

To the members of the Arkansas FFA Association,

Hello! I am Ashlyn Fox and I am honored to have the privilege to address you as a 2024-2025 Arkansas State Officer Candidate. I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming Arkansas FFA State Officer election.

I firmly believe in the future of agriculture, and my story, one of countless other stories, attests to that. My story, while non-traditional, allowed me to have a unique, authentic journey in FFA. I originally grew up near Minneapolis, Minnesota, with an area population of around 3.6 million. Even though I grew up in an urban environment, I still found ways to get involved in the local agricultural industry. At an early age, I still have fond memories of playing and helping out on a family friend's farm. Then during middle school, I got involved at Second Chance Youth Ranch, a volunteer youth horse ranch in Ramsey, MN. While I was able to gain basic agricultural experience, I still lacked a sense of community. That opportunity for connection and community came through a move to Arkansas and becoming a member of the Arkansas FFA Association.

I joined FFA during my sophomore year of high school because I was asked to join the Poultry Evaluation team. Joining FFA was one of the best decisions I have ever made as FFA has created an overwhelming ripple effect on my life. Even though FFA was originally out of my comfort zone, I am more than grateful for the friendships, experiences, and opportunities FFA has given me. I can confidently say that I would not be the person I am today without FFA. Without growing up on a farm, FFA has opened up countless doors and opportunities that I previously did not know existed. FFA ignited a fire within me as I found my passion for agriculture. Even though I was once a girl in the city, I now plan to pursue a career in Agricultural Education. My purpose is found in continuing to advocate for agriculture, especially for the next generation. As soon as I joined FFA, I fell in love with the organization and wholeheartedly invested in the opportunities presented to me. For the last three years, I have been invested in Poultry Evaluation CDE with the goal to win state. In LDEs, I competed in both Job Interview and Parliamentary Procedure. Leadership opportunities opened up as soon as I joined FFA. As a sophomore I was given the honor of my chapter's Star Greenhand; as a junior, I was given the honor of Star Chapter Farmer. Additionally, I have also been elected as my chapter's president for the last two consecutive years.

FFA has given me endless leadership skills from public speaking to parliamentary procedure to the importance of having a strong team surrounding you. A major lesson that I learned through my officer experience at Gravette FFA is that a successful leader is a humble and consistent leader. True leadership is found through selfless service without motive. I would like the opportunity to give back and continue to pour into the Arkansas FFA Association, which has poured into me. I believe in the future of agriculture, and the significance of reinvesting into the next generation. I am dedicated to the values and morals that FFA is established on, and I believe in representing FFA through outstanding character and actions. If elected, I promise to faithfully serve not only Arkansas FFA but you as well during my year of service. I do not take this opportunity for granted. I ask for your support in my campaign for a position on the 2024-2025 Arkansas FFA State Officer team.

With Gratitude,

Ashlyn Fox
Gravette FFA