omaha who has thrived in her nine months as an Aggie, arriving in Curtis the week after high school graduation to saddle up as a member of the ranch crew last summer. Her experience doing everything from fixing and building fences to moving/feeding/working cattle and goats and operating various equipment was the perfect initiation to her first semester studying equine science.

Alexis is a member of the NCTA Ranch Horse Team and Women-in-Ag Club. She has boldly and enthusiastically worked to promote NCTA on social media. Her words, "feeling like I already fit in," perfectly testify to our mission to grow the ag industry workforce by immersing students from any background.

Taylor and Alexis both appreciate the ease of getting to know people and making friends on campus and in the close community of Curtis. Look for their student feature videos on our social media this week and help us promote Nebraska agriculture and the college with your likes and shares! Campus tours can be scheduled anytime at [ncta.unl.edu](http://ncta.unl.edu), and Fall 24-25 enrollment remains open until the semester starts in August.



**Taylor Wilson from Hastings will graduate in May with an animal science degree and transfer to UNL. While at NCTA, she has enjoyed the Livestock Judging Team, Rodeo Team, and membership in Collegiate Cattlemen.**



**Alexis Kreikemeier of Omaha is thriving at NCTA on the Ranch Horse Team and the Women-in-Ag Club. She will use her Equine Industry Management degree in her future career in the livestock industry and working with horses.**

*Part of the University of Nebraska system, the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is a two-year institution with a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, and related industries. NCTA is known for its affordable tuition, high job-placement rate for its graduates, and student teams' success in competitive activities, including crops judging, ranch horse events, livestock judging, shotgun sports, stock dog trials, and intercollegiate rodeo. The college is consistently ranked as one of the best two-year schools in the nation.*

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