

North Dakota Rural Water Scholarship

By Calahan Burchill

I like to think that in our legendary state, North Dakota, we have one big awesome community. North Dakota Rural Water plays a fascinating role in our community. Today, for this paper I have done a bit of research, and I will be talking about our beautiful states rural water.

North Dakota's rural water system provides safe drinking water to many communities. Our state ensures that the residents get access to safe and reliable water to drink. The system plays an unbelievable role in the community. Multiple people take our water for granted. Many people lack the motivation to care about the water. I find that very interesting. For example, I don't let the shower run for ten minutes before I hop in. I also don't let the sink run for 5 minutes while I brush my teeth. I'm not a huge water researcher or scientist, but I like to conserve water.

North Dakota's agriculture is very impacted by our rural water system. Farmers and ranchers need water. I can guarantee not even one of our farmers or ranchers takes the water for granted. The rural water system lets farmers feed their animals, irrigate fields, have access to thousands of gallons of water for spraying, all these directly impact their livelihoods. Without this reliable water source, North Dakota Agriculture would be in a world of hurt, and everybody else's families. North Dakota would face challenges to meeting the needs of their growing industries. The challenges the water system is facing are already inevitable. The water system faces problems such as extreme cold temperatures, meeting quality water standards, aging technology, and facilities, along with limited resources and funding for newer items. The water system has several different criteria to meet, including pH, bacteria, and turbidity levels.

My mom and dad toured the Barnes County Rural Water Treatment Plant a while back. They said it was incredibly interesting. Mom and dad told me a couple stories that I didn't quite believe right away. Dad said that the treatment plant pumps 800+ gallons of water per minute. I thought that was outstanding. When I was younger, we got to tour the water treatment plant in Valley City. Even though I was kid, I still thought it was more interesting than the other kids did. That's why when my parents talked about their tour at the Barnes County Plant, I was really interested in it. One other thing they said that caught my eye was at different locations there are generators on standby. I guess I didn't realize until recently that's how our water gets to us when the power goes out. I'm guessing many other people do not realize this either.

Like I said, I'm not a water expert, but I picked up a few things that caught my attention. I'm glad I took the time to apply for this scholarship because I learned something new. As college is expensive, I am applying for this scholarship to help pay for tuition and housing. I would greatly appreciate this scholarship.

Sincerely, Calahan Burchill