

For the Love of Plants



Agriculture offers many career paths that go beyond crop production. For Hunter Gallagher of Ashley, North Dakota, her passion for plants is urging her down the horticulture route.

“Growing up, I was involved in FFA (Future Farmers of America), which really let me explore a bunch of different parts of agriculture, but I found that I enjoyed working with flowers and vegeta-

bles and plants like that,” Gallagher says. “So, a career in horticulture was the natural conclusion.”

Gallagher is majoring in horticulture at North Dakota State University (NDSU) with a minor in crop and weed science. She’s on schedule to graduate in 2025. Then, she has her sights set on working in public horticulture.

“Currently, what I’m thinking is working in public horticulture, which is basically places that the

general public can go to enjoy plants,” Gallagher states, “like botanical gardens, public gardens, arboretums, places like that.”

Gallagher is the 2023 recipient of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association Scholarship, which is presented to the child or grandchild of a North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) member who is enrolled in agriculture at NDSU and has completed 90 or more credits.

Gallagher describes how the scholarship is very helpful with her efforts to finance her ag education.

“I’m paying for college completely on my own, so scholarships are how I’m able to do that,” Gallagher explains.

The NDSGA Scholarship award has become a bit of a family affair because Hunter Gallagher’s older sister, Morgan, received the scholarship in 2019.

“My sister actually got this scholarship like four years ago or something, so I knew it existed,” Hunter Gallagher says. “My parents are still NDSGA members, so I thought it would be a good idea to apply.”

With college debt a major issue for students across the country, Hunter Gallagher is grateful for the support to chase her career goals.

“It’s extremely helpful. I’m sure my college experience would be very different if I didn’t have scholarships. Because of scholarships, I get to focus more on school or extracurriculars,” Gallagher asserts. “I have a part-time job during the school year, but I don’t have to constantly be worried about getting hours in order to pay for college because I have scholarships that help me.”

Hunter Gallagher also recommends that college students who meet the application criteria take the time to apply for the NDSGA Scholarship.

“I would say just always apply. You miss 100% of the shots that you don’t take, so there’s no harm in trying,” Gallagher explains, “because you never know.”

—Story and photo by Daniel Lemke

To learn more about the NDSGA Scholarship, scan the QR link below:

