



2025 Kansas State Degree

KS

KS0133

604163360

4 KAN



Student Approval

Applicant Name

Clay Roper Guttery

Chapter Name

Osborne 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.

2/7/2025 11:21:00 AM

Date

Clay Guttery

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.

2/7/2025 11:37:00 AM

Date

Shana Guttery guttery@ruraltel.net

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.

2/10/2025 11:53:00 AM

Date

Jason Wilson jwilson@usd392.com

School Principal or Superintendent



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Applicant Contact Information

Name as you want it to appear on the certificate

Clay Roper Guttery

Gender

Male

Address

769 S 220th Ave

City

Alton

State

KS

Zip Code

67623

Email Address

2025cguttery@usd392.com

Name on the FFA Chapter Roster (if different)

Clay Guttery

Name Pronunciation

Home Phone

785-476-8923

Parent/Guardian Name

Brice Guttery

Parent/Guardian Occupation

Farmer/Rancher

Parent/Guardian Name

Shana Guttery

Parent/Guardian Occupation

Farmer/Rancher

Chapter Information

FFA Chapter Name

Osborne County FFA

School Name

Osborne County High School

School Address

219 N 2nd St

School City

Osborne

School State

KS

School Zip Code

67473-2003

School Phone

7853462143

Chapter Advisor(s)

Kevin Veatch

FFA History

Year FFA Membership Began

2020

Year Received Greenhand Degree

2021

Year Received Chapter Degree

2024

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

5.00

Ag Education completed in High School

Years: 4.00 Hours: 720

Postsecondary/Vo-Tech Education Completed

Semesters: 3 Quarters:

Four-year College Completed

Semesters: Quarters:

Major

Non-Degree Seeking

School Attended

Cloud County Community College

Military Duty - Dates of Full-Time Active Military Duty

World Experiences in Agriculture - Date of International Placement





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Basic Award Setup Information

I. Application Dates

Began Agricultural Education
8/19/2020

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	\$4,750	\$11,901
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	\$0	
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	\$2,000
b. Sources of cash from Ag related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$2,150
c. (Deduct) Total Personal Expense/Draw	\$2,907
d. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$1,500





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Supervised Agricultural Experience - Entrepreneurship

2023

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Power, Structural and Technical Systems	Clay's Welding Project Over this year I welded over 200 pipe posts. I quoted and purchased metal, stocked metal, drafted and laid out materials, welded and assembled, and delivered the product to customers. I used the school shop to be able to make these posts (hence the gift in non-cash expenses on income/expense statement). There is no non current inventory in this operation. I sold to 2 customers. I sell them at \$25 per post.	298 posts produced & 298 sold

2024

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Power, Structural and Technical Systems	Clay's Welding Project Over this year I welded over 600 pipe posts. I quoted and purchased metal, stocked metal, drafted and laid out materials, welded and assembled, and delivered the product to customers. I sold to 4 people this year. I used the school shop to be able to make these posts (hence the gift in non-cash expenses on income/expense statement). There is no non current inventory in this operation. I sell them at \$25 per post.	686 posts produced & 586 sold





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Candidate Inventory Statement - Current Inventory

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

Description	Quantity	Value
	TOTAL	

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

Description	Quantity	Value
Welded Pipe Posts (Sold at \$25/post)	86	\$2,150
	TOTAL	\$2,150

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

Description	Quantity	Value
	TOTAL	

D. Raised Market Animals on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Value
	TOTAL	





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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
TOTAL			

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

Description	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Claimed	Value
TOTAL			

I. Land on 12/31/2024

Description	Quantity	Acquisition Cost
	TOTAL	





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Income and Expense Summary of SAE Program

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
1. Revenues from Operations						
a. Closing Current Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,150	\$2,150
b. Beginning Current Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
c. Change in Current Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,150	\$2,150
d. Cash Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,450	\$15,000	\$22,450
e. Value Used at Home (Non-cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
f. Value of Production Transferred to other enterprise, Transferred to Non-Current, Bartered or Labor Exchanged (Non-cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
g. Gross Revenues (Change in Current Inventory and Total Sales)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,450	\$17,150	\$24,600
2. Expenses from Operations						
a. Inventory Purchased for Resale (Cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,558	\$10,484	\$15,042
b. Inventory Purchased for Resale (Non-Cash Transfers)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
c. Cash Expenses (all other types)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
d. Non-Cash Expenses (Transferred, Bartered, or SAE Labor Exchange)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
e. Contributed Non-Cash Expenses (Gift or non-SAE Labor Exchange)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$356	\$853	\$1,209
f. Total Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,914	\$11,337	\$16,251
3. Net Income from Operations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,536	\$5,813	\$8,349
4. Non-Current Inventory						
a. Closing Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
b. Transfer in from Operations (Non-Cash Transfers of non-current assets)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
c. Contributed Inventory (Outside contribution of non-current assets - gift)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
d. Purchases	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
e. Beginning Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
f. Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
g. Non-Cash Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
h. Net Non-Current Transactions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Net Income From Operations & Net Non-Current Transactions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,536	\$5,813	\$8,349
6. Annual Profitability Measures						
a. Operating Profit Margin (OPM) Net Operating Income/Totals Sales = % of sales related to profit				34%	34%	34%
b. % of Total Returns from Net Non-Current Gains (Net Non-Current Gains/Total Gains)						
c. Review Non-Current Ending Inv. Value						
7. Non-Cash Transfer/Exchange Review						
a. Check if Non-Cash Transactions are Balanced	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
b. Difference that non-cash income categories Non-Cash minus Non-Current Expenses are off	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0





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Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Assets & Liabilities

A. Assets	Beginning Value	Ending Value
1. Current Assets		
a. Cash on hand, checking and savings	\$4,750	\$11,901
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	\$0
2. Investment in feed, seed, fertilizer, chemical, supplies, prepaid expenses, and other current assets	\$0	\$2,150
3. Investment in merchandise, crops, and animals purchased for resale	\$0	\$0
4. Investment in raised market animals	\$0	\$0
e. Total Current Inventory	\$0	\$2,150
f. Total Current Assets	\$4,750	\$14,051
2. Non-Current Assets		
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	\$0	\$0
4. Investment in depreciable land improvements, buildings, and fences	\$0	\$0
5. Investment in land	\$0	\$0
b. Total Non-Current Assets	\$0	\$0
3. Total Assets	\$4,750	\$14,051
B. Liabilities		
1. Current Liabilities		
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. Total Current Liabilities	\$0	\$0
2. Non-Current Liabilities		
a. Real Estate Mortgages	\$0	\$0
b. Other Non-Current Liabilities	\$0	\$0
c. Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$0	\$0
3. Total Liabilities	\$0	\$0





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Financial Balance Sheet Information - Personal Contribution & Net Worth

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

1. Beginning Value	\$4,750
2. Sources of Cash Gifts	\$2,000
3. Sources of Cash from Ag Related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$2,150
4. Sources of Non-Cash Contributions (Current and Non-Current)	\$1,209
5. (Deduct) Non-Cash Sales for "Used at Home"	\$0
6. (Deduct) Total Personal Draw	\$2,907
7. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$1,500
8. Net Personal Contribution	\$5,702

D. Net Worth	Beginning Value	Ending Value
1. Contributed Capital (Represents the value of personal contribution)	\$4,750	\$5,702
2. Retained Earnings (Represents the value of SAE net income, entrepreneurship, placement, research)		\$8,349
3. Total Net Worth	\$4,750	\$14,051
4. Total Liabilities & Net Worth	\$4,750	\$14,051
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
4. Total Growth in Equity		\$9,301
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)	\$4,750	\$14,051





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Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Earnings & Productively Invested

G. SAE Earnings

1. Placement SAE Earnings (Cash)	\$0
2. Entrepreneurship SAE Earnings (Cash & Non-Cash)	\$8,349
3. Total SAE Earnings (Retained Earnings)	\$8,349

H. Productively Invested

1. Change in Net Worth (Productively Invested from Operations)	\$9,301
2. (Add) Total Educational Expenses (Personal Use)	\$1,500
3. (Deduct) Net Sources of Assets from Gifts or Non-SAE	\$2,452
4. Total Growth in Productively Invested	\$8,349

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
Qualified under at least one option (Details of each option are listed below)		Met
Option 1 Conditions - Qualification on Finances		
a. Productively Invested at least \$2000	\$8,349	Met
b. SAE Earnings at least \$2000	\$8,349	Met
Option 2 Conditions - Qualification on Unpaid Hours		
a. Unpaid Hours at least 600	0	
Option 3 Conditions - Qualification on Combination		
a. Unpaid Hours/600 + Productively Invested/\$2000 is at least 100%	417%	Met
b. Unpaid Hours/600 + SAE Earnings/\$2000 is at least 100%	417%	Met





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Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge

A. Skills, Competencies, Knowledge

AFNR Performance Indicator		Contributions to Success
10	PST.04.03 Follow architectural and mechanical plans to construct, maintain and/or repair AFNR structures (e.g., material selection, site preparation and/or layout, plumbing, concrete/masonry, etc.).	I carefully select the most suitable materials for fence posts by considering factors such as price, durability, and the reputation of the distributor. I evaluate various material options, comparing their long-term performance, resistance to weather conditions, and maintenance requirements. Additionally, I research the distributor's track record for reliability and product quality to ensure I'm making a solid investment in materials that will provide consistent, durable results.
4	PST.02.02 Operate machinery and equipment while observing all safety precautions in AFNR settings.	I always wear proper protective equipment when operating the MIG welder and metal cut-off saw to ensure my safety. This includes safety eyewear to shield against sparks and debris, a welding jacket for protection from heat and splatter, and flame-resistant clothing to prevent burns. Wearing the right gear minimizes the risk of injury and enhances workplace safety. I also follow all safety protocols and regularly inspect my equipment to ensure compliance.
3	PST.04.01 Create sketches and plans for AFNR structures.	I create a precise, to-scale blueprint detailing all dimensions and specifications of a completed fence post to ensure consistency in production. I include accurate measurements for length, cap placement, and ring positioning. I clearly label all components to provide a reliable reference for fabrication. This blueprint serves as my guide for efficient, repeatable manufacturing, helping to improve accuracy and maintain quality standards throughout production.
2	PST.02.01 Perform preventative maintenance and scheduled service to maintain equipment, machinery and power units used in AFNR settings.	I regularly maintain my equipment by changing out the gas bottle to ensure a steady supply for welding. I replace worn nozzle tips and welding tips to maintain precision and efficiency. When needed, I swap out wire rolls to keep my workflow uninterrupted. I also replace cut-off saw blades to ensure clean, accurate cuts. Throughout these maintenance tasks, I always follow proper safety procedures and equipment guidelines.
1	PST.01.03 Apply physical science principles to metal fabrication using a variety of welding and cutting processes (e.g., SMAW, GMAW, GTAW, fuel-oxygen and plasma arc torch, etc.).	I use a cut-off saw to accurately cut the oil field pipe into 8-foot sections, making sure each cut is clean and precise. Once the sections are cut, I use a MIG welder to securely weld a cap onto one end of the post, creating a finished and durable seal. Next, I weld five evenly spaced rings around the post, ensuring strong, consistent welds for stability and functionality. Throughout the entire process, I follow all safety guidelines while cutting and welding.
9	AS.01.02 Assess and select animal production methods for use in animal systems based upon their effectiveness and impacts.	I research the differences between welded posts and hedge posts in traditional fencing methods by evaluating factors like durability, cost, and ease of installation. I compare their strengths and weaknesses, including resistance to weathering, load-bearing capacity, and overall lifespan. By understanding how each type affects the quality and maintenance of fences, I can make an informed decision about which material is most suitable for specific fencing needs.
8	ABS.05.01 Analyze the role of markets, trade, competition and price in relation to an AFNR business sales and marketing plans.	I conduct thorough research on market competition to analyze their pricing strategies, product offerings, and market share. I evaluate factors such as supply, demand, and industry trends to determine how to position my product competitively. Using this information, I adjust my pricing structure to ensure it aligns with market conditions while maintaining profitability and appealing to my target customers.



7	ABS.01.03 Devise and apply management skills to organize and run an AFNR business in an efficient, legal and ethical manner.	I track and maintain detailed records of completed posts and materials to ensure effective inventory management and resource allocation. I regularly assess stock levels to prevent shortages and keep my workflow running smoothly. I follow proper waste disposal guidelines to comply with environmental regulations. By focusing on organization, sustainability, and compliance, I streamline operations, reduce waste, and optimize resource use. This helps me maintain a clean, safe, & efficient workspace.
6	ABS.01.01 Apply micro- and macroeconomic principles to plan and manage inputs and outputs in an AFNR business.	I develop and regularly review detailed report sheets to monitor my financial performance throughout the year. These reports track expenses, revenue, and profit margins, ensuring fiscal discipline and providing clear visibility into my company's financial health. At the end of each year, I assess whether a profit was generated and analyze financial trends, making necessary adjustments to improve profitability and efficiency in the following year.
5	ABS.01.02 Read, interpret, evaluate and write statements of purpose to guide business goals, objectives and resource allocation.	I develop a comprehensive business plan each year, outlining my production goals for the number of posts to be produced. I create a detailed strategy to meet these goals, including staffing, equipment needs, and material management. At the end of each year, I review my progress against the plan, assess any deviations, and adjust my strategies to improve performance for the following year. This approach ensures continued growth and efficiency in production.





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Leadership/FFA Activities

Activity	Chapter	Area, District or Region	State	National Finals Multi-State	National
CDE: Entomology		23			
CDE: Food Science & Technology		21,22,23			
CDE: Greenhand Conference		21			
CDE: Land Judging		21			
CDE: Leadership School - Leadership Test		22,23			
CDE: Leadership School - Ritual		22,23			
CDE: Livestock		22,23,24	22,23,24		
CDE: Meats Judging		22			
CDE: Milk Quality & Products		21	24		
CDE: Veterinary Science		21,22,24	22,24		
Office: Reporter	23				
Office: Vice President	22,24				





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Community Service

2021

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Osborne County Community Foundation	Help raise money for the Osborne County Community Foundation match month at the school	2.00
TOTAL		2.00

2022

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Osborne County Community Foundation	Help raise money for the Osborne County Community Foundation match month at the school	2.00
TOTAL		2.00

2023

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Osborne Main Street Beautification Project	I pulled a water trailer with my pickup and watered flowers along Main Street in Osborne, KS.	6.00
TOTAL		6.00

2024

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Osborne County Chamber of Commerce	I assisted in the Christmas cash prize drawings	4.00
Osborne County Chamber of Commerce	I helped decorate Main Street business windows using window paint for the Christmas season.	3.00
Osborne County Chamber of Commerce	I helped set up & decorate the Osborne County Fair booth.	2.00
Osborne County Schools - USD 392	I designed, built, and installed a Gaga ball pit for our elementary school playground equipment.	10.00
Osborne Main Street Beautification Project	I pulled a water trailer with my pickup and watered flowers along Main Street in Osborne, KS.	6.00
TOTAL		25.00

Qualification Check

	Your Value	Condition
At least 2 different activities	8	MET
At least 25 hours	35.0	MET





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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





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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

KS0133

604163360



Applicant Information

Candidate Name

Clay Guttery

FFA Chapter Name

Osborne

Star Type

Application Type

Star in Agribusiness

Application Level

State

Primary Pathway

Power, Structural and Technical Systems

Submission Order

Organize and print your entire application in the following order:

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





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

My SAE is a welded pipe post fabrication business that I started to address the growing demand for durable, fire-resistant, and affordable fencing materials following the destructive wildfires of 2021. With traditional wooden fence posts being susceptible to fire and decay, welded pipe posts quickly gained popularity as a more reliable alternative. Recognizing this opportunity, I began fabricating my own fence posts to supply local ranchers and fence builders with a cost-effective, long-lasting solution. To begin, I sourced used 3-inch diameter oilfield pipe joints, each approximately 40 feet in length. Using a metal cut-off saw that was generously gifted to me, I cut these long joints into 8-foot sections. I then welded a 3-inch diameter metal cap onto one end of each post to seal it off, preventing moisture buildup and enhancing durability. Additionally, I fabricated and welded five metal rings onto each post, aligning them in a straight line and spacing them 8 inches apart, with the first ring positioned 3 inches from the top. These rings were designed to provide secure attachment points for barbed wire. Once the posts were fabricated, I actively marketed them to local ranchers and fence builders, emphasizing their durability, affordability, and fire resistance. Through this experience, I developed skills in metalworking, welding, and business marketing while providing a practical fencing solution for the agricultural community.

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

I started this SAE to provide my father with durable, fire-resistant, and cost-effective fencing materials for a new stretch of fence he was building. As I worked on fabricating posts, I saw an opportunity to supply other ranchers in need of reliable fencing solutions. I began selling to a few local ranchers who were replacing old fencing, focusing primarily on cutting materials and welding posts. At this stage, my priority was mastering fabrication techniques and producing high-quality posts efficiently rather than growing a business. As I gained experience and improved my welding and fabrication skills, I increased my production capacity and recognized opportunities for expansion. However, I knew that simply making more posts wasn't enough—I needed to reach a larger customer base. To do this, I refined my communication skills, learned effective marketing strategies, and built relationships within the agricultural community. I actively engaged with ranchers, fence builders, and landowners, explaining the durability, fire resistance, and cost-effectiveness of my posts. Through these efforts, I successfully grew my customer base beyond my local area, increasing sales and brand awareness. This growth not only strengthened my business but also helped me develop skills in sales, marketing, and customer relations. As my business continues to expand, I remain committed to providing high-quality fencing solutions for the agricultural industry.

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

The biggest challenge I faced while working on my SAE was learning how to manage my time effectively under strict limitations. I only had one hour per day to work on this project, which significantly restricted the amount of progress I could make each day. Additionally, I am heavily involved in various other organizations and sports, many of which require me to miss for competitions, meetings, and events. This further reduced the amount of time I could dedicate to fabricating my fence posts. Because of these constraints, I had to develop strong time management and planning skills to ensure I could make steady progress despite my limited availability. To maximize my productivity, I began planning my workweek in advance, outlining specific tasks I needed to accomplish each day. By doing this, I was able to arrive prepared and immediately begin working, allowing me to fabricate as many posts as possible within the hour I had available. This challenge taught me the importance of efficiency, organization, and discipline, skills that will be valuable in both my academic and professional future. It also reinforced my ability to balance multiple responsibilities while staying committed to my goals.





State Star in Agribusiness

Performance Review B

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

Accomplishment/Finding #1

Communication and Marketing: I started this SAE with my father as my first client, purchasing my first 100 posts. After fulfilling his order, I realized I needed to expand my clientele to grow my business. In my first year, I secured another client who purchased 100 posts, while my father ordered an additional 98. Recognizing the need to improve my marketing and communication skills, I actively reached out to local ranchers and fence builders in my second year. My efforts led to a 200% increase in my client base, gaining two new customers at the start of 2024 and two more midway through the year. By the end of 2024, I had sold 100 posts to six clients, demonstrating significant growth in my ability to market and communicate effectively.

Accomplishment/Finding #2

Business Expansion: I was severely limited in the time I could dedicate to my SAE due to commitments like sports, other organizations, and responsibilities on my family farm. This required me to learn how to maximize efficiency and productivity within the time I had available. I focused on refining my fabrication process to increase output without sacrificing quality. In the first year of my SAE, I produced and sold 298 posts, generating \$7,450.00. By my second year, I increased production, fabricating 686 posts, selling 586, and generating \$14,650.00. This growth was achieved by gaining experience, optimizing my workflow, and improving my efficiency, increasing my production rate from 5 posts per hour in 2023 to 8 posts per hour in 2024.

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.

A couple of years ago, a massive wildfire spread across thousands of acres in four different counties, destroying nearly all existing barbed wire fences. Since most of these fences were built using hedge posts, they were highly susceptible to fire damage. This disaster created a significant demand for metal fence posts, which are more durable, require less maintenance, and are fire-resistant. As a result, the need for these posts increased dramatically, presenting a unique business opportunity. I saw this as a chance to step in, fabricate high-quality metal posts, and provide a reliable fencing solution to local ranchers and landowners.





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 return to the family farm after college and continue building upon the success of my father in managing our farm and ranch in North Central Kansas. My goal is to expand our operation while utilizing the region's natural resources effectively. I have actively participated in harvest, planting, and spraying, operating equipment such as the grain cart, combine, planter, and drill. I also assist with transporting chemicals by pulling the nurse trailer for spraying operations. To further my knowledge, I have been interning under an agronomist at the local Midway Co-op, gaining valuable experience in agronomy, business management, and farm logistics.

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

CRG fence post, has given me the opportunity to connect with local farmers and ranchers, allowing me to build valuable relationships within the agricultural community. These connections will be extremely beneficial when I return to this area to continue my family's farm and ranch. Having strong relationships with neighbors and experienced farmers will provide me with a network of support, guidance, and shared knowledge. Learning from their experiences and applying their wisdom to my own operation will help me make better decisions, improve efficiency, and ensure long-term success in the agricultural industry.

Experience/Activity/Opportunity #2

CRG fence post, has provided me with valuable first-hand experience in managing and operating my own business, which will be incredibly useful when I take over the family farm. Through this project, I learned how to handle financial records, track expenses, and analyze profits, skills that are essential for running a successful business. By maintaining accurate financial records, I will be better equipped to make informed decisions, manage cash flow, and ensure the economic success of my future farm operation. This experience has strengthened my business acumen and prepared me for the responsibilities I will face as the next generation of our family farm.





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Learning Outcomes & Efficiency Factors

Learning Outcome or Efficiency Factor		Beginning Level	Level Attained	Description
1	Communication	<u>2023</u> 1	<u>2024</u> 6	Throughout my SAE, I had to continuously improve my communication skills to effectively manage and grow my business. Whether I was coordinating with my material supplier, speaking with potential customers, or updating my FFA advisor on my progress, clear and professional communication was essential.
2	Customers Location	<u>2023</u> Local	<u>2024</u> Surrounding Counties	When I started my SAE, I had two local clients. As my business grew and word spread about the durability of my welded pipe posts, my customer base expanded. By the end of my SAE, I had 4 additional clients in several surrounding counties, showcasing the success and growth of my business.
3	Improved my time management skills and welding efficiency.	<u>2023</u> 4 Posts per Hour	<u>2024</u> 8 Posts per Hour	I optimized my workflow and reduced downtime, doubling my production rate from four to eight posts per hour. This strategic approach maximized productivity, met growing customer demand, and used time and resources more efficiently, driving steady business growth.
4	Number of fence post pipes sold	<u>2023</u> 298 sold	<u>2024</u> 600 sold	I was able to produce and sell all 298 posts in 2023; but increased my production to 686 my second year and sold all but 86 of those that year. This has positively impacted my SAE program to make money to continue making the fence post to be able to sell to the community.
5	Number of individuals sold fence post pipe to	<u>2023</u> 2 people	<u>2024</u> 6 people	I was able to increase my sales knowledge and made relationships with new people that wanted to buy my product.





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

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
1	PST.01.03 Apply physical science principles to metal fabrication using a variety of welding and cutting processes (e.g., SMAW, GMAW, GTAW, fuel-oxygen and plasma arc torch, etc.).	I use a cut-off saw to accurately cut the oil field pipe into 8-foot sections, making sure each cut is clean and precise. Once the sections are cut, I use a MIG welder to securely weld a cap onto one end of the post, creating a finished and durable seal. Next, I weld five evenly spaced rings around the post, ensuring strong, consistent welds for stability and functionality. Throughout the entire process, I follow all safety guidelines while cutting and welding.
2	PST.02.01 Perform preventative maintenance and scheduled service to maintain equipment, machinery and power units used in AFNR settings.	I regularly maintain my equipment by changing out the gas bottle to ensure a steady supply for welding. I replace worn nozzle tips and welding tips to maintain precision and efficiency. When needed, I swap out wire rolls to keep my workflow uninterrupted. I also replace cut-off saw blades to ensure clean, accurate cuts. Throughout these maintenance tasks, I always follow proper safety procedures and equipment guidelines.
3	PST.02.02 Operate machinery and equipment while observing all safety precautions in AFNR settings.	I always wear proper protective equipment when operating the MIG welder and metal cut-off saw to ensure my safety. This includes safety eyewear to shield against sparks and debris, a welding jacket for protection from heat and splatter, and flame-resistant clothing to prevent burns. Wearing the right gear minimizes the risk of injury and enhances workplace safety. I also follow all safety protocols and regularly inspect my equipment to ensure compliance.
4	PST.04.01 Create sketches and plans for AFNR structures.	I create a precise, to-scale blueprint detailing all dimensions and specifications of a completed fence post to ensure consistency in production. I include accurate measurements for length, cap placement, and ring positioning. I clearly label all components to provide a reliable reference for fabrication. This blueprint serves as my guide for efficient, repeatable manufacturing, helping to improve accuracy and maintain quality standards throughout production.
5	PST.04.03 Follow architectural and mechanical plans to construct, maintain and/or repair AFNR structures (e.g., material selection, site preparation and/or layout, plumbing, concrete/masonry, etc.).	I carefully select the most suitable materials for fence posts by considering factors such as price, durability, and the reputation of the distributor. I evaluate various material options, comparing their long-term performance, resistance to weather conditions, and maintenance requirements. Additionally, I research the distributor's track record for reliability and product quality to ensure I'm making a solid investment in materials that will provide consistent, durable results.

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

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
6	ABS.01.02 Read, interpret, evaluate and write statements of purpose to guide business goals, objectives and resource allocation.	I develop a comprehensive business plan each year, outlining my production goals for the number of posts to be produced. I create a detailed strategy to meet these goals, including staffing, equipment needs, and material management. At the end of each year, I review my progress against the plan, assess any deviations, and adjust my strategies to improve performance for the following year. This approach ensures continued growth and efficiency in production.



7	AS.01.02 Assess and select animal production methods for use in animal systems based upon their effectiveness and impacts.	I research the differences between welded posts and hedge posts in traditional fencing methods by evaluating factors like durability, cost, and ease of installation. I compare their strengths and weaknesses, including resistance to weathering, load-bearing capacity, and overall lifespan. By understanding how each type affects the quality and maintenance of fences, I can make an informed decision about which material is most suitable for specific fencing needs.
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C. Three Career Ready Practice and/or Cluster Skills standards

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
8	CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.	I model personal responsibility in the workplace and community by adhering to safety protocols, such as wearing protective gear and ensuring proper waste disposal. I stay organized, meet production goals, and maintain a clean, safe environment. In the community, I contribute to sustainability and am mindful of the impact of my actions, fostering responsibility both at work and outside of it.
9	CRP.02.02 Use strategic thinking to connect and apply technical concepts to solve problems in the workplace and community.	I model personal responsibility in the workplace and community by demonstrating accountability, safety, and commitment to both individual and collective goals. I adhere to safety protocols, such as wearing proper protective gear when welding or cutting, ensuring efficient use of resources, and properly managing waste. I also stay organized, meet production targets, and maintain a clean and safe work environment.
10	CS.03.03 Apply health and safety practices to AFNR workplaces.	I always wear the appropriate protective equipment when welding or cutting, including safety goggles, gloves, a welding jacket, and flame-resistant clothing to prevent injuries. I make sure all equipment is in proper working condition before use and operate each tool in a safe and logical manner, following the manufacturer's instructions. I adhere to safety protocols, maintain focus, and stay aware of my surroundings to minimize risks and ensure a secure working environment.





State Star in Agribusiness

Resume

Objective

I plan to attend Kansas State University in the fall of 2025. I seek to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy, a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Outdoor Enterprise Management, as well as a Minor in Business. Through the pursuit of these fields, I will be better equipped to contribute to my family's farming and ranching operation while also exploring entrepreneurial opportunities.

Agricultural Classes/Coursework

Aug 2024-May 2025 - Agricultural Welding II
Aug 2023-May 2024 - Agricultural Welding I
Aug 2023-May 2024 - Agricultural Mechanics
Aug 2021-May 2022 - Agriscience

SAE

My SAE is a welded pipe post fabrication business I started to meet the demand for durable, fire-resistant, and affordable fencing after the 2021 wildfires. With wooden posts prone to fire and decay, welded pipe posts became a reliable alternative. Seeing this opportunity, I began fabricating posts using 3-inch diameter oilfield pipe joints, cutting them into 8-foot sections. I welded caps to seal them and attached five evenly spaced rings for securing barbed wire. I marketed my posts to ranchers and fence builders, highlighting their durability and cost-effectiveness. This experience strengthened my skills in welding, metalworking, and business marketing.

FFA Leadership

- Osborne County FFA Vice President 2024-2025
- Osborne County FFA Reporter 2023-2024
- Osborne County FFA Vice President 2022-2023
- State FFA Convention Delegate 2023
- Re-establishment of the Osborne County FFA Chapter 2020-2021

FFA Activities

2024-2025

- Vice President
- Strengthening Ag Committee

2023-2024

- Reporter
- Building Communities Committee

2022-2023

- Vice President
- Strengthening Ag Committee
- State Convention
- State Convention Delegate

2021-2022

- Greenhand Conference

LDE

Employability LDE (District)

- 2025 8th

Leadership School - Leadership Test (District) 3 Events

Leadership School - Ritual (District) 3 Events

CDE

- Livestock (State, District, Invitational) 12 Events; 9th 2022
- Milk Quality & Products (State & District) 7 Events; 2021 1st
- Vet Science (State & District) 8 Events; 1st 2021
- Food Science and Technology (District) 3 Events; 2023 9th; 2022 5th
- Entomology (District) 1 Event
- Meats Judging (District) 1 Event
- Land Judging (District) 1 Event



Community Service

- Winter Coat Drive 2024
- Osborne Chamber of Commerce Christmas Event 2024
- Osborne County-Kansas Livestock Association 2024 Annual Producer Meeting Speaker
- Harvest Snack Bags 2020-2024
- Alton Jubilee Play Set up 2021, 2022, 2024
- Hurricane Relief Drive 2020
- Four County Fires Relief Drive 2021
- Planted and Managed Sweet Corn Plot for FFA Fundraiser 2021, 2023
- Help Set up & Decorate Osborne County Fair Booth
- Decorate Main Street Business Windows for Christmas
- Assist in Christmas Prize Drawings
- Water Flowers Along Main Street
- Designed, Built, and Installed a Gaga ball pit for school playground equipment
- Community Clean-Up Day 2024
- Osborne County Community Foundation

School and Extracurricular Involvement

2024-2025 Farm Bureau Ag ambassador
2024 K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy
2024 Kansas Range Youth Camp
2020-2025 National FFA Organization
2020-2025 Kansas FFA Organization
2020-2025 Osborne County FFA Organization
2021-2025 Class Officer: Secretary 1 year, Treasurer 3 years
2021-2025 FHSU Math Relays
2022-2025 National Honor Society
2021-2025 Pheasants Forever
2021-2025 Football
2021-2024 basketball
2021-2025 Scholars' Bowl
2021-2024 Golf
2021 Kansas Association for Youth
2021 Pep Club
Kansas Western Horsemanship Association
United Christian Church
Alton Easter Sunrise Pageant



Awards and Honors

USD 392 Principal's Academic Letter 3 years

USD 392 Honor Roll 6 Semesters

2025

Scholars' Bowl State 1A 3rd Place Team

8th Place NWD Employability Skills FFA LDE

Chapter Star in Agribusiness

2024

K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy Champion Presentation Team

Kansas Range Youth Camp 1st Place Plant Identification

Kansas Range Youth Camp 1st Place Rangeland Information

2023

9th Place NWD Food Science FFA CDE

Golf State 1A Qualifier

Scholars' Bowl State 1A Qualifier

2022

1st Place 1A Team at FHSU Math Relays

9th Place NWD Livestock Judging FFA

FFA Chapter Greenhand Award

FFA Chapter Outstanding Member Award

3rd Place Youth Entrepreneurship Contest

2021

1st Place NWD Milk Quality & Products FFA CDE

1st Place NWD Vet Science FFA CDE

Certifications

KDWP Hunter's Education Certificate

Kansas Tractor and Machinery Operation Safety Certificate

Skills

Effective Communicator

Creative Thinker

Goal Oriented

Public Speaking

Mathematically Inclined

Mechanical Understanding

Proficient Welder



References

Deb Hardman
Retired from Sunflower Bank
dwhardman55@gmail.com
(785) 346-4088
204 East Main Street
Osborne, KS - 67473

Lacey Holloway
USD 392 Math Educator
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(785) 346-6603
233 North 3rd Street
Osborne, KS - 67473

Kevin Veatch
FFA Chapter Advisor
(620) 794-6287
kveatch@usd392.com
2464 West 20th Drive
Alton, KS -67623

Joe Sumpter
High School Football Coach
(785) 346-6677
sumpterjrs@gmail.com
314 North 2nd Street
Osborne, KS - 67473





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 am the sixth generation of my family's farm and ranch, a legacy that dates back to 1867 when my sixth great-grandfather first homesteaded the land. This deep-rooted connection to agriculture has profoundly shaped my upbringing, instilling in me a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation for the land. From an early age, I felt a natural bond with both farming and wildlife. Whether I was checking fields with my family, pulling ears of corn to estimate potential yields, checking the feed and water for cattle out at pasture, or running the grain cart during harvest, agriculture has been a constant presence in my life. Simultaneously, my passion for wildlife grew through experiences like hunting with my dad and friends, where I developed a greater respect for conservation and land stewardship. These experiences were more than just pastimes; they helped shape my values, work ethic, and vision for the future.

My experiences on the farm have played a significant role in shaping my academic, extracurricular, and leadership pursuits. The strong work ethic I developed through farm life has directly translated into my dedication to academics, FFA involvement, sports, and other school activities, setting me up for long-term success. I am currently pursuing the Kansas Board of Regents curriculum and will graduate with 26 college credit hours in May. Recognizing the importance of agricultural education, I have prioritized coursework that enhances my understanding of the industry. This includes agriscience, ag mechanics, welding I, and welding II, all of which have broadened my skills and knowledge in the agricultural sector. These classes have provided me with valuable hands-on experience, strengthening my technical abilities and reinforcing my passion for the field.

Beyond the classroom, I have actively participated in a multitude of FFA Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events, including livestock judging, veterinary science, food science, milk quality and products, and employability skills. These competitions have helped me develop critical thinking skills, industry knowledge, and leadership abilities. Additionally, I have been an FFA officer for the past three years and currently serve as the chapter's vice president, a role that has allowed me to mentor younger members and contribute to the success of our chapter. I have also sought out real-world learning opportunities through two internships: one with a local seed dealer and another under an agronomist at a local cooperative. These experiences have provided deeper insight into different areas of agriculture, particularly crop production, and have expanded my understanding beyond what I could learn in a traditional classroom setting. Through these academic, leadership, and professional experiences, I have been able to further cultivate my passion for agriculture.

I launched my SAE business specializing in fabricating welded pipe fence posts as a direct response to the devastating Four County Fire of 2021. This wildfire burned over 121,000 acres across Ellis, Rooks, Russell, and Osborne counties, leaving countless ranchers facing the immense challenge of rebuilding their operations. With miles upon miles of fencing destroyed, there was a surge in demand for durable, high-quality fencing materials, particularly fire-resistant options. This opened the door for welded pipe posts to replace the traditionally used hedge and creosote posts that had burned in the fire. However, it wasn't until the spring break of my sophomore year in 2023 that I was able to work with these posts firsthand. While helping my dad tear out and rebuild a stretch of fence, I realized why these posts were gaining popularity. Their design made installation remarkably easy, and their functionality and ease of use set them apart from traditional options. The size and design of the rings allowed the barbed wire to slide through smoothly yet still be secured, enabling us to achieve a tighter fence than when using wooden posts and staples. Since that installation, the fence has required no maintenance repairs, even after a tree fell on it, further proving the strength and durability of welded pipe posts. Once I returned to school, I began making plans to start my SAE and fabricate my own version of welded pipe posts. The first step was sourcing the necessary materials. I sought a cost-effective yet durable option for the pipe portion of the posts. Through research and material assessments, I determined that used oilfield pipe would be the best choice. Once repurposed, used oilfield pipe proved ideal due to its thick walls and availability, making it a durable and cost-effective solution. Next, I needed custom-fabricated caps and rings to complete the posts. I found a metal shop that could produce them to my specifications, ensuring my posts would be sealed from the elements and serve as a long-lasting fencing solution. With the vast majority of my expenses coming from materials, repurposing resources not only kept costs low but also contributed to sustainability. Throughout my SAE, I continually improved my communication skills to effectively manage and grow my business. Whether coordinating with my material supplier, speaking with potential customers, or updating my FFA advisor on my progress, clear and professional communication was essential. As my business expanded, I learned the importance of keeping accurate records, organizing key information, and conveying my thoughts effectively. These skills not only helped me build stronger relationships but also ensured smooth operations and informed decision-making. As demand for my posts grew, I expanded my production capacity by refining my fabrication process. I invested time in improving my welding techniques to increase efficiency without sacrificing quality, as well as experimenting with different welding setups to further enhance my production numbers. By optimizing my workflow, I was able to produce more posts in less time, allowing me to fulfill larger orders and take on more customers. These skills will undoubtedly aid me in my future endeavors as well.

As I look toward the future, I am inspired by my love of agriculture and wildlife to further my educational and career goals. After high school, I plan to attend Kansas State University in the fall of 2025. My academic goals are ambitious yet purposeful. I seek to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy, a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management (WOEM), and a Minor in Business. Through the pursuit of these fields, I will be better equipped to contribute to my family's farming and ranching operation while also exploring entrepreneurial opportunities that align with my passion for sustainable agriculture and conservation.





State Star in Agribusiness

Safety Photo #1



I'm carefully inspecting my valve gauge connection by spraying a soapy water solution on them to check for any air leaks. If there's a leak, bubbles will form, indicating a faulty seal or loose connection. This step is crucial for ensuring safety, preventing gas loss, and maintaining proper pressure for efficient operation. Regularly checking for leaks helps avoid potential hazards, improves equipment performance, and ensures a stable and reliable workflow in welding or gas-related applications.





Here, I'm carefully inspecting the ground clamp to ensure it is securely attached and making a solid connection with the welding table. A proper ground is essential for maintaining stable arc performance, preventing fluctuations, and ensuring high-quality welds. Without a strong connection, you may experience issues like inconsistent arcs, excessive spatter, or weak welds. Taking the time to verify the ground setup helps improve efficiency, reduces defects, and enhances overall welding results.





State Star in Agribusiness

Project Photo #3



I'm carefully measuring my post to ensure proper placement before welding on my metal O-rings. Taking accurate measurements is essential for achieving a precise and secure fit, preventing misalignment, and ensuring the rings function correctly. Proper placement also contributes to the overall strength and durability of the structure, reducing the risk of rework and ensuring a professional, high-quality result in the final build.





State Star in Agribusiness

Project Photo #4



I'm welding caps onto the top of my fence posts to create a secure seal that prevents debris, water, and other contaminants from getting inside. This helps protect the interior from rust, corrosion, and structural weakening over time. By sealing the posts, I'm ensuring greater durability and longevity, reducing maintenance needs, and improving the overall strength and appearance of the fence for years to come.





State Star in Agribusiness

Project Photo #5



I'm finalizing a sale with a valued customer and expressing my gratitude for their purchase of fence posts. I truly appreciate their business and trust in my products. Providing quality materials and excellent service is my priority, and I want to ensure they are completely satisfied. I look forward to the opportunity to work with them again in the future and continue building a strong business relationship.





I'm purchasing used oilfield pipe joints from Foster's Welding to fabricate high-quality fence posts, which I will then resell. These pipes provide strong, durable materials that ensure long-lasting and reliable posts. By sourcing used oilfield pipe, I can maintain cost efficiency while still delivering sturdy fencing solutions. This approach supports sustainability by repurposing materials while meeting the needs of customers looking for dependable fence posts.





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)





KS - Osborne
Clay Guttery 604163360
SAE Agreement - Welded Pipe Posts

Generated:
2/19/2025 15:13

SAE Information

Name:	Welded Pipe Posts
SAE Type:	Entrepreneurship/Ownership
AFNR Pathway/Category:	Power, Structural and Technical Systems - Fabrication

SAE Plan - Welded Pipe Posts

Description
<p>My interest and motivation for this project is to pursue my interests in welding and build a profitable business model.</p> <p>My project is planned to start at the beginning of my junior year and end on the end of my senior year.</p> <p>My project goals are to fabricate 1,000 posts, make a profit of at least \$2,000 and improve upon my work efficiency.</p> <p>My project will be evaluated/supervised by Brice Guttery, who is an industry professional.</p> <p>In terms of project safety, important areas of safety include wearing proper protective equipment and to observe all safety protocols of the machinery I'm using.</p>
Time Investment
<p>I plan to invest 5 hours per week.</p> <p>My project time will vary from month to month, but common activities are welding, cutting and welder maintenance.</p> <p>Key dates or events in my project may include buying and selling dates of posts.</p> <p>My project time relates to my career plan, which is to come back to the family farm where welding is key in maintaining farm equipment and buildings.</p>
Financial Investment
<p>(1) Planned project expenses:</p> <p>Main cash expense categories are oil field pipe, post caps, and wire rings.</p> <p>In terms of total cost, my project will annually require \$8,000 per year to operate.</p> <p>(2) Planned project income:</p> <p>Planned income for my project is estimated to be \$12,500, but depends on certain outcomes.</p> <p>(3) Planned use of non-current items (choose the best sentence or state none):</p> <p>I plan to use items that someone else owns, which includes a welder, helmet, and building.</p>
Learning Objectives (SAE Skills):

Skill Area	Planned Activities	Results or Outcome
PST.01.03 Apply physical science principles to metal fabrication using a variety of welding and cutting processes (e.g., SMAW, GMAW, GTAW, fuel-oxygen and plasma arc torch, etc.).	I use a cut-off saw to accurately cut the oil field pipe into 8-foot sections, making sure each cut is clean and precise. Once the sections are cut, I use a MIG welder to securely weld a cap onto one end of the post, creating a finished and durable seal. Next, I weld five evenly spaced rings around the post, ensuring strong, consistent welds for stability and functionality. Throughout the entire process, I follow all safety guidelines while cutting and welding.	Use a cut-off saw to cut the oil field pipe into 8ft pieces. Use a mig welder to weld a cap and 5 rings to the post.
PST.02.01 Perform preventative maintenance and scheduled service to maintain equipment, machinery and power units used in AFNR settings.	I regularly maintain my equipment by changing out the gas bottle to ensure a steady supply for welding. I replace worn nozzle tips and welding tips to maintain precision and efficiency. When needed, I swap out wire rolls to keep my workflow uninterrupted. I also replace cut-off saw blades to ensure clean, accurate cuts. Throughout these maintenance tasks, I always follow proper safety procedures and equipment guidelines.	Change out gas bottle, replace nozzle tips,
PST.02.02 Operate machinery and equipment while observing all safety precautions in AFNR settings.	I always wear proper protective equipment when operating the MIG welder and metal cut-off saw to ensure my safety. This includes safety eyewear to shield against sparks and debris, a welding jacket for protection from heat and splatter, and flame-resistant clothing to prevent burns. Wearing the right gear minimizes the risk of injury and enhances workplace safety. I also follow all safety protocols and regularly inspect my equipment to ensure compliance.	
PST.04.01 Create sketches and plans for AFNR structures.	I create a precise, to-scale blueprint detailing all dimensions and specifications of a completed fence post to ensure consistency in production. I include accurate measurements for length, cap placement, and ring positioning. I clearly label all components to provide a reliable reference for fabrication. This blueprint serves as my guide for efficient, repeatable manufacturing, helping to improve accuracy and maintain quality standards throughout production.	Draw and design to scale a fence post for continuous production
PST.04.02 Determine structural requirements, specifications and estimate costs for AFNR structures	At the start of each year, I set clear production goals and outlined the number of posts I aimed to fabricate. This process allowed me to estimate costs and create a structured budget for the year. By the second year, I was able to analyze my previous production data, which enabled me to refine my estimates and develop a far more precise and efficient business plan. This experience helped me improve financial planning, resource allocation, and overall operational efficiency in my business.	
PST.04.03 Follow architectural and mechanical plans to construct, maintain and/or repair AFNR structures (e.g., material selection, site preparation and/or layout, plumbing, concrete/masonry, etc.).	I carefully select the most suitable materials for fence posts by considering factors such as price, durability, and the reputation of the distributor. I evaluate various material options, comparing their long-term performance, resistance to weather conditions, and maintenance requirements. Additionally, I research the distributor's track record for reliability and product quality to ensure I'm making a solid investment in materials that will provide consistent, durable results.	

Budget - Welded Pipe Posts

Income/Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Expense - Supplies	\$11400.00	Oil pipe, wire Rings, circle top caps
Income - Product/Service Sales	\$18750.00	750 Finished Fence Posts

Signatures

<u>Clay Guttery</u>	<u>2/6/2025 3:46:00 PM</u>	<u>Shana Guttery</u>	<u>2/17/2025 11:48:00 AM</u>
Student	Date	Parent / Guardian	Date
<u>Kevin Veatch</u>	<u>2/17/2025 11:45:00 AM</u>		
Ag Science Teacher	Date		

The school, individuals or businesses participating in this educational program will not discriminate against participating students with regards to race, sex, creed, color, national origin, age or handicap as defined by law.

USD 392 OSBORNE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Academics, Activities, & Athletics

RON ORSAK - DISTRICT OFFICE: 234 W WASHINGTON STREET
JASON WILSON - GRADE SCHOOL: 234 NORTH 3RD STREET
JASON WILSON - JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH: 219 NORTH 2ND STREET



*It's a great day to be an
Osborne Kid!*

Kevin Veatch
Agricultural Education Instructor/FFA Advisor
Osborne County High School
219 N 2nd St.
Osborne, KS 67473
(785) 346-2143

February 26, 2025

Kansas FFA Star Selection Committee

I am honored to write on behalf of Clay Guttery of the Osborne County FFA Chapter for the Kansas FFA Star in Agribusiness Award. I have had the privilege of teaching Clay in his welding courses at Osborne County High School and serving as his FFA advisor for the past two years. Throughout this time, Clay has consistently exceeded my expectations with his work ethic, creativity, and dedication to his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

Clay's SAE focuses on Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication through his business, CRG Fence Post. What began as a simple project - building fence posts for his family ranch - has evolved into a thriving business providing custom metal fence posts to local customers. Clay demonstrated impressive initiative by recognizing a market need and taking the steps to turn his skills into a successful business. His ability to make sound, responsible decisions has allowed him to grow his customer base, refine his craftsmanship, and manage the operational aspects of his business.

Clay's leadership has flourished in FFA, where he has served as an officer for three years, currently as Vice President. He actively promotes the chapter within the school and community. His dedication to agricultural education and supporting peers reflects his commitment to the FFA mission. Clay values agriculture and hard work, demonstrated through his SAE and leadership. Graduating this spring, he plans to pursue an agricultural degree and return home to manage and expand the family farm and ranch.

I strongly endorse Clay Guttery for the Kansas FFA Star in Agribusiness Award. His exceptional achievements in Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication, combined with his leadership and work ethic, make him an outstanding candidate.

Sincerely,

Kevin Veatch



Dear Kansas FFA Star Selection Committee,

I'm writing this letter to recommend Clay Guttery for your Kansas FFA Star in Agribusiness Award. Clay is a hard working young man which pairs well with his strong academic mind and passionate heart for our rural Kansas way of life.

Clay chose the advanced track for mathematics as a freshman, and therefore, has taken two of my courses in his academic journey. He processes material at an extremely high level and is committed to not only his grade point average but the comprehension of concepts. His work is neat and on time, he works well with others during cooperative projects, and his questions press for understanding not merely the answer. Clay has been a member of our Fort Hays State Math Relays team for three years where he placed as an individual as well as in group events, helping our team place in the top three overall in the 1A division each year.

Clay's work ethic isn't limited to the classroom walls. He has been on the football, basketball, and golf teams throughout high school and takes pride in being an Osborne athlete; not because of the stats he earns, but because of the teammate he is for his peers. It is perhaps my most favorite aspect of Clay; he is the ultimate Bulldog; loyal to his team, courageous and tenacious. He's not focused on individual stats or the limelight, but about doing whatever it takes to support his teammates and their overall goals.

These characteristics translate well to service and workforce opportunities. Clay has been an active member of our school's FFA, STU-CO, and Farm Bureau Ag program throughout his time at OHS. All three organizations take pride in helping with charitable works for our district's staff and students, as well as our community and beyond. Besides being an avid volunteer for those activities, Clay also served in many leadership positions, including Vice President of the FFA, treasurer of STU-CO, and Ag Ambassador. Outside of his school schedule, Clay is a fifth generation contributor to his family's farm and ranch and is also employed by a construction crew throughout the summer. Considering the often long hours, laborious tasks, and extreme Kansas temperatures that are prevalent in these fields, Clay shows great maturity to be dedicated to both jobs on top of his school responsibilities.

Clay Guttery would undoubtedly be an excellent candidate for your Kansas FFA Star in Agribusiness Award. He takes great pride in everything he is involved with and would be an outstanding representative of your organization.

Sincerely,

Lacey Holloway
Osborne Jr/Sr High

Cole Taylor
Taylor Productions
PO Box 148
Osborne, KS 67473

February 25, 2025

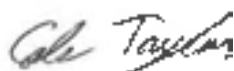
Dear Selection Committee,

I am honored to recommend Clay Guttery for this Star in AgriBusiness Award. I have known Clay his entire life and have enjoyed watching him develop into the young man he is today. We have worked together on many occasions and he has always impressed me with his work ethic, energy, and positive attitude. He is always looking for what needs done next and is trying to find the best way to do it.

As a former FFA member I love seeing young people utilize the opportunities that FFA offers. Clay did that with his SAE project. He, like many of us, was affected by the wildfires that have impacted our industry recently. Seeing a need, he used his creative mind to fabricate a solution. By creating a welded pipe post fabrication business, he was not only able to help the livestock industry, but gain valuable skills he will have the rest of his life. In addition to his project giving him an avenue to develop as a metal worker and welder, it also gave him experience on the financial side. Buying the components to create the posts and marketing the final product gave him business experiences that are equally important.

Clay is one of the most creative and intelligent young men I have ever met. Everything he does is thought out and then completed to the best of his ability. Whatever he decides to do, it will be successful. Whether he ends up in fabrication, marketing, or management he has the work ethic, intelligence, and people skills to excel in every aspect of agribusiness. Once again, I would like to recommend Mr. Guttery for this Star in AgriBusiness Award.

Sincerely,



Cole Taylor