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Seward, NE

### Remote Research Summary

I am Remi Christensen from Seward, Nebraska and I had the privilege of being part of the Nebraska Remote Research program. I chose to be part of the research program because I love plants and thought it would be a great opportunity to learn something new. This was the first time I have done an extensive research project and I really enjoyed it. I have learned many things including that corn and sorghum are very closely related to grass, which was one of the hardest parts of this project, trying to figure out what was a weed and what was a plant. I really enjoyed watching and observing the plants grow. I had some problems with rabbits, so I put up a fence but small rabbits were still able to fit through so some of my plants were nibbled on. I only had 13 plants germinate in total which was surprising to me. I don't know if it was my soil or when I planted the seeds it rained three days in a row causing some of the seeds to drown. The Mo17 and the BTx623 rows each had 5 plants come up. They were both on the left side of the plot. The B73 had 2 plants come up and the KO37 had 1 plants and these were both on the right side. I may think the plants on the right may not have got as much sun after it rained so many days in a row causing them to drown. After the first 2 weeks, I thought it was really surprising how fast the plants grew. My favorite part of the project was collecting the root samples. I have never done that before and thought it was super interesting and a lot of fun. The plating was the most complicated part of the experiment. One of the questions for plating was "Do you expect to find more microorganisms in bulk soil or associated with roots? Why?" I put a lot of thought into

this question because I thought it was an interesting question. I thought there would be more microorganisms with the roots because microorganisms need something to live on to get their food and thinking about this made me understand the experiment a lot more. During this time of research, it has made me realize that I like doing experiments and love plants. I am now thinking about becoming a plant pathologist. All in all, I thought the project was a good opportunity to learn something new and to be part of an extensive research project. This is something I would really love to do again.