

Ella Rae Neher

Preferred First Name

Ella

High School

Hays High School/Homeschool

Chapter Name

Hays FFA

Chapter Number

KS0070

Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed

8

Years in FFA

4

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?

Hutchinson Community College

Anticipated College Major

Animal Science/Ag Business

Career Objective

Agriculture Communications and Marketing for a a livestock association or breed organization.

FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope

My Supervised Agricultural Experience program consists of working for my family's show goat operation; Sonrise Farm Show Stock. We raise Boer goats and sheep to show and sell to showman across the nation. I received a National FFA SAE Grant to purchase a sonogram machine. A large part of my responsibility is performing sonograms on potentially bred does. I have performed sonograms on approximately 215 does and ewes. I also assist in the daily care of goats, sale preparation, and social media.

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

Chapter President, Hays FFA Chapter, 1 year (2025-2026); Chapter Secretary, Hays FFA Chapter, 1 year (2024-2025); Chapter Treasurer, Hays FFA Chapter, 1 year (2023-2024); District Treasurer, Northwest District, 1 year (2024-2025); District Secretary, Northwest District, 1 year (2025-2026)

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

Leader Lab- 2 years; Stand and Deliver-1 year; National FFA Convention-1 year; Kansas FFA State Convention-3 years; Parliamentary Procedure (District and State)- 4 years; Prepared Public Speaking- 4 years; Livestock Evaluation- 4 years; Northwest District FFA Greenhand Conference- 4 years; Kansas FFA Chapter Leader Training- 1 year; District Officer Conference- 2 years

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

Victoria Vikings 4-H Club Member and Officer- 10 years; North Oak Community Church- "Heroes 4 Life" after school program- 6 years; Community Park Clean Up- 4 years; Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat (church and 4-H)- 10 years; Ellis County Community Assistance Center- 1 year; St. Joseph's Food Pantry- 4 years; Homestead of Hays- Elderly Citizen activities- 4 years; North Oak Community Church- Vacation Bible School- 6 years; Shriners Children's Hospital Patient Ambassador- 2 years

Essay Questions

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

My greatest accomplishment has been serving as a Northwest District FFA officer while getting the chance to witness my younger sister, Esther,

win the Northwest District Creed Speaking Contest. This moment was especially meaningful to me because it represented a full circle experience in my life. Four years ago, my older sister, Karli, watched me win the same contest while she was serving as a district officer. Being able to stand in that same position and watch my younger sister succeed gave me a completely new perspective on leadership and the impact it can have on others.

Serving as a district officer has challenged me to grow not only as a leader, but also as a mentor, role model, and cheerleader for others. Throughout my time in this role, I have spent countless hours doing chapter visits across the Northwest District. Traveling to chapters and visiting with FFA members has left a great impact on me. I have learned that leadership is not defined by the titles or the recognition, but by the influence you have on the people around you. My goal over the past two years has been to leave the members of the Northwest District better than I found them, leaving a lasting impact on the people around me. Watching my younger sister achieve her goal reminded me that the encouragement, guidance, and example we set as leaders can truly make a difference in someone else's journey.

My leadership style has been shaped by the team members I have had the opportunity to serve with. Each individual young woman brought unique strengths, perspectives, and ideas to our team. Through working together, I have learned the importance of communication, trust, and collaborating with others. I have also learned that strong leaders are willing to listen, adapt, and support their teammates in order to achieve a common goal.

Because of these experiences, I strive to be a leader who leads with integrity and purpose. I want to create an environment where others feel encouraged to step outside of their comfort zones and pursue their goals with confidence. Serving as a district officer and witnessing my sister's accomplishment has shown me that true leadership is not about personal success, but about lifting others up and helping them realize their potential in and outside of FFA. These experiences have prepared me to continue serving others and leaving a lasting impact wherever I go, both in FFA and in my future career.

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

If elected to serve as a Kansas FFA State Officer, I would positively influence the Kansas FFA Association by serving as a leader who is approachable, driven, and committed to the success of every member. I strive to help create an environment where students feel encouraged to become involved, take on new adventures, and grow both personally and professionally.

One way I would accomplish this is by building genuine connections with members across the state. I believe strong relationships are the foundation of a successful organization, so I would make it a priority to listen to members' experiences, challenges, and goals. By understanding their perspectives, I can better serve as a mentor and friend. I want each member to feel valued, supported, and confident serving in their role within FFA.

I would also focus on developing members' confidence and leadership abilities. Through facilitating workshops in chapters, District Officer Conference, Chapter Leader Training, and Greenhand Conferences, I hope to launch Kansas FFA members to their fullest potential in their leadership journey. FFA has provided me with opportunities to grow in ways I never expected, and I am passionate about helping others discover that same potential. Through workshops, meaningful conversations, and leading by example, I hope to encourage members to step outside of their comfort zones and fully engage in the opportunities available to them.

In addition, I would actively advocate for agricultural education and the vital role it plays in our communities and nation. It is important that members not only take pride in their involvement in agriculture, but also understand the impact they can make now and in the future. I would work to promote agricultural literacy and appreciation, both within and beyond our organization.

Most importantly, I would lead with integrity, a strong work ethic, and a positive attitude. Through my service, I hope to leave the Kansas FFA Association stronger than I found it and make a lasting, meaningful impact on the lives of its members.