



# 2025 Kansas State Degree

KS

KS0178

604616700



## Student Approval

Applicant Name

McKenzie Marie Baker

Chapter Name

Washington County FFA

- I have maintained records to substantiate my supervised agricultural experience program which exhibit comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise and will provide these records to my local and state FFA advisors and staff, or their designated representatives, on demand.
- I have prepared this application and certify that the records are true, complete and accurate, and that I hereby permit for publicity purposes the use of any information included in the application.

2/26/2025 7:29:00 AM

Date

McKenzie Marie Baker

Candidate's Signature

## Advisor Approval

- I have reviewed this applicant's supervised agricultural experience (SAE) records and verify they exist and exhibit comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
- I have verified the application and find that the statements contained herein match the applicants SAE records and are such that I am able to recommend the applicant for the Degree/Award.
- Furthermore, I verify that the applicant has conducted him/herself in a manner to be a credit to the organization, chapter, school and community.

Date

Chapter Advisor Signature

## Parent/Guardian Approval

- I have examined this application and find that the records are true, accurate and complete. We hereby permit for publicity purposes the use of any information included in this application.

2/26/2025 7:32:00 AM

Date

Misty Baker mbaker@usd108.org

Parent/Guardian Signature

## Principal or Superintendent Approval

- I hereby certify this applicant has achieved a high school record of "C" or better and has a satisfactory record of scholarship and participation in school activities.

2/26/2025 7:23:00 AM

Date

Jordan Carlson jcarlson@usd108.org

School Principal or Superintendent



# 2025 Kansas State Degree

**KS**

**KS0178**

**604616700**



## Applicant Contact Information

Name as you want it to appear on the certificate

**McKenzie Marie Baker**

Gender

**Female**

Address

**1925 Jade Rd**

City

**Morrowville**

State

**KS**

Zip Code

**66958**

Email Address

**mbaker25@students.usd108.org**

Name on the FFA Chapter Roster (if different)

Name Pronunciation

Home Phone

**7854060334**

Parent/Guardian Name

**Jerry Baker**

Parent/Guardian Name

**Misty Baker**

Parent/Guardian Occupation

**Maintenance supervisor**

Parent/Guardian Occupation

**Teacher**

## Chapter Information

FFA Chapter Name

**Washington County FFA**

School Name

**Washington County**

School Address

**115 N D St.**

School City

**Washington**

School State

**KS**

School Zip Code

**66968**

School Phone

**7853252261**

Chapter Advisor(s)

**John Kern**

## FFA History

Year FFA Membership Began

**2021**

Year Received Greenhand Degree

**2022**

Year Received Chapter Degree

**2023**

Had continuous active FFA membership for the past 24 months?

**Yes**

Have your State and National FFA Dues been paid?

**Yes**

## Education Information

High School Graduation Year

**2025**

If not, give date left school

Years of Ag Education Offered (grades 7-12) in high school last attended

**4.5**

Ag Education completed in High School

Years: **4**

Hours: **720**

Postsecondary/Vo-Tech Education Completed

Semesters:

Quarters:

Four-year College Completed

Semesters:

Quarters:

Major

School Attended

Military Duty - Dates of Full-Time Active Military Duty

World Experiences in Agriculture - Date of International Placement





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Basic Award Setup Information

### I. Application Dates

Began Agricultural Education

1/1/2022

Application Ending Date

12/31/2024

### II. SAE Types

☐ Exploratory, Supplemental, or Improvement

☐ Research

☐ Placement

☒ Entrepreneurship

### III. Assets

1. Current/Operating Assets	Value at Beginning Date	Value at Ending Date
a. Cash on hand, checking and savings	\$1,254	\$14,475
b. Cash value - bonds, stocks, life insurance	\$0	\$0
c. Notes & Accounts Receivable	\$0	\$0
d. Current Inventory (Entrepreneurship Experiences)		Itemized ending inventory values are reported on "Ending Current Inventory" page.
1. Investment in harvesting and growing crops	\$0	
2. Investment in feed, seed, fertilizer, chemical, supplies, prepaid expenses, and other current assets	\$0	
3. Investment in merchandise, crops and animals purchased for resale	\$0	
4. Investment in raised market livestock & poultry	\$0	
2. Non-Current Inventory	Value at Beginning Date	Value at Ending Date
a. Investment in non-depreciable draft, pleasure, and breeding animals	\$0	Itemized ending inventory values are reported on "Ending Non-Current Inventory" page.
b. Investment in depreciable draft, pleasure, and breeding animals	\$0	
c. Investment in depreciable machinery, equipment, and fixtures	\$600	
d. Investment in depreciable land improvements, buildings, and fixtures	\$0	
e. Investment in land	\$0	

IV. Liabilities	Value at Beginning Date	Value at Ending Date
a. Accounts and notes payable	\$0	\$0
b. Current portion of non-current debt (the portion of non-current debt during this calendar year)	\$0	\$0
c. Real Estate Mortgages (total real estate mortgages minus current portions)	\$0	\$0
d. Other non-current liabilities (total other non-current liabilities minus current portions)	\$0	\$0

V. Personal Cash Income & Expense	Total Value
a. Sources of cash gifts	\$1,465
b. Sources of cash from Ag related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$8,655
c. (Deduct) Total Personal Expense/Draw	\$1,430
d. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$0





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Supervised Agricultural Experience - Entrepreneurship

### 2022

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Agribusiness Systems	<b>McKenzie's Custom Kutts</b> My SAE is going from a tree to a log to milling the log into planks. The planks have to dry for one year for each inch of thickness. Once they are dry I sell the planks. This year I worked more on milling and starting to make and sell products. I continued with the same business, harvesting, milling, drying, and creating products.	Mill 25 logs and sell \$2500 worth of products.

### 2023

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Agribusiness Systems	<b>McKenzie's Custom Kutts</b> My SAE is going from a tree to a log to milling the log into planks. The planks have to dry for one year for each inch of thickness. Once they are dry I sell the planks. This year I worked more on milling and starting to make and sell products. I continued with the same business, harvesting, milling, drying, and creating products.	Increased custom milling and sell \$1500.

### 2024

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Agribusiness Systems	<b>McKenzie's Custom Kutts</b> My SAE is going from a tree to a log to milling the log into planks. The planks have to dry for one year for each inch of thickness. Once they are dry I sell the planks. This year I worked more on milling and starting to make and sell products. I continued with the same business, harvesting, milling, drying, and creating products.	Continue custom milling and sell \$3500.





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Candidate Inventory Statement - Current Inventory

### A. Harvested and Growing Crops/Plants on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Value
Milled Kentucky Coffee Tree Lumber	2 racks	\$1,000
Milled Ash lumber	5 racks	\$2,500
Milled Cedar lumber	10 racks	\$5,000
Milled Walnut lumber	4 racks	\$4,000
Milled Oak Lumber	8 racks	\$4,000
Milled American (Red) Elm	5 racks	\$2,500
Milled Mulberry lumber	2 racks	\$1,000
Harvested Logs (curing and on hand to be milled)	52	\$9,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>

### B. Feed, Seed, Fertilizer, Chemicals, Supplies, Prepaid Expenses, and other Current Assets on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Value
Milling/chainsaw supplies and consumables	1	\$595
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$595</b>

### C. Merchandise, Crops, and Animals Purchased for Resale on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Value
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

### D. Raised Market Animals on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Value
	<b>TOTAL</b>	





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Candidate Inventory Statement - Non-Current Inventory

### E. Non-Depreciable Draft, Pleasure, or Breeding Animals on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Ending Total Value
	TOTAL	

### F. Depreciable Draft, Pleasure, or Breeding Animals on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Claimed	Value
	TOTAL			

### G. Depreciable Machinery, Equipment, and Fixtures on 12/31/2024

Description	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Claimed	Value
Milling and Logging Tools	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250
TOTAL	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250

### H. Depreciable Land Improvements, Buildings, and Fences on 12/31/2024

Description	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Claimed	Value
storage container	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800
TOTAL	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800

### I. Land on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Acquisition Cost
	TOTAL	





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Income and Expense Summary of SAE Program

	2022	2023	2024	Total
<b>1. Revenues from Operations</b>				
a. Closing Current Inventory	\$8,950	\$19,000	\$29,595	<b>\$29,595</b>
b. Beginning Current Inventory	\$0	\$8,950	\$19,000	<b>\$0</b>
<b>c. Change in Current Inventory</b>	<b>\$8,950</b>	<b>\$10,050</b>	<b>\$10,595</b>	<b>\$29,595</b>
d. Cash Sales	\$2,500	\$3,700	\$4,350	<b>\$10,550</b>
e. Value Used at Home (Non-cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
f. Value of Production Transferred to other enterprise, Transferred to Non-Current, Bartered or Labor Exchanged (Non-cash)	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>g. Gross Revenues (Change in Current Inventory and Total Sales)</b>	<b>\$11,950</b>	<b>\$14,750</b>	<b>\$16,445</b>	<b>\$43,145</b>
<b>2. Expenses from Operations</b>				
a. Inventory Purchased for Resale (Cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
b. Inventory Purchased for Resale (Non-Cash Transfers)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
c. Cash Expenses (all other types)	\$1,250	\$1,022	\$1,297	<b>\$3,569</b>
d. Non-Cash Expenses (Transferred, Bartered, or SAE Labor Exchange)	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	<b>\$3,000</b>
e. Contributed Non-Cash Expenses (Gift or non-SAE Labor Exchange)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>f. Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,750</b>	<b>\$2,022</b>	<b>\$2,797</b>	<b>\$6,569</b>
<b>3. Net Income from Operations</b>	<b>\$10,200</b>	<b>\$12,728</b>	<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>\$36,576</b>
<b>4. Non-Current Inventory</b>				
a. Closing Inventory	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$3,050	<b>\$3,050</b>
b. Transfer in from Operations (Non-Cash Transfers of non-current assets)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
c. Contributed Inventory (Outside contribution of non-current assets - gift)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
d. Purchases	\$650	\$0	\$1,800	<b>\$2,450</b>
e. Beginning Inventory	\$600	\$1,250	\$1,250	<b>\$600</b>
f. Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
g. Non-Cash Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>h. Net Non-Current Transactions</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>5. Net Income From Operations &amp; Net Non-Current Transactions</b>	<b>\$10,200</b>	<b>\$12,728</b>	<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>\$36,576</b>
<b>6. Annual Profitability Measures</b>				
a. Operating Profit Margin (OPM) Net Operating Income/Totals Sales = % of sales related to profit	85%	86%	83%	<b>85%</b>
b. % of Total Returns from Net Non-Current Gains (Net Non-Current Gains/Total Gains)				
c. Review Non-Current Ending Inv. Value				
<b>7. Non-Cash Transfer/Exchange Review</b>				
a. Check if Non-Cash Transactions are Balanced	YES	YES	YES	<b>YES</b>
b. Difference that non-cash income categories Non-Cash minus Non-Current Expenses are off	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Assets & Liabilities

<b>A. Assets</b>	<b>Beginning Value</b>	<b>Ending Value</b>
<b>1. Current Assets</b>		
a. Cash on hand, checking and savings	\$1,254	\$14,475
b. Cash Value - Bonds, stocks, life insurance	\$0	\$0
c. Notes & Accounts Receivable	\$0	\$0
d. Current Inventory (Entrepreneurship Experiences)		
1. Investment in harvesting and growing crops/plants	\$0	\$29,000
2. Investment in feed, seed, fertilizer, chemical, supplies, prepaid expenses, and other current assets	\$0	\$595
3. Investment in merchandise, crops, and animals purchased for resale	\$0	\$0
4. Investment in raised market animals	\$0	\$0
<b>e. Total Current Inventory</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$29,595</b>
<b>f. Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,254</b>	<b>\$44,070</b>
<b>2. Non-Current Assets</b>		
a. Non-Current Inventory		
1. Investment in non-depreciable draft, pleasure, and breeding animals	\$0	\$0
2. Investment in depreciable draft, pleasure, and breeding animals	\$0	\$0
3. Investment in depreciable machinery, equipment, and fixtures	\$600	\$1,250
4. Investment in depreciable land improvements, buildings, and fences	\$0	\$1,800
5. Investment in land	\$0	\$0
<b>b. Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$3,050</b>
<b>3. Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,854</b>	<b>\$47,120</b>
<b>B. Liabilities</b>		
<b>1. Current Liabilities</b>		
a. Accounts and Notes Payable	\$0	\$0
b. Current Portion of Non-Current Debt (the portion of non-current debt during this calendar year)	\$0	\$0
<b>c. Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>2. Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
a. Real Estate Mortgages	\$0	\$0
b. Other Non-Current Liabilities	\$0	\$0
<b>c. Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>3. Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>







# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Financial Balance Sheet Information - Personal Contribution & Net Worth

### C. Summary of Contributed Capital (Personal Finances in Balance Sheet)

1. Beginning Value	\$1,854
2. Sources of Cash Gifts	\$1,465
3. Sources of Cash from Ag Related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$8,655
4. Sources of Non-Cash Contributions (Current and Non-Current)	\$0
5. (Deduct) Non-Cash Sales for "Used at Home"	\$0
6. (Deduct) Total Personal Draw	\$1,430
7. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$0
8. Net Personal Contribution	\$10,544

D. Net Worth	Beginning Value	Ending Value
1. Contributed Capital (Represents the value of personal contribution)	\$1,854	\$10,544
2. Retained Earnings (Represents the value of SAE net income, entrepreneurship, placement, research)		\$36,576
<b>3. Total Net Worth</b>	<b>\$1,854</b>	<b>\$47,120</b>
<b>4. Total Liabilities &amp; Net Worth</b>	<b>\$1,854</b>	<b>\$47,120</b>

### E. Accuracy Check for the Balance Sheet (Assets = Liabilities + Equity) & Growth

1. Beginning Value	MET	
2. Ending Value		MET
3. Difference (met = \$0)	\$0	\$0
<b>4. Total Growth in Equity</b>		<b>\$45,266</b>

### F. Financial Management Ratios

1. Current Ratio (Measure of Liquidity) (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)		
2. Working Capital (Measure of Liquidity) (Total Current Assets minus Total Current Liabilities)	\$1,254	\$44,070





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Earnings & Productively Invested

### G. SAE Earnings

1. Placement SAE Earnings (Cash)	\$0
2. Entrepreneurship SAE Earnings (Cash & Non-Cash)	\$36,576
<b>3. Total SAE Earnings (Retained Earnings)</b>	<b>\$36,576</b>

### H. Productively Invested

1. Change in Net Worth (Productively Invested from Operations)	\$45,266
2. (Add) Total Educational Expenses (Personal Use)	\$0
3. (Deduct) Net Sources of Assets from Gifts or Non-SAE	\$8,690
<b>4. Total Growth in Productively Invested</b>	<b>\$36,576</b>

### I. Unpaid Hours

1. Total Unpaid Hours	0
2. Factor Per Hour	3.56
3. Unpaid hours allowance (hours x rate)	0

### J. Qualification Check

	Your Value	Condition
<b>Qualified under at least one option (Details of each option are listed below)</b>		<b>Met</b>
<b>Option 1 Conditions - Qualification on Finances</b>		
a. Productively Invested at least \$2000	\$36,576	Met
b. SAE Earnings at least \$2000	\$36,576	Met
<b>Option 2 Conditions - Qualification on Unpaid Hours</b>		
a. Unpaid Hours at least 600	0	
<b>Option 3 Conditions - Qualification on Combination</b>		
a. Unpaid Hours/600 + Productively Invested/\$2000 is at least 100%	1,829%	Met
b. Unpaid Hours/600 + SAE Earnings/\$2000 is at least 100%	1,829%	Met





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge

### A. Skills, Competencies, Knowledge

AFNR Performance Indicator		Contributions to Success
1	ABS.04.02 Develop production and operational plans for an AFNR business.	I had to start out my SAE by harvesting and milling the logs. The logs take 1 year per 1 inch of thickness to try so I had to plan for this. I needed to have planks readily available for me to turn into products to sell.
2	ABS.05.01 Analyze the role of markets, trade, competition and price in relation to an AFNR business sales and marketing plans.	I needed to assess what price I could set my products at to be fair to my customers while at the same time making a profit for myself. I also needed to make products that were desirable.
3	CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.	When woodworking you need to make sure to be responsible so you remain safe. You also need to remain responsible when selling products and maintain a fair price.
4	CRP.04.01 Speak using strategies that ensure clarity, logic, purpose and professionalism in formal and informal settings.	When talking to people about product details such as the timeframe or price I make sure to be professional and clear with my customers. I also want to have good communication skills so they understand what I am saying about my product or price.
5	CRP.04.03 Model active listening strategies when interacting with others in formal and informal settings.	When people make custom orders with me I make sure to listen clearly to them to get what they want just how they want it. I also use strategies like repeating it back to them to make sure they get the product they want in the way they want.
6	CRP.09.02 Implement personal management skills to function effectively and efficiently in the workplace (e.g., time management, planning, prioritizing, etc.).	When I get an order I need to make a plan to make sure I get the product to the customer in a timely manner. I know this is key to having happy and therefore loyal customers. I want my customers to come back to my in the future so I make it a priority to get them what they bought on time.
7	CS.03.04 Use appropriate protective equipment and demonstrate safe and proper use of AFNR tools and equipment.	It is vital that when woodworking you wear proper safety equipment like safety glasses. This is important to keep you safe at all times. You also have to make sure to use safe practices to keep yourself out of harm and keep machines running well. If I am unsure of how to use a piece of machinery then I make sure to ask how or get help so I can remain safe.
8	CS.04.01 Identify and implement practices to steward natural resources in different AFNR systems.	Since I am using a natural resource it is important that I select the proper trees to harvest. I try to use only damaged trees. If I harvest a tree, though, it has to be mature. I also try to prune trees to be beneficial for future harvesting. This ensures sustainability for my SAE.
9	NRS.02.02 Assess the impact of human activities on the availability of natural resources.	I understand that overharvesting trees could be damaging to the environment. I utilize trees that people are dosing. Instead of these trees being put to waste I make use of them for my SAE. When I am in need of logs I try not to harvest too many living trees. Because taking too many of these big trees is bad for the environment.
10	NRS.03.01 Sustainably produce, harvest, process and use natural resource products (e.g., forest products, wildlife, minerals, fossil fuels, shale oil, alternative energy, recreation, aquatic species, etc.).	To ensure sustainability I transplant trees into the areas I harvest out of. I plant 3 new trees for every 1 I harvest. I try to only use trees that have already fallen if possible. I make sure to assess them and check that they are not rotting. I choose to use already fallen trees because this is easier on the environment.





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Leadership/FFA Activities

Activity	Chapter	Area, District or Region	State	National Finals Multi-State	National
Chapter Officer- Parliamentarian	22				
Chapter Officer- President	24				
Chapter Officer- Treasurer	23				
District Banquet		23,24			
District Floriculture		23			
Home Site Evaluation			24		
Land Judging			21,24		
Leader Lab			23		
National Convention					23
Proficiency Award		23,24			
SAE Grant			24		23
State Convention			21,22,23,24		
State Vet Science			24		





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Community Service

### 2022

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Washington City	Helped set up, take down, and direct traffic at the horse soldier monument. Officers of the FFA helped volunteer.	6.00
Omaha Animal Sanctuary	Cleaned kennels, fed and walked the animals, volunteering time through Trinity Youth Group	4.00
TOTAL		10.00

### 2023

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Edith's House Food Pantry	Helped at our local food pantry sending out food and organizing it inside.	3.00
TOTAL		3.00

### 2024

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Individuals of the community	Worked to serve food at Dine For a Dime for anyone who needed it at free will donation.	8.00
The Gathering Table in KC	Made food for homeless, cleaned, painted walls, and volunteer work through Trinity Youth Group.	10.00
TOTAL		18.00

### Qualification Check

	Your Value	Condition
At least 2 different activities	5	MET
At least 25 hours	31.0	MET





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## Checklist of Minimum Qualifications

Item	Value
Candidate has been an active FFA member for at least 24 months.	MET
Candidate has the Chapter and Greenhand FFA Degree.	MET
Applicant must have completed at least 2 full years (360 hours) of agriculture, or all of the agriculture offered at the school last attended.	MET
Non-cash income and expense is balanced each year on the Income/Expense Report.	MET
Accuracy Check for the Balance Sheet (Assets = Liabilities + Equity) & Growth	MET
Candidate has recorded of at least 25 hours community service and at least 2 different activities. (Organizations and activities must be manually reviewed in records.)	PENDING REVIEW
Student qualifies for the Degree with earnings, productively invested, and hours.	MET
Student has done at least 8 activities above the chapter level. Activities must be manually reviewed in records.	PENDING REVIEW
Candidate has obtained the required electronic signatures and approvals.	MET





# 2025 Kansas State Degree

## State Degree Manual Review Sheet of Qualifications

Circle	Initial
Y N	

1. Has the candidate been a chapter officer or serve on a major committee as listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter FFA Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ FFA Committee Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ FFA Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle	Initial
Y N	

2. Has the candidate performed at least 10 Parliamentary Procedure abilities?

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Circle	Initial
Y N	

3. Has the candidate given a six-minute agricultural related speech or demonstration? Please provide details below.

1. (Title) \_\_\_\_\_ (Length) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle	Initial
Y N	

4. Has the candidate attached signed SAE agreements (or SAE plans) for all SAEs listed in the application?  
(Attached to this application)

Circle	Initial
Y N	

5. Are all the Skills, Competency, and Knowledge listed in the application complete and accurately represents the student's experiences.

Circle	Initial
Y N	

6. As the advisor, I have reviewed the complete application and information listed in this manual review sheet and confirms the candidate's information is accurate and meets all qualifications.

**All information is accurate and represents the work of the student.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of FFA Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# State Star in Agribusiness

**KS**

**KS0178**

604616700



## Applicant Information

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Candidate Name

McKenzie Baker

FFA Chapter Name

Washington County

## Star Type

---

Application Type

Star in Agribusiness

Application Level

State

## Primary Pathway

---

Natural Resource Systems

## Submission Order

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Organize and print your entire application in the following order:

1. FFA Degree Application
2. FFA Star Application
3. Additional Application Attachments







# State Star in Agribusiness

## Performance Review A

### **1. Describe the SAE project(s) included in this application as completely and specifically as possible in the space allowed.**

My SAE is going all the way from a tree to a finished product. The first step is to either find down or damaged trees to collect or to select mature trees to harvest. The harvested trees come from my family's farmland. Once the trees have been collected or harvested they are loaded on a trailer and hauled home. When the trees are home they are analyzed to optimize the maximum amount of lumber that can be milled from them. The logs are loaded on the sawmill and milled into various lengths and thicknesses. The milled lumber is then carefully stacked, with spacers in between layers, to dry. The trees I have milled so far include ash, cedar, oak, walnut, red elm, mulberry, Kentucky coffee tree, and osage orange. The lumber takes anywhere from one year to three years to dry depending on the thickness of the cut of the plank, as a rule of thumb one can figure one year of drying per inch of thickness. Once it is dry I plane the boards down into the desired thickness for the specific board size. I also sell some of the unfinished lumber. I also do custom milling for customers who want their logs milled. I have also donated them to places like our local FFA alumni auction.

### **2. Briefly explain how your roles, responsibilities, and/or management decisions related to this award area changed.**

When I first started there was mostly just hard work and laying the foundation for growing my SAE. What I mean by this is that when I first started I had to harvest the trees, mill them, and get them all stacked to start the drying process. Then once the planks got dry my role changed. I had to shift gears and decide on a product to produce and sell. I decided on wooden American flags for my first product. The flags are made of alternating ash and cedar for the stripes, thus the coloring of the stripes is natural. The star section of the flag is also made of ash but is stained blue and I used a stencil for the white stars. Later I started to do custom engraving on the flags as well. After the word got out that I could make custom wood products I have gotten orders for tables, bars, and more. Managing my business has not been easy. I want to turn out a custom-made finished product made out of solid wood. The problem is finding a product that I can make fairly quickly and efficiently to keep the cost down so my customers will want to buy it. I have even started taking some products to craft fairs to try to boost sales. My responsibilities have also become more enhanced. I have to keep track of custom orders and manage my time to try to get the orders out in a timely manner. Therefore my roles and responsibilities changed from simply startup and hard work to taking orders and marketing finished products.

### **3. Briefly explain what is the single greatest challenge you faced in this award area and how did you overcome that challenge?**

The greatest challenge I have had is learning how to efficiently and safely run the proper harvesting and milling tools. For a long time, I have seen my dad work with many tools such as a chainsaw. To me standing there watching it seems easy. This, however, is far from the truth. A chainsaw is a very useful yet dangerous tool if not used properly. My dad started out slowly teaching me how to properly use a chainsaw. He would explain and demonstrate the possible dangers if the saw was not respected and used appropriately as the dangerous tool that it is. He always made sure that I was wearing all the proper safety equipment. I went from knowing very little, just watching, to being able to safely and efficiently operate the chainsaw but still with supervision for safety. I also had to learn to run my dad's sawmill. There is a lot that goes into safely operating a sawmill. First, the blade has to be tensioned properly next, the mill has to be started. The log has to be analyzed and I have to decide what dimensions I want to cut the planks. Once I decide this I square the log up and go to work cutting the various planks. I have to make sure that I set the soap water drip right to keep the blade lubed and cool. The thickness of the cuts is controlled by cranking the mill and watching the gauge. It is also important to have the proper safety equipment on during milling. I am proud of myself for overcoming this challenge and am now able to properly and safely run the equipment.





# State Star in Agribusiness

## Performance Review B

**Briefly explain your two greatest accomplishments or findings in this award area.**

### **Accomplishment/Finding #1**

My first greatest accomplishment was being able to work with my Dad. My Dad has always liked woodworking and is always making custom wood products for my family or others. My Dad got me interested in woodworking at a young age. We would often make wood products for family members in the garage. I enjoyed watching Dad make these products and helping where I could. So, when I started thinking about an SAE I thought this would be a good fit as well as very unique. Mostly I thought I would learn a lot from my Dad and be able to work with him. I really enjoy working with Dad and learning how to woodwork. Family is very important to me and learning and growing my SAE with my Dad would be a huge accomplishment.

### **Accomplishment/Finding #2**

My second greatest accomplishment would be coming up with the original idea for my SAE. I brainstormed for a long time trying to come up with a good idea to do for my SAE. I wanted something that would be fun but also beneficial to others. I also wanted it to be something I had some previous knowledge about and I knew some about woodworking. I have only grown and gotten better with my skills as my SAE has gone on over time. When I came up with McKenzie's Custom Kutts I was very excited to get started and proud of my new business idea.

**Name one issue, trend, technology or public policy that has impacted your SAE project or the industry your SAE project falls in and describe the specific impact on your SAE project.**

When people want to buy boards from me they want all different kinds of boards. I have to know what the trends are at the time because at certain times the general population is more into dark woods. At some times the population likes the look of wood with more knots in it. I try to keep track of these trends so that I know what I should have in my inventory. I need to stay ahead of it because planks take a year to dry for every inch of thickness so it is vital to have plenty of inventory. At some times it is also trending to have thicker boards for things like mantels. If I know that this is a common trend then I will get more inventory of thicker planks.





# State Star in Agribusiness

## Performance Review C

**Specify your career objective and describe the career exploration and research steps you performed to select this career.**

I plan to become a veterinarian. Though this may not seem like it connects to my SAE of logging milling and woodworking, it does in many ways. In my business it is very important to me that I work hard constantly, I need to do this to keep up with the demand. I will also have to work very hard in vet school to become a veterinarian and after at my job with the animals. Another thing that is very important to me in my SAE is communication. I want to communicate clearly with my customers so they can get the product they want from me. Good clear communication will also be very important when I become a vet because the animals can not tell me what is wrong so I need to be able to have good communication with the owners to figure it out.

**Describe two experiences, activities, or opportunities provided by this SAE project and explain how they have helped you explore this career choice.**

### **Experience/Activity/Opportunity #1**

One experience I had while working on my SAE was that I had to get my projects done in a timely manner. When I have an order it is very important to get the product on time. This taught me that meeting a deadline is very important. I coordinate with my customers and record when they need their custom orders delivered. It is vital to work closely with my customers because it takes a year for every inch of thickness to dry the boards. I have to communicate the timeline to my customers so we are on the same page. I strive to keep up with orders and get them done efficiently, professionally, and courteously. When I enter the workforce there will always be deadlines and this has helped teach me the importance of setting and meeting deadlines.

### **Experience/Activity/Opportunity #2**

A second experience I have had through my SAE was when I started getting custom orders I had to work closely with the customer and take notes to be sure to produce exactly what they desired. I made sure to make a sketch with the measurements on it along with the customer's name and contact information. Once the sketch was complete I would go over it with the customer to ensure the details were right. This taught me to listen to my customer's wants and needs. Communication is very important and listening to the wants and needs of others will always be important when trying to be an entrepreneur and run your own business. This experience will help me in the future when interacting with others and satisfying their wants and needs.





# State Star in Agribusiness

## Learning Outcomes & Efficiency Factors

Learning Outcome or Efficiency Factor		Beginning Level	Level Attained	Description
1	Customer communication	<u>2022</u> 50	<u>2024</u> 90	When I first began my SAE I was very quiet and had trouble talking to people at times. With some help and practice, I have gotten much better at communication. I know that it is of the utmost importance to get the customers the product they desire. This happens through good customer communication.
2	Safety	<u>2022</u> 100	<u>2024</u> 100	I try to keep the most safe possible and haven't ever had any accidents or injuries involving my SAE. I always make sure to wear all the protective gear necessary. For some tools, I may need to have gloves. For different tools, I may need to have long sleeves on and gloves. Always safety glasses.
3	Saw operator	<u>2022</u> 20%	<u>2024</u> 85%	When I first started harvesting logs I closely watched my Dad operate a chainsaw paying close attention to safety. I slowly learned how to safely operate the chainsaw. Then I could operate a saw and aid in harvesting activities under close supervision of my Dad. I can now operate the saw by myself.
4	Sawyer	<u>2022</u> 15%	<u>2024</u> 65%	The first year I closely observed my Dad operating the sawmill while I was moving and stacking the planks. I would frequently ask questions to increase my knowledge of what we were doing. I now can take more of a lead operating the sawmill but still not without the help of my dad.
5	Wood worker	<u>2022</u> 40%	<u>2024</u> 90%	I started out having some knowledge of woodworking through classes in school. This helped me to be able to participate in making products right from the start. Now I have a greater understanding of the tools and knowledge of how to make finished products while paying close attention to detail.





## A. Five Primary Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge within your Pathway

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
1	NRS.02.02 Assess the impact of human activities on the availability of natural resources.	I understand that overharvesting trees could be damaging to the environment. I utilize trees that people are dosing. Instead of these trees being put to waste I make use of them for my SAE. When I am in need of logs I try not to harvest too many living trees. Because taking too many of these big trees is bad for the environment.
2	NRS.01.02 Classify different types of natural resources in order to enable protection, conservation, enhancement and management in a particular geographical region.	When looking for potential trees to harvest I also look for trees that may be good harvest trees in the future. When I find trees that still need time to grow I will clear out other smaller trees around it to give it more space to grow. If the tree needs to be pruned to encourage desirable growth I will do that as well. This helps me to conserve and manage trees for the future. Keeping an eye on these trees helps ensure they will be there and healthy to be harvested later.
3	NRS.03.01 Sustainably produce, harvest, process and use natural resource products (e.g., forest products, wildlife, minerals, fossil fuels, shale oil, alternative energy, recreation, aquatic species, etc.).	When choosing and harvesting trees I try to only harvest what I feel that I can use. This helps to keep the number of trees on our land sustainable. This makes me a good steward of the land. I try to only take enough trees to keep my inventory of wood ahead of what I will need to build finish products.
4	NRS.04.01 Demonstrate natural resource protection, maintenance, enhancement and improvement techniques.	When looking for potential logs I will look for saplings that have started growing that may turn into potential saw logs. Even if these trees are not in a wooded area I will flag them and let them grow. I will check on them and keep unwanted trees cleared so they can grow without competition for future usage. Getting these trees started growing straight early ensures they will be a good saw log in the future.
5	NRS.04.04 Manage fires in natural resource systems.	When I harvest a log or tree I will clean up what is left. This helps to eliminate any unwanted fuel lying around that may be fuel for a fire. A fire in an unwanted place could damage trees that could potentially be harvested in the future. That is why I try to clean up. I know a few people who burn firewood and I try to clean up and give the firewood to them. This way the entire tree is utilized and not wasted.

## B. Two Supporting Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge from any Pathway

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
6	ABS.02.01 Apply fundamental accounting principles, systems, tools and applicable laws and regulations to record, track and audit AFNR business transactions (e.g., accounts, debits, credits, assets, liabilities, equity, etc.).	I keep a record book that keeps track of all the expenses and income of my SAE. In a business, it is important to keep track of this. One does not want to run a business that is losing money and without keeping accurate records one wouldn't know how the business is doing financially. This way I can keep track of how my SAE is doing financially and if something needs to change to make the business more financially profitable.
7	ABS.04.01 Analyze characteristics and planning requirements associated with developing business plans for different types of AFNR businesses.	There has to be a certain amount of planning that goes into my SAE. I have to have a design for what I am getting ready to build as well as what type of wood and what parts I will need to produce the finished product. Creating these plans ahead of production helps save time and helps to more efficiently produce finished products. Along with this, I have to meet with customers and together make a plan and drawing of the desired finished product, ensuring the customer gets exactly what they want.

## C. Three Career Ready Practice and/or Cluster Skills standards



AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
8	CRP.05.02 Make, defend and evaluate decisions at work and in the community using information about the potential environmental, social and economic impacts.	I chose this SAE because of my early interest in woodworking. Watching and helping my dad do woodworking made me want to further my skills. Through my SAE I have been able to keep growing my skills and knowledge of woodworking. My desire to make new products has only grown with every opportunity and challenge I have faced. I am excited for the future and to keep growing my business.
9	CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.	It is very important to be responsible when trying to operate a business. One must hold oneself to a high standard when it comes to personal responsibility. It is very easy to become lazy when running your own business and there is no one to answer to. One has a responsibility to one's customers and must remain diligent in one's work. The products must be finished on time to keep the business running smoothly and to have a reputable business.
10	CRP.04.03 Model active listening strategies when interacting with others in formal and informal settings.	When customers order products from me I make sure to listen carefully. I want to make sure they get just the product they desire. I also listen to criticism to adapt my business to the customers' desires. As a business owner, I want to always do what I can to have satisfied customers. One easy way to do this is to listen carefully to what the customer wants.





# State Star in Agribusiness

## Resume

### Objective

I would like to continue my SAE and thoroughly enjoy doing it. I plan to continue as much as possible while in college to help pay for college. After high school, I plan to pursue a degree as a doctor of veterinary medicine. Living on a farm, I have always loved being around animals. This led me to choose this career path. I also enjoy helping people and therefore helping their pets.

### Agricultural Classes/Coursework

In high school, I took an animal science class and a vet science class. These helped me to learn some important terminology and basic knowledge of animals and veterinary practices. I have also taken many of my general education classes already in high school. Because I know how hard vet school can be I wanted to get these done and out of the way while I was still in high school. I have also worked at two veterinary clinics which has helped me to gain knowledge that will put me ahead of other applicants to vet school. My SAE has also helped me to gain skills necessary to be a vet like good communication, time management, and hard work. I have worked throughout highschool to become as prepared as I can be to become a veterinarian.

### SAE

My SAE is McKenzie's Custom Kutts. I start with a tree, either standing or lying. If it has already fallen it is 1 step closer to making it home. If it is still alive and standing, I use a chainsaw to cut it down. I then turn it into a log, by cutting branches and knobby bark off. Then take it to the highly desirable product: boards. I harvest logs from my family's farmland, mill them into planks using my dad's sawmill, and let them dry. Planks have to dry one year for every inch of thickness. I have an inventory of many different kinds of wood such as Kentucky Coffee tree, Ash, Cedar, Walnut, Oak, Red Elm, Mulberry, and more. Once they are dry, I sell them.

### FFA Leadership

I have had lots of leadership opportunities throughout my time in FFA. I have been a part of many different career development events such as public speaking, land judging, home site evaluation, floriculture, and vet science. As I did these events for more years I became a leader for the new members to look up to and ask questions. I have had to work my way up in the ranks. I started my sophomore year as our chapter parliamentarian, then treasurer and I am now our chapter president. I have also been in many personal development activities like going to the leader lab. Because of being so big in my SAE, I have become an example for younger or new members of the possibilities FFA has to offer.

### FFA Activities

I have been in FFA all four years of high school. I have tried and been involved in many activities throughout this time. I have participated in vet science, floriculture, home site evaluation, land judging, public speaking, dairy cattle judging, and livestock judging. Even if I wasn't amazing at these activities I still gave it a try for the benefit of our chapter team in the contest. The biggest thing I am involved in in FFA is my SAE it has helped me to gain any skills that will be valuable to me for the rest of my life.

### Community Service

I am in the Trinity Youth Group and we do many things throughout the year for the community. Examples of what we do is running Dine for a Dime at the Methodist Church, helping with the Angel Tree project, and help out at the 3 churches when needed. Through the Catholic Youth Organization and Trinity Youth Group, I have been on two Mission Trips. We do mission work in inner city Omaha and downtown Kansas City. I have also done community service through the FFA. My favorite was helping to prepare and orchestrate the horse soldier monument celebration. I also have been an assistant coach for many years for youth softball and basketball. I love to coach the sports that I enjoy, spend time with the kids, and watch them grow.

### School and Extracurricular Involvement

I am heavily involved in our high school. I have been in cross-country, basketball, and track. I participated in powerlifting for 1 year before I suffered an injury. I am also involved in clubs like FFA. I have been an FFA officer for three out of four years as a parliamentarian, and treasurer, and am the current Chapter president. My SAE project has been very successful. I was a STUCO officer for two years. I have been in FBLA, Art Club, and band for one year. I have been a member of the National Honor Society for two years. I have been on the President's Honor Roll throughout High School and was recognized last year at the Elks Lodge as being the Top 4 in the class.



**Awards and Honors**

I have been very invested in my SAE during my time in FFA. I have won local, district, and state awards with it. I have also taken that same project and used it as my Proficiency Project and won a national award with it. I have also competed in CDEs and won many district and state metals for those. When our chapter has fundraisers I am always one of the top sellers. I have also lettered all 4 years in all of the sports I am involved in. I have gone to state cross country three years and state track three years so far. I have also been a part of our two-time state track champion team. I take great pride in our school and FFA I always put my best foot forward and give the most effort possible in all the activities I am involved in.

**Certifications**

none

**Skills**

I have learned many skills at my jobs at the vets. Like knowledge of what temperature an animal should be at. I know how to take an animal's temperature. I know how to properly restrain animals. I know how to puncture a jugular. I have also learned many personal skills like talking to people, answering phones, these kinds of things. My SAE has also taught me a lot about personable skills because the whole way through the process I make sure to keep in contact with my customers to make sure I get exactly what they want. I also have learned about time management skills so I can get my customer their items on time.

**References**

John Kern- FFA advisor 785-541-0246

Ali Busch- Counselor 785-477-8125

Philip Bentz- Employer 785-541-0261







# State Star in Agribusiness

## Personal History

**Provide a narrative story of your personal achievements. Work within the character count and review your PDF to limit your final report to a maximum length of 3 pages.**

I have always been heavily involved in our chapter. When I was just a freshman I knew I wanted to be in FFA because of what the organization had to offer me. Our FFA Chapter has an Alumni Fish Fry and auction every year in February and it's one of my favorite events for our Chapter. There is something about seeing our Alumni, which was recognized nationally as outstanding alumni and supporters chapter, support all of us high schoolers in our official dress as we all work together to put on an event attended by people who support our Chapter. There is a lot of preparation to be done beforehand. We must prepare the fish by cutting it up and bagging it. We also must set up and decorate the venue for about 250 people. We have a live auction, so we must set up a display of the 100 items to be auctioned. On the day there is a lot to be done. The alumni does a lot, but so does the Chapter. I have been on many committees, such as displaying items as they sell, serving food, cleaning, helping people carry their plates, recording who purchases items and for how much. Being a Chapter officer the last 3 years, I have also helped figure the grand profit total after expenses are taken out of money earned from donations and auction sales.

Another leadership opportunity is being involved in our very successful and profitable Fruit, Meat, and Cheese Sale. I have always been a top 10 seller in our Chapter. I take pride in this because I know it's for the good of the Chapter. It was a bit of a challenge my Junior and Senior years because one of my brothers entered high school and joined FFA, so I had to share "my people" with him. I just pushed myself to find more people in our community that were willing to support our Chapter. I feel like I lead our Chapter by being a top seller because it pushes others to sell more in order to remain in the top 10. I know that the profit is beneficial to our Chapter. Our Chapter uses this money to pay for events our Chapter chooses to attend, including State and National Conventions, leadership opportunities, and Chapter bonding experiences, like our yearly Christmas bowling party. Another leadership opportunity for me through the Sale has come because I have been a Chapter officer the last 3 years. I help in tallying and double-checking all orders, unloading delivery trucks when they come, organizing all sales in our ag shop, double-checking member's orders before they deliver, and assisting our advisor. The Sale is a huge event for our Chapter. It must be well organized in order to have the success it does every year. This year alone we made about \$44,000.

I have served as a leader for our Chapter for 3 out of 4 years of high school. My sophomore year, I was elected as Parliamentarian. I was responsible for insuring that meetings ran smoothly and correctly. I also stepped up and helped on many committees. My junior year, I was elected as treasurer. My job was to track our money throughout my year in this position. Our main income came from dues, Fruit, Meat, and Cheese Sale, and our Alumni Auction. Our main expenses was funding the group that went to National Convention, overall hotel expenses, and our Chapter Christmas bowling party. My strongest leadership year has been this year as I am currently our Chapter president. I must lead Chapter and Officer meetings, plan events with the help of my other officers and advisor, create committees, be the main leader for our Fruit, Meat, and Cheese Sale, organize and lead our Chapter Banquet, and assist my advisor in any way needed.

Another Leadership experience I have had is my SAE, McKenzie's Custom Kuts. This is the part of FFA that I am most involved and invested in. I have worked hard the last 4 years to grow and expand it. I won a National Grant my junior year and have had many other state and district awards for my SAE. Through my awards, I am showing others in our Chapter that it is possible to succeed even though we are a small school. As a chapter officer, I have encouraged others to start SAE's. I often talk them through what area they should enter their SAE in and give advice during the application process.

In the past our Chapter was very competitive at many competitions and various levels. During Covid and for a while after we were not allowed to attend conferences and has struggled to be as competitive as we once were. I am doing my best to lead our Chapter back to being competitive and recognized across the state and eventually nationally!

Another leadership experience I have had is being the head of different CDE teams. I have been on numerous competition teams and I always have made some kind of study tools to help me and my team to better learn the information. I help in making items used to study such as flashcards or practice tests for the other team members. I am proud to take on the leadership role in this organization because I know that I am helping others better prepare for their competitions. Doing well at competitions allow our Chapter to receive more recognition. Currently, I am creating flashcards to help study for Vet Science. The flashcards and practice tests I have created will be left with the Chapter when I graduate. I anticipate that these tools can assist other FFA students for many years. My contributions will help the betterment of the future of Washington County FFA competition teams.

Now that I have been in FFA for four years I am so happy to have chosen to do it. FFA has helped me to gain many personable skills and has also helped me to grow as a leader. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in FFA and have grown as a person because of this amazing organization.





## State Star in Agribusiness

Safety Photo #1



**This picture shows me getting the sawmill out of the shed. You must check the sawmill over every time to make sure it is functioning properly and safely. The blade must be mentioned and checked for sharpness. It is very important to have a sharp blade as it is safer and makes cleaner cuts. You also must make sure that the water tank is full of water with a little soap added. The soapy water is used to lubricate the blade.**





## **State Star in Agribusiness**

### **Safety Photo #2**



**Here I am pictured trimming up a log before moving it to the sawmill. Chainsaws are very dangerous and one must take great precautions when using one. The chain needs to be properly tensioned and sharpened before cutting or trimming. When doing anything with woodworking I also make sure to wear protective gear like safety glasses.**





# State Star in Agribusiness

Project Photo #3



**This picture shows me assessing logs. I look over the pile of logs and identify the type of tree and try to figure out which logs I should mill first. I base my decision on what types of planks I need more inventory of. If I need bigger boards in inventory I will try to pick the biggest log of that type of tree.**





## State Star in Agribusiness

Project Photo #4



Here is a picture of me stacking planks of wood after being milled. Planks have to dry for one year for every inch of thickness. I strive to keep a good inventory of dry planks on hand. The planks have to have spacers put in them every two feet so they get plenty of airflow. I have to be meticulous when stacking to make sure the planks and slats all line up so the planks dry evenly and don't warp. Sometimes weight has to be added to the top of the stack to ensure it doesn't warp.







## State Star in Agribusiness

Project Photo #5



**This picture shows me cleaning up the logs. I try to de-bark the logs as much as possible before I take them to the sawmill. This helps to have less mess and clutter when milling. The less mess around the sawmill the safer it is because of fewer tripping hazards. It also makes it safer because it causes fewer slips when moving from the skid loader to the sawmill thus causing a safer work environment. Once on the sawmill, the log is clamped in so it can't slip or roll off.**





## State Star in Agribusiness

Project Photo #6



In this picture, I am checking the stacks to see if there are any problems that need remedy. If there are warps I would add more weight to help get them out. I also may have to take the stack apart and turn a plank over to get out a warp. Once a stack is dry I take out the slats and re-stack it then reuse the slats for some new planks to dry. You never want to take out the slats if the wood isn't dry yet because this can cause problems like rot. I always make sure to check that the wood is dry.





# State Star in Agribusiness

## Checklist of Minimum Qualifications

- Missing, Error, or Not Met indicates a condition causing the candidate not to qualify for the degree.
- Review indicates a condition that will require additional explanation or documentation.
- Only computer-generated checks are shown here. The PDF application includes additional manual checks.
- Regardless of the qualifications shown here, FFA staff and reviewers may contact the advisor or applicant for additional information and evidence, including, but not limited to, SAE agreements and record books.

Item	Value
Candidate has chosen a Star Type and Primary Pathway.	MET
Candidate has fully described and selected one to five Learning Outcomes or Efficiency Factors.	MET
Candidate has fully described all ten Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge.	MET
All pictures include captions.	MET
All pictures include a digital upload.	MET
Required attachments have been uploaded.	MET







# State Star in Agribusiness

## Application Attachments

The following are attachments to include at the end of your application.

### **Attachment 1 - SAE Agreements**

Attach a copy of your most recent SAE partnership, rental, Family Corporation or occupational training agreement.

### **Attachment 2 - Student Recommendations**

Attach three one-page recommendations

1. Agriculture instructor recommendation
2. Two other recommendations (if your SAEs include placement, please include at least one employer recommendation)



# WCHS SAE Agreement

SAE Description(s):

Beginning Date: 1/1/2021

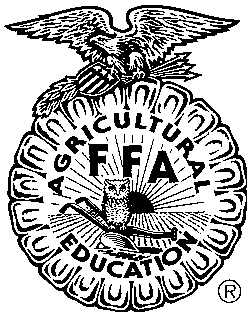
McKenzie's Custom Kutts: I start with a tree, either standing or laying. If it has already fallen it is 1 step closer to making it home. If it is still alive and standing, I use a chainsaw to cut it down. I then turn it into a log, by cutting branches and knobby bark off. Then take it to the highly desirable product: boards. I harvest logs from my family's farmland, mill them into planks using my dad's sawmill, and let them dry. Planks have to dry one year for every inch of thickness. I have an inventory of many different kinds of wood such as Kentucky Coffee tree, Ash, Cedar, Walnut, Oak, Red Elm, Mulberry, and more. Once they are dry, I sell them.

We will continue to monitor the student's SAE program throughout each calendar year. The student will maintain FFA membership and SAE records on all SAE programs. Our signatures verify the validity of the student's program(s) and we have determined that he/she has satisfactory plans to continue the project from this day until all parties involved agree that it has been completed. This agreement is effective immediately and valid for each year of the student's project.

Student Signature: *Anthony Baker*

Parent Signature: *Anthony Baker*

Advisor Signature: *WCK*



# *National FFA Organization*

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION STUDENTS

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## **Washington County FFA Chapter**

February 10, 2025

To the members of the Kansas State Star in Agribusiness Selection Committee:

McKenzie Baker has been enrolled in four different Agriculture classes during her high school career. She has been involved in a variety of activities and organizations as well as FFA. Her future plans are to attend college and obtain a career in the field of veterinary science.

McKenzie is currently the President of our FFA chapter and has participated in several leadership and personal development activities; serving as a chapter officer the past three years. McKenzie has also served as a leader on our parliamentary procedure and Greenhand leadership team and has finished in the top ten individually at the district level in several FFA events. She has also participated in several other career development activities including Prepared Public Speaking, Land Judging, Livestock Evaluation, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Veterinary Science and Floriculture. Her leadership abilities and contributions are very important to the successes of our FFA program. She has been involved in several opportunities to serve as an advocate for agriculture to the youth of our community.

McKenzie has served as an active member of our community development programs. She has helped by assisting the Farm Bureau with their Agricultural Safety Day as a Group Leader and Presenter. She has also assisted with a Landscaping Project that our FFA group did for a local church. She has contributed to many of our fundraising activities such as working in our plant sale and being a top salesperson in our Fruit/Meat/Cheese sales for the past four years.

McKenzie's Supervised Agricultural Experience Program consists owning and managing her own forestry and lumber processing business. She also has developed skills by working at the Animal Health Center in Washington and for her parents on their beef ranch. McKenzie is a candidate for the 2025 North Central District Star in Agribusiness and will be receiving her State FFA Degree at the State FFA Convention in May. McKenzie is also the district Proficiency Award winner in Forestry Production and will be very competitive for the state award this spring.

She is very helpful in conducting and coordinating many of the activities we have. McKenzie is trustworthy, honest and very dependable. I would proudly recommend her as a recipient of this honor!

Sincerely,

John R. Kern  
Agriculture Education Instructor  
Washington County FFA Advisor  
Washington County High School

## Kansas State Star in Agribusiness

### Selection Committee

I am writing this letter to recommend McKenzie Baker for Star in Agribusiness. McKenzie has created and worked very hard on her SAE, McKenzie's Custom Kutts, over the past four years. She chose a really unique and rewarding SAE. McKenzie's process starts with finding and harvesting trees to be used for milling. Most of the trees collected are from family farms. She tries to only harvest damaged or downed trees as a first option. She will also utilize other trees if they are going to be taken out anyway for farming practices. McKenzie used her local Chapter grant to purchase a chainsaw to aid in harvesting and trimming the logs. After the logs are harvested she hauls them home, with the aid of the farms flatbed trailer and skid loader. She then mills the logs on her father's sawmill to varying thicknesses and lengths. It takes about one year per inch of thickness for the planks to naturally dry. She takes the planks and stacks them in various places to dry. She has to place slats between the layers about two feet apart to ensure plentiful air flow for the drying process. When McKenzie received a National grant she used the money to help purchase a 40 foot container to start storing lumber in as well. Once the planks are dried, she sells some of them to her non-SAE business to turn them into various crafts and fine furniture. McKenzie has thousands of board feet of lumber stacked and drying. Being a good Stuard of the land McKenzie plants trees to help replenish what she harvests. She will also find and groom other trees to ensure that they grow in a desired straightness for future milling. McKenzie also started to do some custom milling for customers as well to add to her SAE once got more comfortable running the mill. McKenzie chose a very demanding SAE and stepped out on a limb for an SAE that is very different. She has grown her SAE over the years and has put in a lot of hard work to accomplish it. McKenzie's other business has made several projects out of the milled lumber and donated to the annual FFA Alumni Auction each year. I would highly recommend McKenzie Baker, McKenzie's Custom Kutts, for Star in Agribusiness.

Thanks

Jerry Baker



# Washington County Schools USD 108

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March 4, 2025

Kansas State Star in Agribusiness Selection Committee;

I am writing this nomination letter on behalf of McKenzie Baker to demonstrate my high regard for her. I have known McKenzie in the capacity as a student at Washington Jr. Sr. High School where I am the School Counselor. She is an outstanding student and a very qualified recipient of such a prestigious award.

McKenzie has and continues to work hard in most things that she does. She is a stand out athlete, very committed in the classroom, and a peer that looks out for others. She is very dedicated to her goals and wanting to make accomplishments happen. McKenzie is a natural born leader. Her willingness to assist peers or teachers within the classroom is often observed.

She has taken upper level courses, college classes, and stood out in her involvement in our local FFA organization. I know she has been very committed in her SAE project and done an outstanding job managing her business. I think she is of strong character that is an attractive feature to encourage younger students to want to join FFA. McKenzie is a member of our National Honor Society Chapter and demonstrates numerous qualities of the pillars of success; Scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

McKenzie is highly motivated and has the ability to learn quickly. She is open to feedback and strives to become better. Her enthusiasm for continued learning will be an asset to anyone that works with her. Having a work ethic that stays engaged until a task is completed of high quality, is something that McKenzie Baker does with ease. I believe this incredible work ethic, commitment to growing in the agriculture community, and ability to impact others make her a stand out candidate!

Sincerely,

Ali Busch