

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE



INTERVIEWED BY: LISA REID

Caitlyn Ochsner



Caitlyn Ochsner, born and raised on her family's Limousin cow/calf operation is using her background in agriculture and her vocal gift to chase after a dream of reviving traditional country music. The Showtimes had the privilege of sitting down with Caitlyn this summer at her family's ranch in Kersey, Colorado. The aspiring artist opened up about her faith, her family and how the lifestyle she grew up with is influencing her as an artist and an advocate for agriculture.



A fourth generation Coloradoan, Caitlyn's entire family is actively involved in agriculture. Both her grandpa and dad, Kevin, grew up raising and showing cattle while her mom, Julie, was raised on a farm in Nebraska. FFA was not just a club, but a way of life for the Ochsner Family. Kevin and Julie were State FFA Presidents in their respective states and both served as National FFA Officers. The oldest of three siblings, Caitlyn pursued her own passions in FFA making it to Nationals in both the Creed and Public Speaking contests and was selected as one of the top three finalists for the National FFA Talent competition. The family's passion for the

blue and gold continues with Caitlyn's younger sister, Ashlyn, recently being elected as the 2019-2020 Colorado State FFA President and her brother, Collin, winning the State FFA Creed Speaking contest.

While Caitlyn has grown up around cattle and ranching her entire life, both her 4-H and singing careers began at the same time. At the age of nine, while she was getting her heifer and steer ready for the fair, another contest sparked her interest - the Weld County Fair Youth Idol Contest. Although she had only sang in the children's choir at church, Caitlyn was determined to sing a solo in the competition.

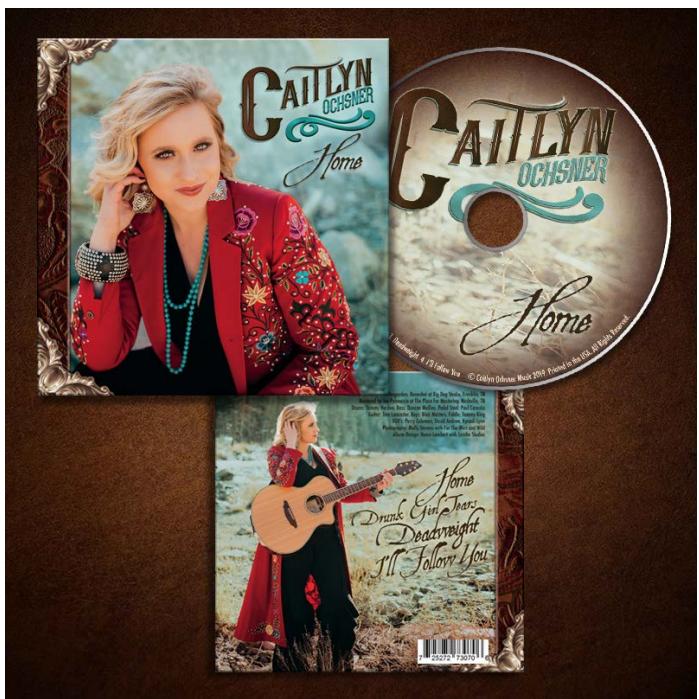
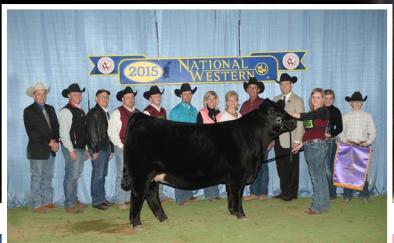
In preparation for the competition she took several singing lessons from the worship leader at church and chose to enter the competition with the song, "Anything is Possible." Caitlyn recalls, "I just remember when I got on the stage to sing that song – it was like this is what I need to do for the rest of my life."

Since then, Caitlyn's involvement in agriculture and singing has gone hand in hand. An active member of the North American Limousin Junior Association (NALJA), Caitlyn traveled across the country every summer to the Limousin Junior National with her family. In 2011, Caitlyn was

invited to sing the National Anthem during the opening ceremonies of the National Junior Limousin Show. Since then, Caitlyn has had the opportunity to sing at numerous rodeos, rodeo bible camps and livestock shows – including the Blackout Jackpot. Not to mention countless other venues she has performed at in both the United States and Canada. Some of her most memorable experiences have been singing the National Anthem at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in 2014 and traveling with her band to perform at the 2019 National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Most recently she performed at









at the Junior National Hereford Expo in Denver, Colorado with the historic Yards as her backdrop.

When asked how her passion for agriculture has influenced her musical pursuits, Caitlyn explained how the work ethic and faith she learned growing up in agriculture has been critical to her musical journey.

“Working hard for something you love is important no matter what the outcome is or what you think it could be. You just have to go for it.”

She explained how writing and singing songs is just like picking out a calf. You start with a good prospect (a good line or melody) and a little bit of hope for what it can become. Then you nurture it and develop it into a complete song. It

starts with a vision and some inspiration, but it's the hard work and “elbow grease” that turn that vision into a reality.

Just like the cattle business, when you surround yourself with great people you can achieve your biggest dreams. Similarly, good music requires a team of talented people and there is no place filled with more musical talent than Nashville, Tennessee. Caitlyn made the journey to Music City in 2016 to attend Belmont University where she will be a Senior Year this Fall. With Alumi like Trisha Yearwood, Josh Turner and Brad Paisley and a talented faculty and staff, Caitlyn is right where she feels God has called her to be.

After landing in Nashville, Caitlyn began using her life experiences to write

her own songs. She has capitalized on her background of being a true-blue “country girl”, to write songs that resonate with farm and ranch folks all across the country.

This summer, Caitlyn debuted her first EP at the Greeley Stampede with four new singles: Home, Drunk Girl Tears, I'll Follow You and Deadweight. To date, she has nearly 50,000 streams on her first single, “Home.” She is quick to credit God, her family and her extended family in the livestock industry for the support and encouragement necessary to take this first step in pursuing her musical ambitions.

While Caitlyn dreams about one day being a recording and touring artist, she was also quick to say “Between now and then there are a lot of things that can happen

and a lot of doors that can open and shut. But through this journey, and all through my life, the one thing I have to rely on is my faith and the knowledge that God has a plan for my life.”

We finished our day up at Ochsner Limousin in one of the family's pastures with a picturesque view of the Rocky Mountains. While the family moved some of their pairs on horseback, Caitlyn got out her guitar to play her newest song “Love Like Lonesome Dove.” A song that has been, for good reason, an instant hit to anyone that has heard it.

Caitlyn Ochsner is a gift to country music and a blessing to the livestock industry. The passion that drove her while she was showing cattle, is the same passion that has propelled her in chasing after a music