

Tessa Warkentine's 2017 CYSA Experience

Hey, I'm Tessa Warkentine, from the Winkler Trailblazers 4-H club. On November 4th of this fall I competed in Toronto for the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition. I'm 17, so I competed in the senior category, against others aged 16 to 22. Competing was an incredible experience, and reminded me of why I truly enjoy public speaking.

For my speech, I chose to talk on the global impact of food waste, and who is responsible. During 4-H competition, I often choose topics that are rather lighthearted, so it was a fantastic experience to try talking about something more educational. I presented about the effects that food waste has on our environment and the importance of choosing alternative ways to dispose of our uneaten food.



The night before the actual competition, there was a meet and greet for the competitors at the official hotel. Because of this, I was able to meet people also giving speeches, before the main event. I was excited to hear my new friends speak, and inspired how everyone had different takes on subjects that multiple people tackled.

While I may not have reached the final round in this competition, all in all I consider this trip an enormous success. I travelled with Rosemund Ragetli, the junior delegate from Manitoba, and her mother. Rosemund went on to win the junior competition, and I was so proud to be travelling with and from the same province as her. We had a great time practicing our speeches, walking around Toronto, swapping pictures, and being nervous together.

Thanks to 4-H I was so privileged to experience this level of national competition. I look forward to being involved in future speaking and 4-H events. I am so grateful to 4-H, and the chance to represent Manitoba is one I will remember fondly. Thank you to everyone who supports 4-H and public communications.

