

Well this year has been a crazy one, but doesn't mean it wasn't a fun 4H year. Even with all the setbacks my great clubs, Carrot Club and Young riders, managed to give us the best time they could. Not being able to see my club was hard, but we all kept in touch and couldn't wait till we could all meet again. As for Young Riders we held some virtual meetings and even had some time together hiking and going to Medieval Times. What I missed the most was Farm Fair for sure. It was always a blast to talk to the public about the rabbits and helping out at the horse shows.

In the past, my biggest job was helping get the horses tacked at shows or helping where they needed at the events. I missed that so much this year. I am so thankful to have found a barn where I could do exactly that. This summer I've been able to volunteer at Compassionate Friends Therapeutic Riding Center. It has been so amazing being around the horses and people each week. I get to help during the lessons to keep the students safe and even lead some lessons. I have met so many amazing people and kids who have brightened my summer. I can't wait to continue this next year.

Being able to take a trip to Medieval Times was such an amazing experience. Our club was selected to be on team yellow with our teammates black/white and red. Our enemies on the other side were blue, green and yellow/red. We watch jousting matches, sword battles, and capture the flag. It was so cool to see how they trained the horses and falcon to perform in their acts. The best part was our feast of garlic bread, tomato soup, chicken, potatoes and corn. It overall was an amazing experience and I'd love to go again.

To pass the time in the Carrot Club we created crafts each month. We decorated eggs, made Valentine snowmen, made ourselves into leprechauns, etc each month. In Young Riders we have had projects to complete over the past couple months. My club member Makayla was assigned to show us how to gain a horse's trust. Club member Brianna had us running some games for the horse shows. My Project is to talk about English riding. I went over rules for classes like jumping and showmanship, different types of showmanship and what equipment and clothes we need for riding. All the information we have learned is being compiled into books for future members to learn from.

This year has been one for the books, even with all its twists and turns. I am looking forward to more opportunities to have more hands-on experiences with my fellow club members.