

Fellow Arkansas FFA members,

It is an honor and privilege to introduce myself, Noah Meharg of the White County Central FFA chapter, as a 2024-2025 Arkansas FFA state officer candidate. From a young age, I was exposed to the agriculture industry. Whether it was periodically spending time in my family's row crop fields in Eastern Arkansas or seeing the animals and hayfields scattered across my community, agriculture was a natural part of my life. Despite this, I never truly had a deep connection or experience in agriculture. Upon taking my Survey of Agriculture class in ninth grade and attending my first ALC, I was filled with a newfound interest, knowledge, and passion for FFA and the agriculture industry. This has allowed me to personally see and feel the impact that this incredible organization can have on future generations of agriculturists.

Since joining, FFA has given me the opportunity to grow as both an individual and a leader. Through attending the Impact Conference, Arkansas Leadership Conference, Chapter President's Conference, Washington Leadership Conference, along with the State and National FFA Conventions, I've made numerous connections while also learning how I can best serve others within my chapter and community. I've also had the opportunity to serve on an incredible chapter officer team for three years where I have held the positions of Chapter Sentinel, Chapter Treasurer, and currently Chapter President. Through this service, I have been involved in numerous Feed the Funnel Pack Shacks, along with starting our chapter's poultry production program and restarting our "Ag Day" to educate Kindergarteners through eighth graders about the agriculture industry in Arkansas. In addition, I have grown my agricultural knowledge and advanced my involvement with FFA through participating in the Discussion Meet and Prepared Public Speaking LDEs, along with the Electrification, Agricultural Communications, and Poultry Judging CDEs. I've also furthered my involvement by serving on the state Audit Committee, Courtesy Corps, and participating in the 2024 World Food Prize Arkansas Youth Institute.

The impact of FFA hasn't just been limited to the classroom and organization, but has also impacted my personal life. FFA taught me about the importance of agriculture and gave me the interest that led to starting SAEs of Vegetable Production, Poultry Production, and allowed me to enter the show ring through Market Broiler Production. Joining this organization has also allowed me to follow my passions by pursuing degrees in Agricultural Education and Leadership, along with a career in agriculture.

A great deal of all my aforementioned involvement, growth, and passion within FFA has been driven by past and present state officers. I'm now asking you, the members, to allow me the opportunity to give back to the organization I love by serving as a state officer. In this capacity, I will work to have an impact on the lives of both current and future FFA members just as state officers have done for me. I want to emphasize that instilling the values of passion, purpose, leadership, personal growth, and integrity within our members is the key to success and growth of the Arkansas FFA Association. I believe that together, we can truly fulfill the FFA mission and build a bright future for agriculture through making a positive difference in the lives of all Arkansas FFA members.

With Gratitude,

Noah Meharg
White County Central FFA