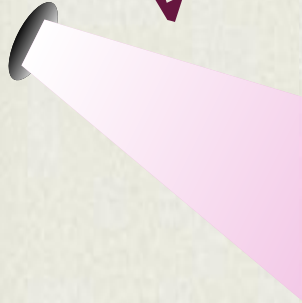


## Youth Spotlight:



**Cara Martin**  
AMHyA – Best of Show-  
Essay Contest

**T**he day I got my first Miniature horse my life changed forever. I was seven years old and showing a big quarter horse in 4-H classes when the workshop leader loaned me a mini to work with (she said it was more my size). My love of minis was instant. I now am sixteen years old and have four minis of my own. Over the last eight years I have helped at a Miniature horse breeding farm when the owners were ill, taking care of over fifty Miniature horses. I have learned how to feed them, how to groom them, and how to show them. Through this experience I decided to apply for a youth grant with NCR-SARE Sustainable Agriculture to show how minis can “Be Green” on a farm and help economically. I was awarded the grant and used the money to do education within the community about sustainable agriculture and Miniature horses. The minis were used to walk trails through beautiful wooded areas where signs had been added with educational information about the environ-

ment. I organized Mini Fest for our community and over one hundred and fifty people attended. Everyone learned a lot and had fun. I think showing minis has taught me self discipline and perseverance as I have learned that if I place well at one show, it does not mean that I do not need to work with my horse before the next show. I have learned that if you want something from your horse (or life) you have to have a plan and work for it. Now as a junior in high school, I am searching for colleges and my plans include minis and horses in general. I would like my career someday to be in therapeutic horsemanship and I have located schools with both a mini breeding program and one that offers therapeutic horsemanship. Minis have affected my life and always will. While some kids my age are out wasting time, I find my interest is in showing horses or taking minis to a preschool for show and tell. The future is what we make it and I plan for my future to include my horses, my Miniature horses. ➤