Arkansas FFA Members,

My name is Becca Burrow, and I am a member of the Brinkley FFA Chapter in the Eastern District. I am running for the office of Arkansas FFA State Secretary which, a few years ago, I would have never imagined that I would have had the courage to do. During my middle school and early high school years, I always thought of myself as different. I was too smart, too boring, too clumsy, and too quiet to really fit in with any of the cliques at my school. At the time, I thought that there must be something wrong with me. Maybe my ability to always score high on tests or my inability to catch the ball in PE was causing me to be so different from the other students. By the time my freshman year came around, I was willing to try anything or to try to be anyone, as long as it helped me fit in. I was tired of being different, so I jumped wholeheartedly into the first organization that caught my attention, my school’s FFA chapter. I was immediately swept away by the enthusiasm and passion of my fellow FFA members, and I was caught up completely in the FFA goals and values. Soon, I was so transformed by FFA and the people involved that I could not even remember the shy, quiet person that I used to be.

As time progressed, I unearthed dreams to become a leader within agriculture. As my passion for Arkansas FFA and its members grew, I was enticed to delve into the inner workings of American agriculture when I stepped into the roles of leader, member, friend, agricultural advocate, competitor, and champion. FFA encouraged me to discover my purpose and my passion which strengthened my sense of character and individuality. As I began to use my strengths and talents to serve, I realized that member diversity was essential because our organization was strengthened by the unique contributions of our members. I learned that FFA was an organization that celebrates our diversity by using it to join us into a cohesive group at the local level and beyond with the simplicity of the words “I believe” and the official tap of the gavel. I finally found the place where I fit in perfectly, a place where I belong—amongst a sea of blue corduroy jackets.

As my senior year comes to a close, I am unwilling to hang up my blue corduroy jacket because I feel that my purpose is not yet fulfilled. I have more work to do! My goal is to help FFA members from every chapter in Arkansas to reach the same realization that I did. I want to be that person who makes shy members feel included and accepted. I want to be that person who helps them realize that their personality, skills, weaknesses, quirks, and smiles are all of equal importance. I want to be that person who shakes the hand of the victor receiving that trophy, plaque, or buckle. I want to be the fuel that ignites the spark in members as they realize what wonderful opportunities FFA has to offer, and I want to be there to help them stoke their glowing passion into a blazing glory. I want to serve Arkansas FFA as a state officer in an effort to give back to the organization and to the people who have played such a significant role in my life and future.

Sincerely,

Becca Burrow