

## **Cover Sheet**

A lot less confident in this one. I think part of it is how busy and overwhelmed I have been the last few weeks. I am making final edits to this on Sunday night which was not the goal, even after the deadline extension. On a scale of 1-5, I am sitting at a 2 or a little below right now. I think this story is so great, it's unique and shows how even if you are different from your family you can still use those talents to help in the family. Almost reminded me of the movie *Encanto* but I digress. I don't think I did it justice. I struggled to explain it all in a concise way but also give enough details to make this a feature story that is longer in length. I think a strength of this story though is the progression towards the climax. The mention of why Payton is important is noted right off the bat, but then there is some background before giving away what she is doing with her different talents. I think the flow of this is what I am most proud of. That and the lead. I added links to some of the words or organizations mentioned that readers may not know about. For example, 4-H's website is linked, and Oklahoma State's. Keywords were again a struggle, I think I used the first 125 words in the last assignment by accident, either that or I wrote more in a shorter amount of space. I landed on these top three.

### **Keywords:**

**First-generation college student**

**Boynton, Oklahoma**

**Oklahoma Ranchers**

Finally, here is the link to the [interview audio](#). I also will put it in the Canvas assignment comments but wanted it to be easy to access in this document as well:

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Sixth-generation rancher becomes first-generation college student**

*Payton Adams studying to give back to her farming hometown as a veterinarian*

STILLWATER, Okla. [Oct. 1, 2023] — Payton Adams grew up being told she was different from the rest of her family. While some cousins dropped out of high school, she is changing the course in her second year of college. She is a sixth-generation rancher studying to be a [veterinarian](#).

Adams is the first in her family to attend college. Many relatives stopped their formal education after high school or dropped out so they could work on the farm more. The whole family lives on a 3-mile plot of land in [Boynton, OK](#).

“We got here in the [land run](#) and never left,” Adams said. “My great grandpa still tries to take care of the cows, and I’m like grandpa you’re 96, you can’t do that. This is why you have us, this is why you have so many grandkids and great grandkids and great great.”

As many farming households do, the Adams family competed in [4H programs](#). Payton participated in skeet shooting, cattle judging and cattle grading.

“We were too poor to show livestock because it is expensive,” Adams explained. “I’d help my cousins with their pigs. But we were always in 4-H and [FFA](#). I did entomology, skeet shooting, cattle grading, on top of sports.”

Downtime did not exist for Adams. When one thing was done, it was time for work elsewhere or another activity.

“My summers were always hectic, especially during high school,” Adams said. “I was taking college classes, going to workouts in the morning, at six o'clock, then immediately jumping in a tractor and baling hay until it was dark and then homework. Then rinse and repeat.”

Growing up, Adams enjoyed time with the animals around the farmland her family shares. She played sports her entire life — softball, basketball and some weightlifting in high school. The biggest difference between her and the rest of her family was reading.

“It’s gotten me in trouble a couple of times when I stayed up until 2 a.m.,” she said. “I just love books. I read the entire [Harry Potter series](#) in a week.”

Being an avid reader made her studies less overwhelming. She graduated high school in three years, and she took college classes on top of all the other responsibilities she had. Despite

overworking herself by looking into college, she stayed the course and applied to [Oklahoma State](#) for an [animal science pre-vet major](#).

“I knew I wanted something different,” she said. “When I was eight my uncle was telling me about what he does as an [\(agriculture\) extension officer](#), he doesn’t have a degree he just works for OSU. And I was like OK, that’d be kind of cool, and then I started getting my love for animals and reading a bunch. My parents were like ‘you’re a little different from your cousins.’”

Adams found a way to use her abilities in a different way to continue the family business.

Though she is different, she embraced her talents and wants to use them to continue to have an impact on the Boynton community. The end goal is to become a veterinarian back in her hometown.

“If the opportunity arose somewhere else, I’d take it, but the thing is I want to get in and get my degree so I can go back home,” Adams said. “There is a very big shortage of vets in my area. There’s one vet within 100 miles that’s under 40. Everyone is an old man who knows his stuff, he just can’t physically do it.”

Adams also wants to take over the cattle business with her sister once the time is right to help her parents, especially her dad who has heart problems.

“Up until the day [my grandfather] died they were asking about the cows, wanting to see the cows,” Adams explained about the lifelong job of cattle ranchers. “There’s a small part of me

that wanted to go to college so I could keep my dad from doing the same thing (working himself to death). He works a 50-hour week as a mechanic and then comes home and works another 40 hours with the cows.”

Payton and her sister want to continue on the family business as they get older. While it may look different after she starts her career as a veterinarian, it’s still the most important thing to her.

“[My mom] has three other sisters, and when the land was divided it was horrible,” Adams said. “It was so much all the time, ‘I want this, no I want this, but I want this,’ of three people wanting the same thing. My sister and I agreed after watching that we didn’t want to do that, but we wanted to stay together. We wanted [the land] to stay in the family.”