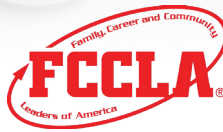




Billie LENTZ

Rolla High School,
Rolla, ND



Billie Lentz graduated from Rolla High School in Rolla, ND, then attended North Dakota State University (NDSU), and recently graduated with a degree in Agriculture Economics with a minor in Business Administration. She accepted a position with John Deere in its Marketing and Customer Product Support Development Program. This position is the first of three rotations she will complete in three different locations over a two-year period. Billie will experience a different job in each location to learn more about marketing and customer support within John Deere. Her first rotation is in Raleigh, North Carolina, in Customer Connections.

Billie was very active in FFA in high school and college, as well as FCCLA in high school, and held multiple leadership roles.

- ◆ FFA – High School: Chapter President, State FFA Officer Team for 2018 – 2019 year, ran for National Office Fall of 2020. College: State FFA Officer – freshman year, ran for National FFA Office – junior year
- ◆ FCCLA – district officer and a chapter Vice President.

Billie continues the legacy her dad and grandpa built in the FFA. She says things are completely different now from when they served, but the changes have been rewarding to watch. Students can learn

about their path using the bridges that FFA built and start to pursue their passion as early as high school with a better understanding of actual application in the world.

Billie says FFA is the common denominator and the first steppingstone to achieving her goals. FFA not only helped her with the early stages of developing her professional network, but also gave her skills to run a meeting confidently and efficiently, speak in front of a large crowd, problem solve, and communicate effectively. FFA built Billie's confidence and taught her the importance of serving other and how to be a voice for the agriculture industry and rural Americans.

Billie's work-based learning experiences in high school and college have led to great opportunities. Each experience was unique and provided her different skillsets that she used to pursue her passions. In high school, she participated in an FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), which was a community service project. Billie grew pumpkins and gourds, created fall decorations, and sold the decorations. She then donated the money to her school's backpack food program and the local food pantry. This was the start of Billie's love of helping others, involvement in agriculture, and pursuit of her interests in marketing

and business. Billie's college internship experiences were extensive, and she made the most of every opportunity! She completed a total of six internships that included positions in marketing, communications, social media, sales, export, and a large tractor marketing internship.

Billie's education provided far more than classroom knowledge. It gave her opportunities to serve her community, lead student organizations, attend conferences, and develop strong relationships on personal and professional levels. All these prepared her for a career in the agriculture industry and helped her build confidence in becoming a leader for the industry as well.

Billie's advice is to take classes that truly interest you, sign up for clubs, go to workshops that offer things you want to know more about, volunteer - this is the time to really expand your knowledge in many different areas. You never know, one of them could lead to your next passion or career path!

"Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and pave your own path, she says. "It's easy to 'Think that kind of thing has never been done here before.' Go and be the person that makes it a reality!"