## Dear Arkansas FFA Association,

As a 4th generation farm kid, I have the privilege to witness the daily joys and discomforts of agricultural life. From an early age, I had a burning passion for agriculture and knew it was something I wanted to be involved in for the rest of my life. Entering my freshman year with everyone unsure of what was to come as a result of COVID-19, many of us began to look for a place where we would fit in and be seen like everyone else. I can remember stepping into my first survey of ag class; everyone in the class was there because we were either farm kids or had simply picked a class our friend was taking. Little did we know, we were beginning a journey that would push us to show our individuality as people and leaders.

Within the first 2 weeks of school, our ag teacher had taught us what FFA was and the impact that we could make in our community. I knew almost immediately that it was an organization I wanted to become a part of. I went home to tell my parents and grandparents about the organization I was going to become a part of, and when my grandpa heard, he went to his closet to pull out his pins from his time in FFA. His most treasured of those pins was the American Farmer Degree pin. It was then that I knew that was where I belonged and began to chase that same goal and pursue more along the way. As the year progressed, I became more active in my chapter, joining LDE competitions and becoming our chapter creed speaker, and also joining our Agronomy CDE Team.

As I grew as a member, I began to contemplate one day becoming a State Officer. Unable to attend the State Convention as a freshman due to COVID, it wasn't until my sophomore year at the National Convention and having the opportunity to interact with the National Vice President Miriam Hoffman, that I decided to make that idea a goal. I began to attend camps, conferences, and other events where I would make memories and friends to last a lifetime. Because of FFA events teaching me how to put myself out there as a leader and being able to involve myself in my chapter, I have been given opportunities to work with different grade levels as well as groups in our community and spread the importance of FFA and agriculture. I have had the honor to watch my chapter grow from 25 to almost 90 members during my time as an officer due to the work that my advisor, myself, and other officers have put in. If elected, I would continue this passion and desire to seize the moment and see growth for our organization as well as the individuals within it. This is why I ask for your support in my running at the upcoming State Convention.

Sincerely,

Noah Young
Jackson County FFA