



**KANSAS**  
**FFA ASSOCIATION**

## State Officer Application

**Jory K. Ratzlaff (Jory)**  
**Canton-Galva FFA Chapter**



# Educational Background and Status

**High School**

Canton-Galva High School

**Chapter Name**

Canton-Galva

**Chapter Number**

KS0263

**Number in High School Class**

26

**Your Rank in High School Class**

1

**Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed**

7

**Years in FFA**

5

**In what level of education are you currently enrolled?**

High School

**If you will be enrolled in post-secondary education following election to state office, where will you be attending?**

Kansas State University

**Anticipated College Major**

Agricultural Technology Management

**Career Objective**

Precision Ag Specialist

# FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

## **Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope**

I have an SAE in Agriscience Research from 2021 to 2023 that follows my experience participating in the contest. I've conducted research in the subjects of Animal Systems and Environmental Services / Natural Resource Systems. From May to August of 2023 I had a Placement SAE where I interned at Garber Surveying Service. There, I was part of a surveying crew and worked on the Jayhawk Pipeline project, established property boundaries, and conducted reviews for the right of way.

Maximum of 500 characters

## **FFA Leadership Experience: (Office/Committee Assignment, Organization/Group, Year Held) - List up to 5**

Chapter President, Canton-Galva FFA Chapter, 1 year (2023-2024); Chapter Treasurer, Canton-Galva FFA Chapter, 1 year (2022-2023); State Convention Delegate, Kansas FFA, 1 year (2023); District Greenhand Conference Session Leader, South Central District, 1 year (2022)

Example: Chapter Vice President, Blue and Gold FFA Chapter, 1 year (2019-2020)

## **FFA Activities: (Chapter, District or National Events; CDEs; LDEs; Leadership Programs; and other FFA sponsored activities) - List up to 10**

Agriscience Fair - 3 years; Kansas Farm Bureau Discussion Meet LDE - 3 years; Extemporaneous Speaking LDE - 3 years; Ag Research Placement Proficiency - 2 years; Employment Skills LDE - 2 years; Washington Leadership Conference - 1 year; National Convention - 1 year; Chapter Leadership Training - 1 year; Kansas Youth Institute for World Food Prize - 1 year; Agricultural Issues Forum LDE - 1 year

Examples: Livestock Judging CDE - 3 years; Leader Lab - 1 year; National Convention - 2 years

## **Other Leadership and Service Activities: (Community, School, 4-H, Church, Sports, Clubs, etc.) - List up to 10**

Student Council Member - 4 years; Class Office - 4 years; Basketball Team - 4 years; Football Team - 4 years; Scholar's Bowl Team - 3 years; Robotics Team - 2 years; National Honor Society Member - 2 years; Student Athletics Leadership Team - 1 year; Golf Team - 1 year

Examples: Football Team - 4 years; CYO - 2 years; 4-H - Member (10 years), Club President (2 years)

## Essay Questions

### **What is your biggest accomplishment up until now? How has it shaped you and your leadership style?**

My journey through FFA has allowed me to accomplish a lot. I've competed at State Convention for extemporaneous speaking and discussion meet. I served as my chapter's president, attended the Washington Leadership Conference, and was even a National finalist in Agriscience Fair. Yet, my biggest accomplishment isn't achieving any placing or medal at a contest or even being recognized on stage at Indianapolis. My greatest accomplishment up to this point was finding a way to overcome hardship. On December 19, 2023, my longtime teacher, advisor, and friend, Mrs. Ashley Austin passed away. Mrs. Austin had embodied so much of our FFA Chapter and had built the program up to what it was in just five short years. A somber Christmas break passed and soon the last semester of my high school career would begin. I told myself that, under no circumstances, would I allow the chapter to lose its identity. I'll still admit, walking into that classroom just days before school started back up was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. I was back in the school early to introduce myself to the new teacher and to help organize classwork and scheduling. It was hard. There was so much that happened in the background that we, as students, never knew about. Files of class curriculum, early deadlines for contests, transportation forms, sign-up sheets, meeting plans, all of which needed to be addressed. That task fell on the chapter's shoulders. As a long-standing member, senior, and chapter president, I was handed a lot of responsibilities, and it was upon me to uphold the same expectations of the chapter. I've learned a lot about myself this year. I've learned how I deal with grief and pain, and how I can overcome a feeling of hopelessness with a strong sense of leadership. I've put unwavering trust in my team, I've become an initiator, a better communicator, and I've learned how to inspire and encourage participation in chapter activities. Some days are harder than others, but I continue to strive for success. In a year with every viable excuse, Canton-Galva FFA has found a way to continue on. The chapter has attended contests, hosted activities for National FFA Week, and is on track to host a banquet and attend State Convention. Our officer team, chapter, school, and even community have banded together to overcome this tragedy. We continue to uphold the traditions of FFA. I hope our growth makes AA proud, and if it has, there can be no greater accomplishment.

2500 character limit

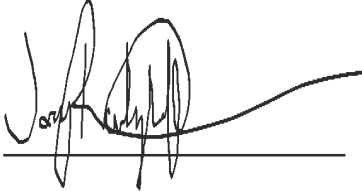
### **If elected, how would you positively influence the Kansas FFA Association?**

If elected, I would strive to uphold the same standards that were shown to me when I started my FFA journey. I want to provide unwavering support, be compassionate with no end, and constantly push others to pursue opportunities. I want to be all these things because these are the exact reasons I found success in FFA. My friends and peers were always there for me. FFA created a bond that I didn't have before. No matter what I chose to pursue, I had others right there to help me on my path. I want to be that person for someone else. Sometimes all people need is a note of confidence and they can find success. All it takes is a small show of support to involve themselves. I want to be compassionate with no end because as a freshman it was other FFA members that showed true compassion for the organization. They loved every minute of every activity, contest, and convention. They shared their experiences with true joy and sincerity. I want to radiate that same energy. I want to highlight all the fun that can be found in FFA. I wish to embrace the social aspects of the organization and hope to share my FFA journey with others so that they might be more willing to give it a chance. Finally, I want to push others to pursue opportunities. Without some encouragement from my advisor, I might not have gotten my start in FFA. With no encouragement, I might never have stepped out of my comfort zone and applied

for chapter office. So many opportunities would've been missed if it wasn't for my advisor's constant reminder to pursue them. I know better now than to let opportunities pass me by, and I want to share that thinking with others. If you never give something a chance, then you never know where it might take you. I think that opportunity is everywhere, all it takes is the vision to see it. In the end, I would hope to encapsulate my year of service with this quote, shared with me by my late advisor, Mrs. Ashley Austin, "The best glory you could leave is not some building with your name on it, but rather a world that has been impacted and touched by your presence, your joy, and your positive actions."

2500 character limit

**Signature of State Officer Candidate**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jory K. Ratzlaff", is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Use your mouse or finger to draw your signature above