

# Ethan Ray Petersilie

**Preferred First Name**

Ethan

**High School**

LaCrosse High

**Chapter Name**

LaCrosse FFA

**Chapter Number**

0093

**Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed**

9

**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?**

Hutchinson Community College

**Anticipated College Major**

Farm and Ranch Management

**Career Objective**

Own a Spray Drone Business

## FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

**Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope**

I own and operate a diversified livestock operation consisting of both swine and cattle operations. In my swine operation, I farrow around six sows annually, producing 50–60 pigs each year. I market about half of these as show pigs and the remaining as feeder pigs, while retaining 4–6 head to feed out and sell as finished hogs. I also manage 25 head of cattle alongside my family’s herd. I am responsible for completing daily chores, maintaining fences, and paying my share of feed expenses.

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

Southwest District Vice President (2025-2026)

LaCrosse Chapter Secretary (2024-2025)

LaCrosse Chapter Treasurer (2023-2024, 2025-2026)

Greenhand Vice President (2022-2023)

Southwest District Greenhand Presenter (2025)

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

National FFA Convention- 1 year

State FFA Convention- 5 years

State Discussion meet- 2 years

State Prepared Public Speaking- 3 years

State Employability- 1 year

State Vet Science- 3 years

State Livestock Judging- 2 years

Leader Lab - 1 year

District Creed Speaking- 1 year

Ag Sales- 4 years

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

Rush County Roadrunners 4-H Club—Member (12 years) President (1 year)

Rush County 4-H Council—Representative (8 years) Treasurer (5 years)  
Rush County Farm Bureau Ambassador (1 year)  
Northwest 4-H ambassador (1 year)  
St. Michael's Parish School of Religion (12 years)  
St. Michael's Parish—Alter Server (10 years), Lector (7 years), Money Counter (1 year).  
Rush County Trap Team (6 years)  
National Honor Society (3 years)  
Cross Country (3 years)  
Student Council (4 years)

## Essay Questions

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

One of my biggest accomplishments has been building and managing my own diversified livestock operation. What began at a young age with the purchase of a farrowing facility through a USDA Youth Loan has grown into a multi-species enterprise requiring daily management, financial responsibility, and long-term planning. This experience has shaped not only my operation, but also my leadership style.

In my swine enterprise, I farrow approximately six sows each year, producing 50–60 pigs. I market these as show pigs, feeder pigs, and finished hogs, allowing me to diversify income and manage risk. Over time, I have learned to evaluate both markets and animal performance to make informed decisions. For example, I chose to discontinue summer litters after recognizing challenges with heat stress and limited market demand. This decision improved both animal welfare and overall efficiency, reinforcing the importance of adaptability and critical thinking.

I also focus on long-term improvement by retaining gilts with strong genetic potential, which has strengthened the quality and consistency of my herd.

In addition to my swine operation, I manage cattle alongside my family's herd. I am responsible for daily care, fence maintenance, and a portion of feed costs. I purchase show heifers annually, retain bred females, and market steers through both direct feeding and feedlot placement, including participation in feed efficiency trials. These experiences have expanded my understanding of different production and marketing strategies.

Through a labor exchange agreement with my family, I offset operational costs while gaining hands-on experience with equipment and resource management. This has helped me develop a strong understanding of financial responsibility and efficiency.

This accomplishment has shaped my leadership style by teaching me to lead with responsibility, adaptability, and accountability. I have learned to make decisions, adjust when needed, and take ownership of outcomes. It has also strengthened my work ethic and ability to communicate and collaborate effectively.

Ultimately, my operation has helped me become a confident and independent leader who is committed to continuous improvement and prepared to take on future challenges.

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

If elected, I would positively influence the Kansas FFA Association by focusing on connection, opportunity, and growth for every member. I believe FFA impacts each student differently and my goal would be to help every member find where they belong and how they can grow.

One way I would do this is by strengthening connections between members and chapters. In a state as diverse as Kansas, every chapter is different. I would work to ensure every member feels seen and valued by creating meaningful interactions at events and being intentional about reaching students who may feel overlooked. Sometimes, one conversation can make a lasting impact.

I would also focus on expanding opportunities for members to get involved and develop their skills. Not every student joins FFA with confidence, and I want to help create an environment where they feel comfortable trying new things. That may be competing, speaking, or stepping into leadership roles. By encouraging involvement, I would help members build skills that prepare them for their future.

Another priority would be advocating for agriculture and agricultural education. As a state officer, I would represent the industry in a positive and forward-thinking way while highlighting the role FFA plays in developing future leaders.

Most importantly, I would lead with a servant mindset. I would listen to members, understand their experiences, and work to meet their needs. This role is not about what I would gain, but what I can give. If elected, I would bring energy, dedication, and a commitment to helping every member grow and succeed.