

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jonah Savell and I am proudly serving as the president of the Salem FFA chapter. Thinking back to my freshman year when I was given the opportunity to enroll in Survey of Agriculture I knew I wanted to be in FFA, but freshman me could have never imagined the impact that FFA would have on my life. Throughout my years in this amazing organization, I have gained countless connections and skills that have not only benefited me during my time in high school, but will follow me in whatever I do in life.

If you knew me before I became an active FFA member, you would know that I was just another one of the quiet freshmen walking into the ag room; thankfully I have been surrounded by friends and mentors who have pushed me to go the extra mile in everything I pursue. If it were not for these people, I would not be here today asking for your support as I run to be a part of the 2024-2025 state officer team.

I remember my first time at Camp Couchdale. It was a hot July day, and I had arrived for my first ever summer conference, the Chapter President's Conference. While I was excited for the opportunity to go and represent Salem FFA, I was also terrified of the unfamiliar environment. I began to overthink the situation, *what if I don't fit in, what if I let down my chapter, what if...* These "what ifs" were soon put to rest when I was approached by a very quirky member of the state officer team at dinner. She may not know it, but she served as a catalyst for my FFA career. From the moment she started the conversation at that table, my confidence skyrocketed. I left that year's Chapter President's Conference with more knowledge, experience, and most of all, more life long friends than I could have imagined. This was all because a state officer was willing to take a chance on me.

So when people ask me "Why do you want to run for state office?" I can honestly say that I want to run for state office so I can reach out to that shy member who may come from a small school that is not very active and help them become the best version of him or herself just as past and current state officers have done for me. I believe that my perspective can provide a launch pad for future and current FFA members just as present and past state officers have and will continue to.

In closing, I hope to be the leader that can inspire members through leadership and empower them through action just as so many have done before me. Arkansas FFA has built me into the dedicated, outgoing person I am today, and I could not be more grateful. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration as I run for state office. Arkansas FFA, let's do this!

With nothing but gratitude,
Jonah Savell
Salem FFA President