

Dear Arkansas FFA Delegates,

The first time I considered being an FFA state officer was two years ago at the first state convention I attended. I saw the new candidates give their speeches and met a few of them personally before we voted. I thought aloud and said: "I could do that; I could be up there one day." My chapter mates chuckled and waved me off. That slight bit of unseriousness toward my genuine statement got under my skin. I now wanted to prove to them I could be on stage and would become an Arkansas FFA State Officer. I can understand their reluctance to believe my statement, being Marmaduke has never had a state officer, but that only added fuel to my fire. I thought I could be Marmaduke's first ever State officer.

With this opportunity I can begin to grow myself through service to my community, classmates, and state. I have been an FFA member since 2019, when I took my first Ag class. Throughout this course, I learned the basics of what I now know is what my community was built on. This class was also the first time I held an officer position. I became the 8th grade student council representative to the FFA officer team. This experience was my first dip into what it means to represent something bigger than myself. In this position, I took part in meetings, parliamentary procedure, met with the student council and provided points in those meetings on behalf of the FFA.

This experience led me to be Marmaduke's FFA President my Junior and Senior year of high school. With this opportunity, I was able to further my chapter's influence in the community by hosting a Thanksgiving food drive. With this drive, my chapter was able to raise over 500 pounds of canned goods that we then donated to our local backpack program and food pantry. If we can make that type of impact in a little community like Marmaduke, think of what we can do for agriculture across the state. Thank you for your consideration in casting a vote for me, Beau Thomas, as an Arkansas FFA State Officer!

Sincerely,

Beau Thomas
Marmaduke FFA