

## JESSICA LYNNE COLLINS

I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma at Hillcrest Medical Hospital on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1991 which was the first snowfall of that year. As a child I grew up on Riverside Drive in a small house with my mom and dad. When I was little it was all about four square. That was my favorite game to play at recess. Every day as soon as that bell would ring I would race out to the playground to get to a four square first. We would make up special little moves like 'Cherry Bombs' or 'Twisters' which were usually used to our advantage to win but sometimes that would fail miserably.

A bunch of rowdy Germans. That statement describes my family perfectly and I truthfully couldn't ask for a better one. My mom is and always will be my best friend she is the one that knows me better than I know myself. My father is the definition of a good hardworking man and a complete and total goof ball and for this I love him to death because no matter how much we fight or joke around I'm still daddy's little girl.

My grandma is probably the sweetest funniest woman you will ever meet and there is absolutely no way you couldn't love her. I love my Mannford grandma and grandpa, as I use to call them when I was little, they are amazing and love to spoil me rotten. My great grandparents, Nana and Papa, were the whole reason I was brought to this earth because my mom realized like I did that they are the greatest people alive and to have them apart of my life would make me a better person.

FFA has had the greatest influence in my life. Before becoming an FFA member, I had no idea of my true identity. I was just 1 out of 4,000 students at Broken Arrow Senior High. I tried many different things in my early high school career. I was in drama, a section editor for the yearbook, a member of National Honor Society, and I even tried cheerleading, but there was nothing I was absolutely in love with until I walked into the Ag building. I remember my first Ag meeting. After hearing opening ceremonies I couldn't help but look up to our chapter officers. I knew from that moment on I was going to get involved. I then convinced my parents to let me get my first show pig, Iggy. She was the cutest, wildest little thing I ever saw. She showed me what dedication and true responsibility really were. Whether she would win or lose, showing her taught me that the experience was always worth it in the end.

The following year after I got new show pigs, a heat lamp in the pen next to mine caused a fire. My gilts, Chloe and Bailey died. This was probably one of the worst experiences of my life, but it made me who I am today. I received donations of money, and pigs were loaned to me from breeders so I could finish my show season. I can never repay these donors for all they did for me.

When it came time for officer applications my senior year I was considering running for secretary but after much thought I realized that wasn't what I truly wanted to do. FFA has taken

me from someone who would never even consider running for an office to someone who was so passionately involved I couldn't see myself without it. I was then elected Broken Arrow FFA's President for 2009-2010 school year.

Over my senior year I have learned that the only thing that is important is to just be yourself because at the end of the day you're the one that has to live with yourself. Yes, senior year was full of drama, heartbreak, and sheer fun but because of that I know I will never forget it.

I am currently attending Eastern Oklahoma State College with a major in Animal Science. In two years I will transfer to Oklahoma State University. With my degree from Oklahoma State University I will open my own practice treating large and small animals. As an adult I want to be actively involved in the local FFA program.