



Board of Trustees

Mike Smith

Chairman
Olathe, KS

Yancy Wright

Vice Chairman
John Deere

Shelly Turner

Treasurer
Security State Bank- Scott City

Kurt Dillon

Executive Committee
St. George, KS

Kevin Davis

Executive Committee
Precision Ag Services

Beth Gaines

Executive Director
Manhattan, KS

Tom Benoit

Damar, KS

Jackie Chandler

Kansas FFA Alumni
and Supporters

Kevin Gleason

Uniontown, KS

Alex Gottlob

Winfield, KS

Mary Kane

Kansas FFA
Executive Secretary

Dana Ladner

Kansas Department
of Agriculture

Kyle Nichols

Cargill Protein Group

Jory Ratzlaff

Kansas FFA President

Kelly Sipes

KAAE

Jay Selanders

Smithville, MO

Karl Dawn Stover

KAAE

Todd Sturgis

Sturgis Enterprises- Coffeyville

Loy James

Solomon Valley Bank

Jonathan Ulmer

Kansas State University

March 4, 2025

Chairman Peterson and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

My name is Beth Gaines, and I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of the Kansas FFA Foundation. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today to support HB 2201, legislation that will authorize a specialty license plate dedicated to supporting Kansas FFA and agricultural education.

Agricultural education in Kansas continues to expand, now reaching students in 103 to 105 counties. In the 2025-2026 school year, we are excited to welcome Edwards County as the latest county to establish an agricultural education program. This growth underscores the increasing demand for high-quality agricultural education and the need to equip students with the skills necessary to succeed in our state's largest economic sector: agriculture.

Beyond the classroom, the value of Kansas FFA is evident across the state. On Give FFA Day 2025, we proudly received donations from every county in Kansas—a powerful testament to the widespread support and belief in the mission of FFA, regardless of zip code. This level of commitment demonstrates how deeply Kansans recognize the impact of agricultural education in shaping the next generation of leaders and workforce professionals.

HB 2201 presents a unique opportunity to build on this support by allowing Kansas residents to showcase their pride in agriculture and FFA through a specialty license plate. The funds generated from these plates will directly support the expansion and essential operations of Kansas FFA, the premier workforce development organization that prepares young people for careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and related industries.

This initiative is more than just a way to generate funding; it is a statement of pride and investment in the future of our industry. By supporting HB 2201, you ensure that agricultural education continues to thrive and that Kansas FFA can provide students with

leadership training, hands-on learning experiences, and career preparation that will benefit our rural and urban communities.

On behalf of Kansas FFA and the thousands of students who will benefit from this initiative, I sincerely appreciate your consideration and support of HB 2201. Your leadership will make a lasting impact on the future of agricultural education and workforce development in Kansas.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions you may have.

Beth Gaines
Executive Director, Kansas FFA Foundation