

# A note from the officers

*Mikayla Stewart*  
Vice-President, Senior

I joined FFA my freshman year not knowing that 4 years later it would open up many opportunities for me. I am now accepted into Murray State University to become an ag teacher. I would not be here if it wasn't for the helping hands of Mr. Bonta and Mrs. Gaddie. When I thought I couldn't do a competition Mr. Bonta would push me to at least try it, and Mrs. Gaddie would help me prepare. I used to be scared to talk in front of my classmates, but through my advisors encouraging me to continue in impromptu speaking, I was able to speak in front of the whole school during our ag safety day. FFA is more than just cows and plows, FFA is an organization that teaches leadership, teamwork, responsibility, etc. If I wouldn't have joined FFA, I would not be where I am now.

*Lilly Squires*  
Reporter, Senior

I am Lilly Squires. I am a senior and I've been in FFA for 4 years. I am the reporter on our current officer team. FFA has made a big impact on my life. I've competed in different speech competitions. I was the regional creed contest winner my freshman year. FFA has not only helped my confidence in speaking in front of people but it has also taught me the importance of hard work. I have helped my dad for many years in various things. I had my own pumpkins this past year. Which I sold and made profit off of them. I have helped him in our garden, not only to sell at the local farmers market, but to provide fresh vegetables for my family. Helping my dad has made me realize that hard work does pay off in the end. And just how important agriculture is. There is no better feeling than knowing I am eating something right out of my garden. There's so much more to FFA than most people would think. FFA is a true family, I wouldn't trade the memories and friends I have made through FFA for anything.

*Kaitlin Shoe, Treasurer, Senior*

FFA has been a huge impact on my life. It has given me so many experiences that have gotten me out of my comfort zone and led me to figuring out what I want to do with my future. It has also been some of the best memories, in which I will always cherish.

*Abbigail Milby*  
Secretary, Junior

You compete in so many different things in FFA, that you learn to step out of your comfort zone. Freshman year I would have never chosen to compete in Public Speaking, but with Mr. Bonta's encouragement I did. I didn't place my first year, but I walked away feeling more confident knowing what I needed to improve on to do better the next year. This has been a trend in anything that I've done throughout my FFA career. I have yet to walk away from anything that I didn't learn from. Not only have I been given an opportunity to strengthen and gain life skills, I've also developed better people skills. Being given the opportunity to go to State and National conventions I've been able to meet people from many different backgrounds. By conversing with people from not only across the state but also the nation, I have gained a deeper understanding of aspects that I previously knew nothing about. By becoming a member of FFA you learn many life lessons not traditionally taught in school.

*Alexandria Whitman*  
Sentinel, Junior

For me, FFA has been a part of my life as long as I can remember. Both of my parents were FFA members, as well as my grandpa, so when I was a freshman, I joined FFA as well. At that point I was timid, quiet individual who's only interest was greenhouse. However, over the course of the past few years, I've changed into the person I am today. I'm a confident person, who often participates in speech contests as well as parliamentary procedure. I also am the Sentinel for the Green County chapter. Overall, I've gotten very good at presenting my work through my agriscience projects, one of which placed second at nationals. Despite all that, I'm still a quiet person who loves greenhouse because those were never bad things that needed to change. Throughout FFA, I've only ever improved as a person, a person that is exclusively myself.



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