

**Esther McCabe**

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### **Biography**

Beef cattle management, teaching, leadership, and continuous progression encompass my interest and strengths. Originally from Elk City, Kansas, I am a fourth-generation cattle enthusiast. I grew up gaining and improving my leadership skills through involvement in several agricultural organizations, my favorite of which were the Kansas and National Junior Angus Associations. In December 2015, I received a Bachelor's of Agriculture in Animal Sciences and Industry from Kansas State University. During the last semester, I began what became my master's thesis by analyzing breed effects and breed trends of lots of beef calves marketed via a video auction service. I will complete my master's degree within the next couple of months and continue working on a PhD at Kansas State University. During my graduate experience, I am involved in teaching introductory courses to undergraduates as well as assisting in other classes. I currently serve as the Marketing Coordinator for the Graduate Student Association at Kansas State University where I work with other graduate students towards developing interpersonal and professional skills through selected events. My foundation from a multi-generation family farm instilled in me to be grateful for what has been provided before and constantly find new ways to progress in knowledge and skills. Applying that same foundation, if selected as the Midwest Graduate Director, my focus would be to facilitate providing educational opportunities from the innovative industry leaders who can offer insight and advice about the future direction of animal agriculture. To be prepared for a constantly evolving industry, gaining insight from those who are already working towards the future provides a way to spark new ideas. I would also like to provide personal networking opportunities and one-on-one mentorship for graduate students with these industry leaders for future endeavors.