

Dear Arkansas FFA Members, Advisors, & Staff:

When I first entered my agriculture class in ninth grade, I did not know that day would be the start of my journey as a first generation FFA member. Yet, here I am! Through the encouragement of my advisor and fellow FFA members, I stepped out of my comfort zone and became the outgoing person I am today. Joining FFA as a freshman has given me the opportunity to meet so many people who are just as passionate about agriculture as I am. Because FFA connects members through conventions, competitions, and time spent at Camp Couchdale, I have developed friendships with many people across the state of Arkansas.

These past four years, I have participated in numerous FFA related activities. I love to try new things; therefore, the Leadership Development Events I have competed in Creed Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Discussion Meet, and Extemporaneous Public Speaking have allowed me to broaden my horizons. These events have expanded my knowledge of the agriculture industry, as well as improved my public speaking skills. The Career Development Events I have competed in: Horse Judging, Livestock Judging, and Forestry have given me the opportunity to form many friendships within my chapter, while also teaching us how to work together as a team and put forth our best efforts to reach our goals. After my freshman year, I ran for chapter office because I wanted to help expose our chapter members to the same skills and opportunities I had received. This inspired my dream of becoming an FFA State Officer because I want to promote involvement beyond my chapter throughout the state of Arkansas. Being in a leadership position has shaped me into the person I am today because it challenged me to perform at a higher standard than before, while also giving me the opportunity to build relationships with my fellow FFA members and community members.

I have spent a majority of my life growing a passion for helping others, whether it be helping around my family's farm or helping FFA members in the classroom. If I were given the opportunity, I would use my role as an FFA State Officer to continue my passion by striving to help FFA members in the state of Arkansas discover their potential for success. Not only would I help our members meet their potential, but I would also strive to help them find their voice. I personally believe every person should have the opportunity to "be a voice, not an echo" in our organization and in their community. As an FFA State Officer, I would use my knowledge and past experiences to encourage members to step out of their comfort zones to speak out and speak up about their ideas and opinions.

In the past four years, FFA has become a huge part of my life. The organization and the people that are a part of it have become one big family to me. This is why I thank you, Arkansas FFA, for all of the memories, experiences, and friendships!

With Appreciation,

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