

NDSGA Scholarship Winner is a Familiar Face



Hunter Gallagher of Ashley, North Dakota, is very familiar with the many avenues that are open in agriculture. Majoring in horticulture and urban agriculture at North Dakota State University (NDSU), Gallagher's interest lies in providing healthy food for the world.

"Within horticulture and urban agriculture, there are many opportunities. From working for a greenhouse with new technologies like hydroponics or vertical farming to assisting urban agriculture nonprofits that help alleviate food deserts, there are a variety of options," Gallagher says. "These interest me because creating the food that the world runs on is one of the agriculture industry's main focuses, whether in a rural or urban setting."

NDSU recently added the urban agriculture classification to the horticulture major.

"I normally think of horticulture

inherently being done in more urban settings, but that isn't always the case; it can happen anywhere. Urban agriculture specifically involves more non-traditional agricultural practices and settings," Gallagher explains. "Compared to traditional agriculture, urban agriculture can include things like greenhouses; rooftop gardens; hydroponic systems; and, in general, conducting agriculture in an urban setting or with limited space."

Gallagher, who is on schedule to graduate from NDSU in the spring of 2025, is the recipient of the 2024 North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) Scholarship, which is presented to the child or grandchild of an NDSGA member. The recipient must be enrolled in agriculture at NDSU and must have completed 90 or more credits. Gallagher was also the 2023 recipient.

"Scholarships are the number one factor that has allowed me to attend university," Gallagher states. "I

have been able to take heavy course loads, learn all that I can and still graduate on time because of them. They have allowed me to fully focus on school. I do have a part-time job during the school year, but because of scholarships, I have never had to stress about not being able to attend university, pay for tuition or other expenses. This education will greatly help me pursue a career and live my life to the fullest after graduation. I am forever grateful for scholarships and the wonderful opportunities they have given me."

Gallagher is part of NDSU's Horticulture and Forestry Club, serving as the outreach and events coordinator. She's also an agriculture ambassador for the NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources.

"With the Horticulture and Forestry Club, we try to hold a couple of events per semester for people outside of the club, such as other NDSU students or people in

the community. Previously, we have done terrarium workshops, wreath making and plant sales. We do these partly as a recruitment effort for the club, but also to share our love of plants with others," Gallagher explains.

Gallagher says that she enjoys horticulture, but she's unsure what career path she'll take when the time comes. Experience has taught her that agriculture will offer opportunities.

"There are endless opportunities within agriculture and many different types of careers that one can have," Gallagher asserts. "Even within a specific agricultural sector, there are many roles that must be filled for the entire process to be completed and the end product delivered."

To learn more about the NDSGA scholarship, visit nds.academicworks.com/opportunities/27189

—Story and photo
by Daniel Lemke