

**Q&A with Taylor Mayhue**  
**2022 Thomas K. Evans Memorial Scholarship winner**

**High School:** North Scott High School

**Secondary education plans/major:** I plan to double major in Food Science and Agriculture Education at Iowa State University and ultimately pursue an MBA in Food Science.

**What inspires or excites you most about learning?** I love that I can retain information and use said information to create more complex ideas and concepts and ultimately help propel us into the future. I also love to learn so that I can teach others and advance others' understanding and knowledge of topics. I really loved my time in FFA because I was able to educate my community about agricultural topics.

**What is an accomplishment in your life that you're most proud of thus far?** I have awards I could reference, but these were mere highlights in my life, not my proudest moment. My proudest moment by far was being elected the President of my FFA chapter. All of my high school career I worked hard to be both an amazing leader and an agricultural advocate. By being elected, I felt as if I had been recognized for my hard work. With the position, I was given the opportunity to have an impact on fellow students, the community, and the agriculture industry as a whole.

**Why did you decide to apply for the Thomas K. Evans Memorial Scholarship?** I decided to apply for the Thomas K. Evans Memorial Scholarship because I really believe in the power of STEM and was hoping to be recognized based on my passion. I thoroughly enjoy participating in agriscience fairs, competitions where I am challenged on my agricultural knowledge, challenging courses, and empowering students to find a love for science and agriculture. I believe in the power of STEM. A career in STEM will help me have a greater impact on the world and continue to break down barriers for both women and students of low socioeconomic statuses.

**How does it feel to be chosen as a semi-finalist/recipient?** To be chosen to receive the Thomas K. Evans scholarship is a true honor. I worked really hard throughout high school to achieve all of my goals and be an advocate for the things I hold dearest to me. I am very grateful for scholarships like this one which make it possible for me to go to college and continue to be involved in clubs and extracurriculars.

**Future goals and aspirations?** In the fall, I will be attending Iowa State University to double major in Food Science and Agriculture Education. During my time at Iowa State, I hope to join various clubs, such as, but not limited to, Conservation Club, Food Science Club, and Dairy Judging Club. I want to go to Uganda, as well as be a part of a service-learning program. I fully intend on participating in internships during the summers, as well. After I receive my bachelor's degrees, I intend on pursuing an MBA in Food Science. After college, I will have many career options: food product development, inspection, teaching, and many more. I hope to come back to the Quad Cities in whatever I do and continue to be involved in the community.

**Anything else to add?** I just want to extend my appreciation to the American Power Systems company for providing scholarships to students wanting to pursue careers in STEM. Thank you for putting your time, effort, and belief into the students of the Quad Cities!