The YNS Remote Researchers Program has had a huge impact on me this summer. Through all the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, I was worried my summer would consist of me staying in my house away from other people for two and a half months. But when I got started with this program, my summer took a turn for the better. I had the opportunity to explore the world around me- in my own backyard. I was able to connect with other people- a few very smart peers from different parts of Nebraska and mentors at UNL via Zoom. I even got to interact with the researchers in Alabama, almost 1000 miles away from me! Growing corn and measuring all of its data has heightened my interest in the soil microbiome that lies right under our feet. Most people don’t even give it a second thought, but it is actually vastly complex and very important in the germination and growth of crops, a very important export in Nebraska’s economy! I really enjoyed biology even before I took part in this project, although I was drawn to human biology. After completing this project, I think a career in plant biology, making our crops the most efficient and healthy they can be, would truly make a difference in the world! The Remote Researchers Program is a shining example of how the flower- or corn stalk in this case- that grows in adversity is the rarest and most important of all.