



2024 JUNIOR BOARD

COLE CARLSON

Hometown: Denison, IA

Background: I have been involved in the swine industry since I was nine years old when I decided to join 4-H and show pigs at the county fair. Over the last ten years, I have enjoyed showing swine at the Crawford County Fair. I have also enjoyed expanding my experience over the last three years since I have joined the Iowa Swine Jackpot Series. While I was in high school, I attended the Iowa Pork Producers Association youth judging event. I also participated in the animal round up event conducted by the Iowa 4-H organization specifically in swine.

I have been involved in a variety of different activities. I am currently a member of the Denison FFA chapter. Throughout my membership I have served as my chapters' treasurer, vice president, and secretary. While I was a member during high school, I participated in many chapter activities including monthly meeting, annual fruit sales, monthly community service projects, livestock judging, agronomy CDE, ag sales CDE, parliamentary procedure, conduct of meetings, and chapter program. These experiences helped shape me into the person I am today. Stepping out of my comfort zone, participating in contests and serving in leadership roles had contributed to my personal growth.

Why the ISJS Board: I would like to get more involved with the organization and provide leadership to all members. I feel that this position plays an important role for the organization and I would like help lead in a great manner. I would like to build upon current skills I have and develop new ones I do not currently have. I also want to gain more experience within the swine industry and I feel this would be a great way to gain that. I feel I would be a positive addition to the ISJS Junior Board as I have experience in several leadership roles and the swine industry.

Future Goals: One of my short-term goals is to graduate from DMACC majoring in Agribusiness in the spring of 2024. Another short-term goal I personally have is to graduate from Iowa State University majoring in Ag Studies in the spring of 2026. Once I complete my education, I hope to locate an ag lending career in Western Iowa. Within the next ten years, I hope to start a herd of crossbred show gilts and sell show pigs. After starting a business, I plan to grow it as time progresses and add a couple purebred breeds to the herd.

Advice to Younger ISJS Members: Advice that I would give to younger members is to get involved as much as you can with the ISJS organization as early as you can. Make sure to take advantage of all the opportunities that are offered to you. Take your pigs to as many jackpots that you possibly can as it will help you and your pig. There will be different surfaces that you will show on throughout the season and that will help pigs get more comfortable. Also, getting pigs out of their normal environment will help them transition more easily when going to a bigger show if that is the end goal. While attending all the shows there are many different people that you will meet and new friends that you will make. Do not hold yourself back from the opportunities that there are out there. Someday those opportunities will not be there for you as you will grow and enter new stages of your life.