

Ellie LouAnn Samms

Preferred First Name

Ellie

High School

Winfield High School

Chapter Name

Winfield FFA Chapter

Chapter Number

KS0184

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?

Kansas State University

Anticipated College Major

Agricultural Education

Career Objective

Become an AG teacher and FFA Advisor

FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope

My Supervised Agriculture Experience is an entrepreneurship in food production and processes. It is a bakery business where I sell and produce baked goods, such as sugar cookies, cakes, and cake pops. Through this SAE, I have learned the science behind the baked goods I sell, as well as business management skills, customer service, and marketing. I am responsible for communicating with customers, managing finances, and ensuring food safety standards are being followed.

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

Chapter Vice President, Winfield FFA Chapter, 1 year (2025-2026)

Chapter President, Winfield FFA Chapter, 1 year (2024-2025)

Chapter Treasurer, Winfield FFA Chapter, 1 year (2023-2024)

Chapter President, Winfield FFA Chapter, 2 months (March 2026-April 2026)

Banquet Fundraising Committee, Winfield FFA Chapter, 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 - 1 year, State Convention - 3 years, National Convention - 2 years, Agriscience Fair LDE - 2 years, Ag Sales CDE - 4 years, Public Speaking LDE - 2 years, Floriculture CDE - 3 years, Glimpse of Cargill - 3 years, Vet Science CDE - 3 years, District Banquet - 3 years

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

Student Council Class President (2 years), Student Council Class Representative (2 years), Link Leader (2 years), Hope Squad Member (4 years), Trapshooting Team Captain (1 year), Winfield Kansas Relay for Life Community Correspondent (5 years), National Honor Society (2 years), Tuesdays Table Soup Kitchen Volunteer (1 Year)

Essay Questions

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

My biggest accomplishment is starting my business. My business and SAE is a home-based cottage bakery business. Sophomore year of high

school, I knew I wanted to get my State FFA Degree, but I knew the biggest roadblock would be getting enough SAE hours and financial records. As someone who doesn't have access to animals or farming equipment, I knew my SAE would have to be something a bit unconventional. So, after talking to one of my FFA mentors and my parents, I decided that I was going to start a bakery. The same night, I went home, started a Facebook page, and started taking orders for cinnamon rolls the next day. Ever since then, it has completely transformed my life and my leadership style.

Not only is starting and running a business hard work, but it also takes dedication and self-discipline. Even in the days, weeks, and months that it was looking rough, I persevered and came out on top in the end. Even though most of my customers knew who I was, I still had to communicate with all of my customers professionally.

When I started my business, I was a sophomore in high school and my FFA chapter's treasurer. Starting a business, being an officer in FFA, and involving myself in many other activities, on top of taking hard classes, felt like a juggling act. However, I learned many important skills, such as time management, organization, and most importantly, how to say no. While I love saying yes to opportunities, I had to learn how to say no, especially when it came to my business. As a student, my grades came first, and shortly after was FFA, then came my business. If I had a client inquiring about an order, I had to check my schedule for conflicts and see if I had time available. In my junior year, I became president of my FFA chapter. Junior year, classes got harder, and my business became busier. One important skill that I learned was delegation. With everything that I had on my plate, the last thing that I wanted to do was let something fall through the cracks, but I learned how to let go and let others help. Thanks to teamwork and trusting my officers, I knew that our team could accomplish great things.

My leadership style has changed from trying to be in complete control to allowing others to find their leadership potential. I still tend to take on a lot of responsibility, but I have learned when it is appropriate to let go and allow others to step up because it is not just about what I have done, it is about how we have helped.

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

If elected, I would positively influence the Kansas FFA Association by serving with purpose, listening with intention, and leading with integrity. Kansas FFA is built on agricultural education and leadership development, both of which I would serve as an advocate for.

One of my top priorities would be being a voice for members. Every chapter across the state is different, from administration to community support. My goal would be to ensure that every chapter has the resources to grow and support from the state level.

If there's one thing that I have learned from my time in FFA, it is that there is a place for everyone. I would promote inclusivity among all FFA members. Coming from someone who doesn't have a strong background in agriculture, FFA has given me passion and self-confidence, on top of strengthening my knowledge about agriculture. Giving students across the state opportunities in FFA, like attending competitions, conferences, and leadership activities, is one of my top priorities. FFA fosters many lifelong skills, like public speaking, communication, and leadership.

On top of promoting inclusivity, I want to increase connections between members, chapters, and the State FFA. As FFA continues to grow, there are bound to be more questions asked and more communities in need. One way to build connections is to give every new chapter a "mentor chapter" and work on not only connecting chapters within the same district, but also connecting chapters across the state. Connections that you make in FFA can aid in your life journey, whether it be in college or future careers.

Many people note that FFA members are very respectable young adults, not only because of their skill set, but because of how they present themselves. As a state officer, I would be held to the highest standards to ensure that I am best representing Kansas FFA. When leading, there is always someone looking at you and watching the choices you make, so I must work every day to hold myself accountable to the same standards. Whether I am mingling with FFA members, stakeholders, or the public, I strive to leave a positive impact that shows what Kansas FFA is all about.

If elected, I would work to ensure that chapters are growing and getting the resources they need, promoting inclusivity, and building connections. As a state officer, my goal every day is to ensure that every member knows that they have a place in FFA to be their authentic selves because Kansas FFA never takes a day off.