



2025 Kansas State Degree

KS

KS0200

604585089

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Student Approval

Applicant Name

Landon Albrecht

Chapter Name

Southeast of Saline

- 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.

1/26/2025 8:05:00 PM

Date

Landon Albrecht

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.

1/27/2025 3:09:00 PM

Date

Jolene Albrecht njalbrecht@hotmail.com

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.

2/19/2025 11:36:00 AM

Date

Nicholas Owen nowen@usd306.org

School Principal or Superintendent



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KS

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Applicant Contact Information

Name as you want it to appear on the certificate

Landon Albrecht

Gender

Male

Address

2458 S Whitmore Rd

City

Salina

State

KS

Zip Code

67401-9020

Email Address

lalbrecht@usd306.org

Parent/Guardian Name

Neil Albrecht (deceased)

Parent/Guardian Occupation

N/A (deceased)

Name on the FFA Chapter Roster (if different)

Name Pronunciation

(Land-en, All-bright)

Home Phone

785-536-4271

Parent/Guardian Name

Jolene Albrecht

Parent/Guardian Occupation

Occupational Therapist

Chapter Information

FFA Chapter Name

Southeast of Saline

School Address

5056 E K-4 Hwy

School Phone

785/536-4286

School Name

Southeast of Saline High School

School City

Gypsum

Chapter Advisor(s)

Brooke Petty

School State

KS

School Zip Code

67448

FFA History

Year FFA Membership Began

2021

Had continuous active FFA membership for the past 24 months?

Yes

Year Received Greenhand Degree

2022

Have your State and National FFA Dues been paid?

Yes

Year Received Chapter Degree

2023

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

4.00

Ag Education completed in High School

Years: 3.50 Hours: 630

Postsecondary/Vo-Tech Education Completed

Semesters: 0 Quarters: 0

Four-year College Completed

Semesters: 0 Quarters: 0

Major

School Attended

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
8/2/2021

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	\$0	\$10,314
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	\$0	Itemized ending inventory values are reported on "Ending Current Inventory" page.
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	\$700
b. Sources of cash from Ag related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$0
c. (Deduct) Total Personal Expense/Draw	\$1,332
d. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$0





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Supervised Agricultural Experience - Placement and Exploratory

2022

Pathway	Employer or Project Name Job Title, Responsibilities, or Project Description	Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses
Plant Systems	Tri-Valley Seed & Service Employment My SAE project started in May this year, and my SAE is based on working for a seed sales agency that serves 45 farming operations in this area. I work approximately 25-35 hours per week. This year, I learned skills such as crop scouting for weeds and running calculations for seed usage. My project is ongoing into next year. This year important outcomes such as delivering 80% of the time by myself, learning basic employability skills, and using agronomic knowledge in 20 fields measured my success.		223	223	\$2,230	
	TOTAL		223	223	\$2,230	

2023

Pathway	Employer or Project Name Job Title, Responsibilities, or Project Description	Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses
Plant Systems	Tri-Valley Seed & Service Employment My SAE project started in May this year, and my SAE is based on working for a seed sales agency that serves 45 farming operations in this area. I work approximately 30-40 hours per week depending on the week. This year, I learned skills such as seed treating. This year important outcomes such as delivering 90% of the time by myself, learning basic diagnosing skills in 25 fields, and treating over 30 seed loads measured my success.		308	308	\$4,312	
	TOTAL		308	308	\$4,312	

2024

Pathway	Employer or Project Name Job Title, Responsibilities, or Project Description	Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses
Plant Systems	Tri-Valley Seed & Service Employment My SAE project started in May this year, and my SAE is based on working for a seed sales agency that serves 45 farming operations in this area. I work approximately 30-40 hours per week. This year, I expanded on my skills such as seed treating, seed delivery, and diagnosing crop issues. I also added the skill of analyzing plots. This year important outcomes such as delivering 100% of the time by myself, learning to analyze data from 2 product knowledge plots measured my growth and success.		275	275	\$4,404	
	TOTAL		275	275	\$4,404	





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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	\$0	\$10,314
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	\$0
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	\$0
f. Total Current Assets	\$0	\$10,314
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	\$0	\$10,314
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	\$0
2. Sources of Cash Gifts	\$700
3. Sources of Cash from Ag Related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$0
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	\$1,332
7. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$0
8. Net Personal Contribution	-\$632

D. Net Worth	Beginning Value	Ending Value
1. Contributed Capital (Represents the value of personal contribution)	\$0	-\$632
2. Retained Earnings (Represents the value of SAE net income, entrepreneurship, placement, research)		\$10,946
3. Total Net Worth	\$0	\$10,314
4. Total Liabilities & Net Worth	\$0	\$10,314

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		\$10,314

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)	\$0	\$10,314





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Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Earnings & Productively Invested

G. SAE Earnings

1. Placement SAE Earnings (Cash)	\$10,946
2. Entrepreneurship SAE Earnings (Cash & Non-Cash)	\$0
3. Total SAE Earnings (Retained Earnings)	\$10,946

H. Productively Invested

1. Change in Net Worth (Productively Invested from Operations)	\$10,314
2. (Add) Total Educational Expenses (Personal Use)	\$0
3. (Deduct) Net Sources of Assets from Gifts or Non-SAE	\$0
4. Total Growth in Productively Invested	\$10,314

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	\$10,314	Met
b. SAE Earnings at least \$2000	\$10,946	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%	516%	Met
b. Unpaid Hours/600 + SAE Earnings/\$2000 is at least 100%	547%	Met



A. Skills, Competencies, Knowledge

AFNR Performance Indicator		Contributions to Success
1	PS.02.02 Apply knowledge of plant anatomy and the functions of plant structures to activities associated with plant systems.	The use of plant anatomy is necessary to understand pollination. In late summer, my supervisor and I checked for pollination rates in corn fields. We make sure that pollen is dropping from the tassel (male flower) to the silks on the ear (female flower) at the right time. If the pollen drops too early it will miss the silks and will not pollinate, and if it is too late the silks will grow out and fall off the ear before the pollen drops. This is a vital concept to understand in raising corn.
2	PS.03.05 Harvest, handle and store crops according to current industry standards.	Handling seed is an important part of my SAE. During wheat harvest, we must safely load seed wheat in grain bins, so that it is ready to be treated and drilled in the fall. We do this by using a double conveyor system to load the bins to ensure clean seed. We also treat the seed wheat with an insecticide as it is binned to prevent seed damage from insects. We also store bulk boxes and seed bags in an organized manner to avoid mix ups in variety and seed size when delivering them.
3	PS.02.03 Apply knowledge of plant physiology and energy conversion to plant systems.	The knowledge of plant physiology and energy conversion is essential to understand when I am scouting to recommend an irrigated field. To irrigate effectively, farmers must provide enough water at the right growth stage and know how much water the plants will need. The same can be applied to herbicide application as I need to understand the growth habits of crops and weeds in the given conditions to know how herbicide will affect the growth.
4	PS.03.03 Develop and implement a plan for integrated pest management for plant production.	When dealing with insect pressure an integrated pest management system is the most economical way for farmers to treat the issue. When scouting for insects I use a integrated pest management system to determine if it is necessary to apply insecticide. This consists of monitoring the number of insects per plant to see if it has reached the economic threshold for treatment, which varies by pest type. This allows me to assist in providing service to our customers through the growing season.
5	BS.02.04 Safely manage and dispose of biological materials, chemicals and wastes according to standard operating procedures.	As a business which offers seed treatment, my job deals with a lot of chemicals and biological products. Properly disposing of the chemical jugs is one occasional task, which requires safety measures. I am always sure to rinse jugs and handle them with proper PPE. This is an important part of staying safe on the job.
6	NRS.01.05 Apply ecological concepts and principles to terrestrial natural resource systems.	In the field Agronomy side of the business I work for, we deal with terrestrial natural resources all the time. We are analyzing the amount of water used with irrigation, the tillage practices in place for soil conservation, and the chemical usage. It is our goal to advise farmers how to raise the best crop while conserving the natural resources.
7	CS.05.02 Examine and choose career opportunities that are matched to personal skills, talents, and career goals in an AFNR pathway of interest.	I choose to accept the job offer for this SAE to examine the Agronomy industry. I have observed many aspects of this industry. I have seen sales interactions, crop scouting, crop consulting, and basic agricultural problem solving skills. This area has aligned with my interest, and my skills have increased along with my responsibilities in this SAE.
8	CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.	I choose to accept the job offer for this SAE to examine the Agronomy industry. I have observed many aspects of this industry. I have seen sales interactions, crop scouting, crop consulting, and basic agricultural problem solving skills. This area has aligned with my interest, and my skills have increased along with my responsibilities in this SAE.



9	CRP.10.01 Identify career opportunities within a career cluster that match personal interests, talents, goals and preferences.	I have been able to explore the opportunities of Agronomy through this experience. I knew that I had an interest in crops, so in this SAE, I see the seed sales side of agronomy by delivering and conversing with customers; I see the field agronomy side by doing the field work of crops scouting and stand counts; and I see some of the business side of agronomy that comes with running your own seed and service company. All of these are opportunities within this cluster that I can be involved in.
10	PS.01.01 Determine the influence of environmental factors on plant growth.	When a customer notices issues with plant growth in their fields, I can go to that field and scout the crops there. I determine what factors may be causing the issues with growth. First, I determine whether it is a deficiency, disease, pest issue, or chemical-caused issue. Then, with some information of the recent applications/treatments and crops grown in that field, I can diagnose what factors are causing growth issues, and see what possible solutions there are.





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Leadership/FFA Activities

Activity	Chapter	Area, District or Region	State	National Finals Multi-State	National
2021-2022 FFA Meetings	21				
2022-2023 FFA Meetings	22				
2023-2024 FFA Meetings	23				
CDE: Agricultural Sales - 2023 NCD FFA Ag Sales CDE		23			
CDE: Agricultural Sales - NCD Ag Sales CDE 2022		22			
CDE: Agricultural Sales - NCD Agricultural Sales		24			
CDE: Agronomy - Agronomy Contest		22			
CDE: Agronomy - District Agronomy CDE		23			
CDE: Agronomy - KS State Agronomy CDE			23		
CDE: Agronomy - KS State FFA Agronomy CDE			24		
CDE: Agronomy - Mid-America Farm Expo Agronomy Contest		24			
CDE: Agronomy - National FFA Agronomy CDE					24
CDE: Agronomy - NCD Agronomy CDE		24			
CDE: Discussion Meet - NCD Discussion Meet LDE 2022		23			
CDE: Discussion Meet - NCD FFA Discussion Meet 2024		24			
CDE: Employment Skills - Employability Skills LDE		24			
CDE: Junior Creed Speaking - FFA Creed Contest		22			
CDE: Land - 2023 NCD FFA Land Judging CDE		23			
CDE: Land - NCD Greenhand Land Judging CDE		21			
CDE: Land - NCD Land Judging CDE		24			
CDE: Land - NCD Land Judging CDE 2022		22			
CDE: Livestock - District Livestock Judging CDE		23			
CDE: Milk Quality & Products - NCD FFA Milk Quality CDE		23			
CDE: Milk Quality & Products - NCD Greenhand Milk Quality CDE		21			
CDE: Milk Quality & Products - NCD Milk Quality CDE 2022		22			
CDE: Nursery/Landscape - NCD Nursery Landscape CDE		24			
KS FFA Leader Lab			23,24		
NCD Green hand Conference		24			
Office: President	24				
Office: Secretary		24			
Office: Treasurer	22				
Office: Vice President	23				
SAE Night	24				
SES FFA Boot Scootin' Boogie	24				
SES FFA Labor Auction	22,23,24				
SES FFA Lock-in	21,23,24				





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Community Service

2022

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Assaria Fall Festival	I volunteered to operate a carnival game for children attending the Assaria Fall Festival	2.00
Gypsum Valley Booster Club	I along with others FFA members volunteered to serve a meal at the Gypsum Community Barbecue.	2.50
Prairie Patch Craft Show	I volunteered to help vendors move their stations in and out of the annual craft show.	3.00
TOTAL		7.50

2023

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
FFA Supporters and USD 306 Staff Breakfast	On the Thursday of FFA week we served over 100 community members and school staff members by providing free breakfast.	3.00
Gypsum Valley Booster Club	I along with other FFA members volunteered to serve a meal and operate the bingo game at the Gypsum Community Barbecue.	2.50
Prairie Patch Craft Show	I volunteered to help vendors move their stations in and out of the annual craft show.	3.00
SES Parents Club	I volunteered in preparing and serving a meal with fellow members at SES Elementary fun night and setting up and taking down the concession stand.	2.00
TOTAL		10.50

2024

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
FFA Supporters and USD 306 Staff Breakfast	We served a breakfast for free to all of the community members and school staff that support FFA. This is a small service in appreciation for our supporters.	3.00
Gypsum Valley Booster Club	I along with other FFA members volunteered to serve a meal and operate the bingo game at the Gypsum Community Barbecue.	2.50
Prairie Patch Craft Show	I volunteered to help vendors move their stations in and out of the annual craft show and assisted in parking vendors' cars.	3.00
SES Parents Club	I volunteered in preparing and serving a meal with fellow members at SES Elementary fun night and setting up and taking down the concession stand.	2.00
TOTAL		10.50

Qualification Check

	Your Value	Condition
At least 2 different activities	11	MET
At least 25 hours	28.5	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





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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 Agricultural Placement

KS

KS0200

604585089



Applicant Information

Candidate Name

Landon Albrecht

FFA Chapter Name

Southeast of Saline

Star Type

Application Type

Star in Agricultural Placement

Application Level

State

Primary Pathway

Plant 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





State Star in Agricultural Placement

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 consists of working for a seed sales and service business. I am responsible for delivering seed and providing agronomic support to farmers throughout the growing season. Over three summers, my tasks have expanded to include: delivering seed to customers, cleaning out grain/seed bins, seed tenders, air seeders, and hopper-bottom trailers, tidying up around the seed building and farm, some mechanical work on equipment, filling bulk seed boxes, loading seed wheat into bins, crop scouting for weeds and insects, posting field signs, monitoring seed inventory, operating a drum seed treater, and taking plot observations. I started my position at the end of my freshman year. I was offered the position by the farmer/ business owner and started in May. I started out mostly shadowing my supervisor, learning how to deliver seed according to each customer's needs, how to take stand counts and crop growth observations, and how to scout fields for weed and insect pressure. Over time, I gained more independence in delivering seed and crop scouting, and added a few skills. Through this experience, I have learned a lot about the business of selling seed and the career field of agronomy as a whole. I have developed not only the hands-on practical skills of the job, but also the soft skills that go along with the job such as communication, work ethic, attention to detail, and problem solving.

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

I started out my first summer learning about what it was like to work for a seed sales business. I would go crop scouting with my supervisor, I assisted in deliveries, and I was introduced to customers. As the summer went on, I started to make deliveries by myself, which was a big step in being more independent and work efficient. The second summer, our full-time agronomist left to pursue a new position. This allowed me to take a big step up in helping the business function during planting season. I learned to run the seed treater, so I could prepare deliveries by myself. I also learned to scout fields for weed and insect pressure independently. I had more interactions with customers and made most deliveries independently. I also gained the responsibility of setting up field signs to advertise different varieties/hybrids. The third summer, I had similar tasks but with more independence and a few extra responsibilities such as analyzing product knowledge plots and taking inventory, allowing me to work almost entirely independently with minimal instruction. We also gained more customers to provide service to. This meant doing a lot more field visits and deliveries, which made working efficiently and independently highly valuable aspects to have. With the responsibilities I gained in the second and third summers, I grew in knowledge and skill and became a more valuable employee.

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

One major challenge occurred when facing hot, dry weather and chinch bugs. Chinch bugs are an insect with a piercing/sucking mouth part which will suck all the nutrients and moisture out of the stems of grain sorghum, leading to stunted growth and eventual plant death. As the plant grows and matures, it reaches a point where seed treatment insecticide is less concentrated in the plant. It may require a second insecticide application to prevent loss. If the damage to the crop causes a significant loss in the plant population, the only option is to replant some or all of the field. I had to walk fields to check for chinch bugs nearly every day in the 100 degree heat. It was a difficult task not just because of the heat, but also giving customers a clear-cut recommendation on whether a second insecticide application was needed. To overcome the heat, I made sure to stay hydrated as possible and limit time in each field by using an efficient scouting system. To address the challenge of customer recommendations, my supervisor and I adopted a pest management rule. If the plants were in the most susceptible stage of growth (between 4-7 leaves) and there were 6 bugs for every plant, we would recommend an extra application. If not in the most susceptible growth stage, we would recommend treatment if there were 10 bugs per plant. This system helped us make informed decisions to help our customers succeed.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Performance Review B

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

Accomplishment/Finding #1

One of my findings in this experience is the concept that attention to detail can build genuine trust with a supervisor or customers. A customer picked up 36 bags of forage crop seed. He later called my supervisor, assuming he was short on seed. His immediate thought was that I sent the wrong amount of bags, but my supervisor mentioned my attention to detail compelling him to count his empty bags on the air seeder, and there 36 as ordered. Further inspection led him to discover the issue. His air seeder was leaking seed into a second air hose, causing a double rate to be applied. This situation helped show me that attention to detail builds trust and rapport as an employee.

Accomplishment/Finding #2

A significant accomplishment was planning two field days for other local ag students to attend. At the end of year two, my supervisor brought up the idea and asked for help in organizing it. I helped plan the invite list, fields to visit, and topics to present. We had 10 people in attendance. I presented some general knowledge of crops and growing season challenges. The next year I helped organize the field day again and increased the attendance to 17. We met with our customers in their fields to discuss irrigation and growing sunflowers in addition to the presentation of crop growth and conditions. In the two years I assisted in organizing the field day, I was able to share knowledge and provide a fun educational experience for my peers.

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.

The seed industry is trending away from Dicamba herbicide use in soybeans. The EPA restricts Dicamba use in soybeans to before June 30th due to volatile drift in Dicamba in summer heat. The Enlist trait offers 2-4D resistance in soybeans, giving growers a larger application window. As a solution to the restrictions on Dicamba, Pioneer, our supplier, is no longer selling Xtend soybeans, the Dicamba resistant trait, and only offering Enlist soybeans. This challenges us to convince customers to switch to Enlist soybeans to we avoid losing their business. We have to help them understand that Enlist soybeans are just as effective in offering weed control in soybeans. Mostly, my supervisor has been successful in getting the customers to switch.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Performance Review C

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

My career goal is to work in the field of agronomy, preferably in crop consultant or as a production agronomist, but I could also see myself as a sales agronomist. I have always had a passion for agriculture and would like my work to support it. My FFA journey and ag classes have helped narrow my interests in plant and soil science. The CDE's I participated in such as agronomy and land judging helped pinpoint my interest in plant and soil science as well. I was then given this SAE opportunity when offered my summer job, and through it, I have gained hands-on experience in Agronomy. I hope to apply knowledge from these experiences into my future career.

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

A main activity in this experience that is crucial to my future in agronomy is crop scouting. Out of all daily tasks in this SAE, getting out in the field is where I have learned the most. Crop scouting has enhanced my weed and insect identification capabilities. It gives me a concept of the impact certain herbicides, weather patterns, soil types, and tillage practices have on crop growth. I have gained the ability to offer services of taking stand counts, staging plants, and identifying economic thresholds to aid our customers in replant and treatment decisions. With these experiences and knowledge gained from crop scouting, I will be much more successful in becoming a resource to the farmers when I serve as an agronomist.

Experience/Activity/Opportunity #2

Getting to interact with seed customers is an experience that has helped me develop some soft skills that extend beyond this job and complement the hands-on skills I have enhanced. Meeting with customers has helped my networking, communication, and speaking skills as well as building connections and rapport in my community. I have been able to give reports to customers about the growing conditions or issues their crops may be facing as well as engaging in informal conversation. Consulting farmers and understanding their operations is essential to agronomy no matter what specific career I will have. Speaking with seed customers is an experience that will prove invaluable towards my career path.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Learning Outcomes & Efficiency Factors

Learning Outcome or Efficiency Factor		Beginning Level	Level Attained	Description
1	Agronomic Calculations	<u>2022</u> intermediate	<u>2024</u> proficient	This aspect of the job has helped me to put together seed orders much more efficiently. Calculating the amount of seed to deliver to customers is essential to being an effective salesman by providing customer service.
2	Analyzing Product Knowledge Plots	<u>2023</u> beginning	<u>2024</u> intermediate	Product knowledge plots helped to get me familiar with the particular hybrids and varieties the business sells, which enhances my abilities to observe the products that I deliver in the field.
3	Diagnosing Issues in Crops.	<u>2022</u> beginning	<u>2024</u> proficient	Seeing an issue in the field and being able to identify the issue is crucial to being an effective crop scouter, which is an important service provided to customers by the business I work for.
4	Operating a Drum Seed Treater	<u>2023</u> beginning	<u>2024</u> intermediate	Running the seed treater makes me a much more valuable employee as it allows me to prepare seed orders independently and deliver them, which makes the whole business run more efficiently.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge

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

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
1	PS.01.01 Determine the influence of environmental factors on plant growth.	When a customer notices issues with plant growth in their fields, I can go to that field and scout the crops there. I determine what factors may be causing the issues with growth. First, I determine whether it is a deficiency, disease, pest issue, or chemical-caused issue. Then, with some information of the recent applications/treatments and crops grown in that field, I can diagnose what factors are causing growth issues, and see what possible solutions there are.
2	PS.02.02 Apply knowledge of plant anatomy and the functions of plant structures to activities associated with plant systems.	The use of plant anatomy is necessary to understand pollination. In late summer, my supervisor and I checked for pollination rates in corn fields. We make sure that pollen is dropping from the tassel (male flower) to the silks on the ear (female flower) at the right time. If the pollen drops too early it will miss the silks and will not pollinate, and if it is too late the silks will grow out and fall off the ear before the pollen drops. This is a vital concept to understand in raising corn.
3	PS.03.05 Harvest, handle and store crops according to current industry standards.	Handling seed is an important part of my SAE. During wheat harvest, we must safely load seed wheat in grain bins, so that it is ready to be treated and drilled in the fall. We do this by using a double conveyor system to load the bins to ensure clean seed. We treat the seed wheat with an insecticide as it is binned to prevent seed damage from insects. We also store bulk boxes and seed bags in an organized manner to avoid mix ups in variety and seed size when delivering them.
4	PS.02.03 Apply knowledge of plant physiology and energy conversion to plant systems.	The knowledge of plant physiology and energy conversion is essential to understand when I am scouting an irrigated field. To irrigate effectively, farmers must provide enough water at the right growth stage and know how much water the plants will need. The same can be applied to herbicide application as I need to understand the growth habits of crops and weeds in the given conditions to know how herbicide will affect the growth.
5	PS.03.03 Develop and implement a plan for integrated pest management for plant production.	When dealing with insect pressure an integrated pest management system is the most economical way for farmers to treat the issue. When scouting for insects I use a integrated pest management system to determine if it is necessary to apply insecticide. This consists of monitoring the number of insects per plant to see if it has reached the economic threshold for treatment, which varies by pest type. This allows me to assist in providing service to our customers through the growing season.

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

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
6	BS.02.04 Safely manage and dispose of biological materials, chemicals and wastes according to standard operating procedures.	As a business which offers seed treatment, my job deals with a lot of chemicals and biological products. Properly disposing of the chemical jugs is one occasional task, which requires safety measures. I am always sure to rinse jugs and handle them with proper PPE. This is an important part of staying safe on the job.
7	NRS.01.05 Apply ecological concepts and principles to terrestrial natural resource systems.	In the field Agronomy side of the business I work for, we deal with terrestrial natural resources all the time. We are analyzing the amount of water used with irrigation, the tillage practices in place for soil conservation, and the chemical usage. It is our goal to advise farmers how to raise the best crop while conserving the natural resources.

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



AFNR Pathway Standard	Description of Activity
8	<p>CS.03.04 Use appropriate protective equipment and demonstrate safe and proper use of AFNR tools and equipment.</p> <p>In all hands on experiences with the agricultural industry, safety is a top priority. In my work for the business, I exercise all necessary safety precautions and protective equipment. Whether I am moving heavy seed pallets and boxes operating heavy machinery, cleaning seed bins, or handling chemicals, I must always evaluate the situation and apply the right safety measures to ensure a productive and safe environment.</p>
9	<p>CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.</p> <p>I have modeled personal responsibility in this position in a couple ways. I have made sure to always notify my supervisor of any availability conflicts at least two weeks in advance. I have taken accountability for mistakes I have made and been honest about breaking anything. I also took on the responsibility of planning events for the business to do, such as an educational field day. These responsibilities will serve me well in future employment also.</p>
10	<p>CRP.10.01 Identify career opportunities within a career cluster that match personal interests, talents, goals and preferences.</p> <p>I have been able to explore the opportunities of Agronomy through this experience. I knew that I had an interest in crops, so in this SAE, I see the seed sales side of agronomy by delivering and conversing with customers; I see the field agronomy side by doing the field work of crops scouting and stand counts; and I see some of the business side of agronomy that comes with running your own seed and service company. All of these are opportunities within this cluster that I can be involved in.</p>





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Resume

Objective

I plan to attend a 4-year college majoring in Agronomy, and possibly minoring in Agricultural Economics. I would like to work in the field of agronomy, specifically as a field agronomist or a seed sales and crop consulting position. I hope to positively influence my community by being a resource of information to improve our agricultural economy.

Agricultural Classes/Coursework

Senior year:

Agricultural Mechanics class, Agribusiness class

Junior year:

Agricultural Leadership Class, Kansas FFA Leader Lab

Sophomore year:

Plant and Soil Science Class, Kansas FFA Leader Lab

Freshman year:

Agriscience Class, NCD FFA Greenhand Conference

SAE

I have worked for the past three summers for a farmer who operates a seed sales business. This has served as my SAE. In addition to seed sales, the business provides agronomic service and recommendations to our customers throughout the growing season. In an experience related to this, I previously worked in wheat fields during the summer cutting out rye from the fields. I worked for a farmer who contacted other farmers with rye problems in their fields.

FFA Leadership

North Central District Secretary -- 2024-2025

Chapter President -- 2024-2025

Building Communities Committee Co-Chair -- 2024-2025

Chapter Vice President -- 2023-2024

Strengthening Ag Committee Co-Chair -- 2022-2024

Agronomy Team Practice Coordinator -- 2022-2024

Chapter Treasurer -- 2022-2023



FFA Activities

Chapter/District/State Activities:

Back to School BBQ-- 4 years
NCD FFA Kickoff-- 3 years
NCD FFA Greenhand Conference facilitator
Gypsum Fall Fest-- 4 years
National FFA Convention Attendee-- 2 years
Chapter Friends-giving-- 2 years
Chapter Lock-in-- 4 years
Farm Bureau/FFA Safety Presentation-- 3 years
Labor Auction-- 4 years
Supporters' Breakfast-- 3 years
"Egg my Yard" Chapter Fundraiser-- 3 years
State FFA Convention Chapter Delegate-- 2 years
Leader Lab-- 2 years

FFA CDE's and LDE's:

National Agronomy
State Agronomy-- 3 years
Agronomy-- 3 years
Land Judging-- 4 years
Nursery Landscape
Ag Sales-- 3 years
Discussion Meet-- 2 years
Ritual Team-- 3 years
Leadership Information Test-- 3 years
Milk Quality-- 3 years
Creed Speaking

Community Service

Saline County Farm Bureau Kids Ag Day Group Leader
Prepared and Presented Saline County Farm Bureau Ag Safety Presentation
Served at Gypsum Fall Festival
Volunteered for Assaria Fall Festival
Volunteered to set up Prairie Patch Craft Show
Served at Love Chloe Foundation
Participated in Operation Christmas Child
Served at Salina Senior Center
Read and facilitated Watkins Tree Farm Story Time
Church Food Basket Assembly and Delivery
Served Church Voters' Meeting Meals
Church Sound System Operator
Youth Football Camp Leader
Youth Wrestling Camp Leader

School and Extracurricular Involvement

National Honor Society (NHS) – 3 years
Student Council – 4 years
Football – 4 years
Wrestling – 4 years
Baseball – 4 years
Scholars' Bowl – 4 years
Band – 3 years
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) – 4 years
Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group – 4 years
Church Bell Choir – 4 years



Awards and Honors

National FFA Agronomy CDE High Individual
2-time Kansas FFA State Agronomy CDE
3-year American Citizenship Award
KSHSAA 2A State Football Championship team member
KSHSAA 3A State Scholars' Bowl Runner-up team member
KSHSAA 3A State Scholars' Bowl 3rd place team member
3-year Academic Letter
4-year High Honor Roll
3-year Scholars' Bowl Letter
High School Athlete/Activity Member of the Month August 2023
Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association, Academic All-State Award
3-year Wrestling Letter
2-year Baseball Letter
Football Letter
FFA Chapter Degree
FFA Greenhand Degree

Certifications

Certified Crop Advisor- Apprentice Designation

Skills

Agronomic Product Calculations
Field Observations and analyses
Customer Service
Communication
Reliability
Hard Working
Detail Oriented
Loyalty
Courtesy
Generosity

References

Brooke Petty -- 785-342-8428 -- bpetty@usd306.org
Justin Knopf -- 785-452-5550 -- jknopffarms@gmail.com
Dena Ebel -- 785-230-1432 -- dena.ebel@gmail.com





State Star in Agricultural Placement

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.

"Agriculture, the only honest way, wherein a man receives a real increase of the seed thrown into the ground, in a kind of continual miracle, wrought by the hand of God." This was an explanation by Benjamin Franklin of how nations acquire wealth through agriculture. My agricultural journey is similar to that of a plant. Plants endure all conditions they are put through, and they flourish to yield an abundance of seed. My SAE has been the most shaping experience I have had in my agricultural journey so far. I have developed knowledge, skills, life lessons, and a network because of it.

Growing up I was privileged to go outside often. Whether at home or on my grandparents farm, I started to gain an appreciation for nature as well as agriculture. The growing conditions for my early years were very favorable. I had a great environment to establish my roots in agricultural knowledge.

In high school I applied my love for agriculture to a career in FFA. I was looking for a niche in an agricultural field just as a corn silk looks for a falling grain of pollen to catch. The opportunities that I was presented in FFA, such as public speaking and leadership positions, helped push me outside of my comfort zone. I found my specific interest area of agriculture in Agronomy. The Agronomy CDE rolled around in the spring of my freshman year, and it had to do with growing crops, so I tried it. I ended up enjoying the contest, and I went on to win the State Agronomy contest twice and eventually became the National Agronomy CDE champion.

That summer after freshman year is when this incredible opportunity for an SAE presented itself. I was offered the summer job position I have now. I had a casual job interview, which I had never had before, so it was a learning experience in itself. I learned how to go about answering questions in a clear, descriptive, and concise way, which was a big step in achieving better communication skills. I also learned about the business and what kind of work I would be doing. I was excited to have the opportunity to work for a well-respected seed sales business that prioritizes customer service and satisfaction.

I have been privileged to nourish and enhance my knowledge and skills in Agronomy through the hands-on experiences in the field. I learned from my supervisor and became a very observant learner. I found it amusing, all the processes a plant goes through to grow and determine yield. In these earlier field scouting experiences I achieved the knowledge necessary to scout crops effectively. This knowledge included information such as knowing how root nodules should form on soybeans roots, how and when the tassel of a corn plant drops pollen to the silks, how to take stand counts and what the plant population should be in a given crop, and what botanical structures are called and how they function in the crop. The knowledge achieved in the field was just the beginning of the valuable skills acquired in this SAE.

As time passed, I gained more trust with my supervisor and more responsibilities. By the end of the second summer of my job I rarely ever needed assistance in seed delivery. I was able to understand the seed treatment system, loading out several orders. By the third summer of work I was working very independently with minimal assistance from my supervisor in crop scouting. I would check pollination rates, yield estimates, and plant health; and then record the notes in the field database system. I was privileged to analyze product knowledge plots, recording and comparing observations in different corn hybrids. One goal that I had when accepting this job was to prove my value as an employee and young agriculturalist. With my increased scope of capabilities, I can say with confidence that I have achieved that goal by becoming a competent asset to the seed and agronomy service business.

More than once during this SAE, I have learned a lesson that will be applicable to the rest of my life and journey in the agricultural field. These learning experiences come through the various mistakes I've made, equipment I've gotten stuck, deliveries I've made, customer interactions I've had, and the commitment to the job that I've shown. A few examples of these lessons are to not give up, to find another way, to always listen carefully, to always hold myself accountable, and not to be afraid to admit shortcomings. Life lessons are priceless pieces of wisdom, which are an achievement to learn in their own right. The character I have built from learning these lessons transfers to other aspects of my life as well and has made me a better individual.

My SAE was a large part of the preparation for the Agronomy CDE. I was able to gain significant hands-on, in-field experience with the contest material. At work, I almost constantly practiced my plant and insect identification skills, agronomic calculations, and plant structure literacy. This gave me a significant advantage in becoming proficient in the contest material. My supervisor also proved to be very resourceful in helping our team practice for the contest. Becoming the National High Individual in Agronomy is one of my crowning achievements, which was made possible by this SAE.

A key part in my agricultural journey within FFA is the leadership opportunities I've had. I have been privileged to serve on my chapter's officer team for three years. Some of the lessons and soft skills that I have learned through this experience such as problem solving, listening, and accountability have led to my success as a chapter officer. Another one of my achievements in FFA is serving as a district officer. District office has had a different dynamic to it than the



chapter office simply because at the beginning of the year most of our team didn't know each other very well, but through the communication skills and personability that I have practiced through this SAE helped me fit in well with my new officer team. Becoming an officer brings its share of challenges, but it has been very fun and rewarding to serve this organization.

One more aspect of this experience I regard with importance is the rapport I have built. The agricultural side of my community is very supportive of our FFA chapter, but I have become familiar with many of the farm operations throughout my summers of work. I have gotten to meet nearly 90% of all seed customers the business has. In providing service to their operations, I have gotten my reputation into the community, which will only help my future career. When I enter the agricultural workforce, I will have a head start in networking and finding a rewarding career because of the connections I have made already in my SAE.

In college, I hope to gain a higher education in Agronomy, so that I can yield knowledge in the agricultural community. In my career as an agronomist, I hope to be innovative in supporting our food supply in the midst of a growing population. My agricultural journey is still young and growing, but FFA and this SAE has given me a great deal of hands-on skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to succeed in a future career in agriculture.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Safety Photo #1



Because the business I work for provides seed treatment, rinsing out pesticide jugs is a common task. It is important to follow all safety measures while doing this, especially proper PPE. As the chemical labels instruct, I wear chemical resistant gloves, long sleeves, and safety glasses when handling the jugs. After the jugs are properly rinsed, I safely dispose of the waste water in a chemical tote to prevent the possibility of contaminating a well and to ensure a safe disposal.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Safety Photo #2



As I have advanced in my position, I have been trusted to operate the forklift frequently, which calls for proper safety practices. While stacking, moving, or loading filled seed boxes, weighing approximately 2000 lbs. each, I make sure to keep the load low while moving to avoid tipping and to watch behind me to avoid any collisions. The forklift is an essential piece of machinery used nearly everyday, and keeping these safety rules in mind prevents lots of potential problems.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #3



One of the tasks I have had since my beginning days of this experience is loading seed bags to prepare an order for a customer. Paying close attention to the amount of each seed variety and all batch numbers is essential to keeping an up to date inventory in the seed building. Once the bags are loaded, the next step is to write up the ticket and give it to the customer when the seed is delivered to their farm.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #4



Here I am seen putting seed talc on a load of soybeans. Seed talc is important on treated seed as it is loaded out. It is a very safe seed lubricant to use as it does not require protective equipment like other chemicals. Talc allows for more fluid movement and prevents clumping in the seed tender. As my responsibilities have grown, I have gained the responsibility of treating soybeans. In addition to applying talc, I now understand operating the electronic drum seeder treater as well.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #5



Posting field signs, as am seen here doing, is a task that I gained in my second summer of work. Initially I was only putting out a few signs that I was instructed to post. By the third summer of work, I was entrusted to sign fields with minimal instruction, selecting them on our online customer field database. Then I was able to record the signs on that database. Signing fields may seem like a small task, but it is an important aspect of the business in advertising our product.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #6



Yield estimates, as I am shown making here, are important services to provide for our customers. The yield estimates I make and record can offer insight into how much grain they'll be harvesting. While the growing season is still going on our customers can make the arrangements for the expected harvest. While gathering yield estimates, I also scout for late season diseases in the corn fields and feeding from corn earworm.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

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 Agricultural Placement

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 - Southeast of Saline

Landon Albrecht 604585089

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SAE Agreement - Tri-Valley Seed & Service Employment

SAE Information

Name:	Tri-Valley Seed & Service Employment
SAE Type:	Placement
AFNR Pathway/Category:	Plant Systems - Grain Crops

SAE Plan - Tri-Valley Seed & Service Employment

Description
<p>My interest and motivation for this project is to learn more about agronomy and ag sales by working for a local farmer and seed salesman. I would like to meet local farmers and familiarize myself with their operations as well. My project is planned to start on May 20, 2022 and end on August 17, 2023. My project goals are to deliver at least 2500 acres worth of seed to customers, learn to run the seed treatment part of the business, and meet all customers of the seed agency. My project will be supervised by my employer, Justin Knopf, a well-respected agronomist and farmer. In terms of project safety, important areas include chemical pesticide safety, road safety, and farm equipment safety.</p>

Time Investment
<p>I will plan to invest 40 hours per week. My project time will vary from month to month, but common activities are delivering seed, crop scouting, signing fields, and misc. cleaning projects. I am getting sufficient payment for my time which will be \$10-\$14 per hour. My project time relates to my career plan which is to become a field agronomist.</p>

Learning Objectives (SAE Skills):

Skill Area	Planned Activities	Results or Outcome
PS.01.01 Determine the influence of environmental factors on plant growth.	I plan to help customers who notice issues with plant growth in their fields, I can go to that field and scout the crops there. I will determine what factors may be causing the issues with growth. First, I will determine whether it is a deficiency, disease, pest issue, or chemical-caused issue. Then, with some information of the recent applications/treatments and crops grown in that field, I can diagnose what factors are causing growth issues, and see what possible solutions there are.	When a customer notices issues with plant growth in their fields, I can go to that field and scout the crops there. I determine what factors may be causing the issues with growth. First, I determine whether it is a deficiency, disease, pest issue, or chemical-caused issue. Then, with some information of the recent applications/treatments and crops grown in that field, I can diagnose what factors are causing growth issues, and see what possible solutions there are.
PS.02.02 Apply knowledge of plant anatomy and the functions of plant structures to activities associated with plant systems.	I plan to use plant anatomy to understand pollination. I can check for pollination rates in corn fields. I will make sure that pollen is dropping from the tassel (male flower) to the silks on the ear (female flower) at the right time. If the pollen drops too early it will miss the silks and will not pollinate, and if it is too late the silks will grow out and fall off the ear before the pollen drops. I will experience hands-on the process of pollination.	The use of plant anatomy is necessary to understand pollination. In late summer, my supervisor and I checked for pollination rates in corn fields. We make sure that pollen is dropping from the tassel (male flower) to the silks on the ear (female flower) at the right time. If the pollen drops too early it will miss the silks and will not pollinate, and if it is too late the silks will grow out and fall off the ear before the pollen drops. This is a vital concept to understand in raising corn.
PS.03.05 Harvest, handle and store crops according to current industry standards.	Handling seed will be an important part of my SAE. It will involve safely loading seed wheat in grain bins, so that it is ready to be treated and drilled in the fall. I will learn how to load the bins to ensure clean seed. I will also learn how to treat the seed wheat with an insecticide as it is binned to prevent seed damage from insects. I will also store bulk boxes and seed bags in an organized manner to avoid mix ups in variety and seed size when delivering them.	Handling seed is an important part of my SAE. During wheat harvest, we must safely load seed wheat in grain bins, so that it is ready to be treated and drilled in the fall. We do this by using a double conveyor system to load the bins to ensure clean seed. We also treat the seed wheat with an insecticide as it is binned to prevent seed damage from insects. We also store bulk boxes and seed bags in an organized manner to avoid mix ups in variety and seed size when delivering them.

Signatures

<u>Landon W Albrecht</u>	<u>2/22/2024 10:57:00 AM</u>	<u>Jolene Albrecht</u>	<u>2/23/2024 10:29:00 AM</u>
Student	Date	Parent / Guardian	Date
<u>Brooke Petty</u>	<u>2/24/2024 7:25:00 PM</u>	<u>Justin Knopf</u>	<u>2/23/2024 12:04:00 PM</u>
Ag Science Teacher	Date	Supervisor / Employer	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.

January 1, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

It is my absolute pleasure to recommend Landon Albrecht for this award. I have served as Landon's FFA advisor and agriculture teacher for the last five years. I have truly enjoyed watching Landon develop into the strong and reliable leader that he is today.

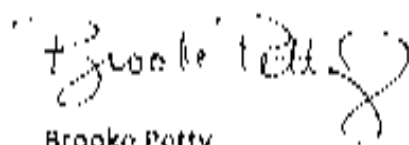
Landon is actively involved in our FFA chapter, holding the position of chapter President and North Central District Secretary this year. Perhaps one of Landon's greatest strengths is that he is a self-starter. He takes initiative and responsibility and gets things done in a timely matter. He has planned and executed countless events for our FFA chapter with minimal guidance from myself. His team members know they can approach him to ask for guidance, clarify questions, or get a pep talk.

Landon always has a positive, can-do attitude. His teachers and peers respect his leadership and willingness to work hard. He leads by example, is dependable, and always follows through with his commitments. Landon works hard on his school work, leading our FFA chapter, and participating in three sports, while also being active in Scholar's Bowl and FCA. His Supervised Agriculture Experience includes working for a local farmer and seed dealer, where his passion for Agronomy began.

Landon's passion for agriculture comes easily and naturally. The summer after his Freshman year of high school, he began working for a local farmer and seed dealer. He has continued to take on more responsibility each year, and now independently scouts fields, treats seed, loads customers, makes deliveries, and inputs data into an online database. This experience propelled him to compete in the district FFA Agronomy contest. He has won the Kansas FFA State Agronomy contest two years in a row. This past year, his team won the State Contest, qualifying them for the National FFA Agronomy Contest this fall in Indianapolis, IN. Landon won the National Contest individually, while also leading his team to a 5th place finish.

Again, I confidently recommend Landon Albrecht for this award. Please feel free to contact me via phone (785-342-8428) or email (bpetty@usd306.org) if there are any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Brooke Petty

Ag Educator and FFA Advisor
Southeast of Saline High School

400 South Kipp Road
Chippewa, WI 54944
(715) 434-1100

December 10, 2024

Team Selection Committee:

I am honored to provide this letter of recommendation on behalf of London Adams and pleased to give a true example of why he is most deserving of this recognition from our community. I own and operate Tri Valley Food & Service, LLC, a local Foodservice sales company and agronomy services company. We partner with local farmers to provide seed and agronomy services which bring value to their business and livelihood. I've been fortunate to have London on my summer workforce for the past three summers. Additionally, as a local community member, I have the opportunity to watch him work for the school activities he chooses to invest himself in. London is an exceptional young man who demonstrates capable leadership, reliability without question, and success in achieving lofty goals. He achieves everyone's dream and does so in a very humble manner.

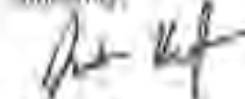
I hired London as part of my first summer high school employee the summer after his freshman year. He was young and inexperienced, but demonstrated an attitude and aptitude in agriculture, particularly in agronomy. He quickly proved to be a fast learner and responsible and capable beyond his years. Each of the following two summers I added one additional employee, but a mix of those this past summer. With little to no coaching from me, London naturally became a leader to these new employees, teaching them skills, demonstrating how things work around the business, and setting an example of the culture we strive for within our workplace and when dealing with customers. London's ability to lead the rest of the summer employees made our entire team more effective.

A few weeks prior to London's second summer of employment my full-time employee of 9 years followed an excellent career opportunity he was presented with outside of our business. The pace of our agricultural business is at its peak during the summer months and I had deep concerns of how the summer would go with a newly vacated and unfilled full-time position. London far exceeded my expectations this summer, taking on tremendous responsibility and completing high level tasks and projects with unwavering attention to detail. I trust London completely and would not have made it successfully through that summer without him.

As an employee, London leads others. Is highly capable and capable, demonstrates high achievement, and makes everyone around him better through his presence. Besides the same system we actively involves in at school. Most notably, he led his FFA Chapter's agronomy team to a State Championship followed by 8th place finish in the National Competition, in which London himself was the National Champion. He accomplished this by setting goals, working hard, and motivating those around him. The team practiced for months twice a week, before heading at 7:15. London set up and did these projects. I so encouraged and helped his teammates. He did this all with a humble and caring spirit, just as he does with all the other leadership roles he must have entered into with.

I'm sure you have a number of qualified applicants and difficult decisions to make. I would like for you to demonstrate the high level of character, community, involvement, and humility that I cannot do. I believe he is most deserving of this recognition and he would be an exceptional asset to the organization you are considering working to hire. Like thousands to be one of the many individuals who have benefited through his connection with you. Thank you for the time and personal consideration and other through saying in the role.

Sincerely,



Justin Kapp, Owner
Tri Valley Food & Service, LLC

Dena Ebel
Youth Director
Trinity Lutheran Church
Salina, Ks
dena.ebel@gmail.com
785-203-1432

January 8, 2025

To whom it may concern,


After careful consideration, I'm referring to Landon Albrecht for this award. For the past decade, I have served on Trinity Lutheran Church's youth board and chaperoned several youth events. Landon has been an active part of our youth group for at least eight years at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina, Ks. I can attest to his exceptional skills, dedication and positive impact on the people and places around him. Landon possesses a unique combination of skills which make him an excellent candidate for this award.

From a young age, Landon consistently demonstrated the ability to adapt to any situation in a positive and mature manner. Landon is always an excellent individual to lead a group, and can always be knowledgeable with his insights.

Landon is always one of the first to volunteer for our many community servant events every year. He actively participates at every event. Whatever the circumstances, Landon is not only willing to help, but he also goes the extra mile when serving his church and his community. Landon is extremely dedicated to doing his best, and overall being a good citizen.

I truly believe that Landon would be a tremendous recipient of the award. If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact me at dena.ebel@gmail.com or 785-230-1432.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dena Ebel". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large 'D' and a stylized 'E'.

Dena Ebel