



WHAT WE GROW,
CHANGES HOW
THE WORLD GROWS.

Testimony in Support of HB2201

Presented by **Beth Gaines, Executive Director, Kansas FFA Foundation**
Kansas House Transportation Committee

February 11, 2025

Chair Francis and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HB2201**. My name is **Beth Gaines**, and I am honored to serve as the **Executive Director of the Kansas FFA Foundation**. I am also a **proud former member of the organization**, and I can personally attest to its impact on shaping young leaders and preparing them for successful careers. My experience in FFA instilled in me a passion for agriculture, leadership, and service—values that continue to guide me today.

Kansas FFA is a growing and dynamic organization with **237 chapters and more than 13,600 active members** across the state. These students engage in hands-on agricultural education, leadership training, and career development opportunities that prepare them to be the future workforce of our state's most critical industry—agriculture. Today, **103 of Kansas' 105 counties** have FFA chapters and agricultural education programs, demonstrating these programs' widespread demand and importance. Additionally, several counties, including Sedgwick, Marshall, and Marion, are home to five or more FFA chapters, further highlighting the reach and influence of FFA in both rural and urban areas. Right here in Shawnee County, four chapters - Seaman, Washburn Rural, Shawnee Heights and TCALC- provide students with important opportunities.

As the National FFA Organization approaches its **centennial in 2028**, it is more relevant and impactful than ever. What began nearly a century ago as an effort to support young agriculturalists has evolved into a nationwide network that fosters **leadership, technical skills, and career readiness**. Kansas FFA continues to shape the future of agriculture by equipping students with the knowledge and experiences necessary to sustain and grow our state's agricultural heritage.

Kansas FFA Foundation conducted an **informal survey** to gauge interest in a specialized FFA license plate. The survey received **285 responses**, with **181 indicating a high likelihood of purchasing a plate if it became available**. This strong interest further reflects the enthusiasm and dedication of Kansas FFA members, alumni, and agricultural advocates who want to proudly represent and support the organization.

By passing **HB2201**, the Legislature can indicate it's **support for agricultural education, leadership development, and workforce preparedness** in Kansas. This bill will provide FFA

members, alumni, and supporters a meaningful way to demonstrate their commitment to agricultural education while generating funds to sustain and expand these essential programs.

I respectfully urge the committee to **support HB2201** and help ensure that agricultural education remains strong and accessible for future Kansas students. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions the committee may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Gaines

Executive Director, Kansas FFA Foundation