



2025 Kansas State Degree

KS

KS0246

604550909

5



Student Approval

Applicant Name

Jackson McCurry

Chapter Name

Andale FFA Chapter

- 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.

1/28/2025 8:37:00 AM

Date

Jackson D McCurry

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.

1/29/2025 5:49:00 AM

Date

Rhonda McCurry rhondamccurry@gmail.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.

1/28/2025 1:41:00 PM

Date

Michelle Shackelford Michelle.shackelford@usd267.com

School Principal or Superintendent



2025 Kansas State Degree

KS**KS0246****604550909****5**

Applicant Contact Information

Name as you want it to appear on the certificate

Jackson McCurry

Gender

Male

Address

3541 North 205th Street West

City

Colwich

State

KS

Zip Code

67030

Email Address

jacksonmccurry2007@gmail.com

Parent/Guardian Name

Jesse McCurry

Parent/Guardian Occupation

Ag Ambassador

Name on the FFA Chapter Roster (if different)

Jackson McCurry

Name Pronunciation

Jackson D McCurry

Home Phone

3162398914

Parent/Guardian Name

Rhonda McCurry

Parent/Guardian Occupation

Propane Market Rep

Chapter Information

FFA Chapter Name

Andale FFA Chapter

School Name

Andale High School

School Address

700 Rush Ave

School City

Andale

School State

KS

School Zip Code

67001

School Phone

3164442607

Chapter Advisor(s)

Hunter Smith, Cody Day

FFA History

Year FFA Membership Began

2021

Had continuous active FFA membership for the past 24 months?

Yes

Year Received Greenhand Degree

2022

Year Received Chapter Degree

2023

Have your State and National FFA Dues been paid?

Yes

Education Information

High School Graduation Year

2025

If not, give date left school

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

4

Ag Education completed in High School

Years: 3.5**Hours: 525**

Postsecondary/Vo-Tech Education Completed

Semesters:**Quarters:**

Four-year College Completed

Semesters:**Quarters:**

Major

School Attended

Military Duty - Dates of Full-Time Active Military Duty

World Experiences in Agriculture - Date of International Placement





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Basic Award Setup Information

I. Application Dates

Began Agricultural Education

8/20/2021

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	\$400	\$20,710
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	\$1,500
b. Sources of cash from Ag related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$0
c. (Deduct) Total Personal Expense/Draw	\$1,200
d. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$0





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Supervised Agricultural Experience - Placement and Exploratory

2021

Pathway	Employer or Project Name Job Title, Responsibilities, or Project Description	Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses
Animal Systems	McCurry Brothers Angus Farm/Ranch Hand. I spent days on the weekend helping my grandpa and uncles at McCurry Brothers. My primary responsibilities would include filling waters, opening gates, and tending to any tasks needed. I was given 10 dollars an hour at the start of my SAE.	0	120	120	\$1,200	\$0
TOTAL		0	120	120	\$1,200	\$0

2022

Pathway	Employer or Project Name Job Title, Responsibilities, or Project Description	Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses
Animal Systems	McCurry Brothers Angus Farm/Ranch Hand. I worked during weekends of the school year, as well as parts of the summer at McCurry Bros where I would assist in doctoring cattle, feeding, and working machinery. More basic duties include mowing grass, painting fence, and cleaning the barns. I still made \$10 as a sophomore but started to pick up things quickly.	0	360	360	\$3,600	\$0
TOTAL		0	360	360	\$3,600	\$0

2023

Pathway	Employer or Project Name Job Title, Responsibilities, or Project Description	Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses
Animal Systems	McCurry Brothers Angus Farm/Ranch Hand. I worked alongside my grandpa and uncles to vaccinate and AI cattle. Additionally, I fed grain rations every morning and build fence. My role has heavily increased as I have been working because I gained the confidence from my employers to do things on my own. I began keeping track of dates to doctor, move, and breed cattle. The first two years I made \$10 an hour and I got moved up to \$13 at the start of 2023.	0	490	490	\$6,370	\$0
TOTAL		0	490	490	\$6,370	\$0

2024

Pathway	Employer or Project Name Job Title, Responsibilities, or Project Description	Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses
Animal Systems	McCurry Brothers Angus Farm/Ranch Hand. This year I made \$15 an hour and my workload has increased heavily. I A.I. cows, haul trailers to the sale barn or to customers, and give vaccines. I adjust feed rations based on the cattle's stage of growth and rake and bale hay. I work directly with consistent customers and create marketing materials to post online and share locally. My work experience came full-circle in 2024 because I understand how everything is done and spent as much time as I could on the farm	0	680	680	\$8,840	\$0
TOTAL		0	680	680	\$8,840	\$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	\$400	\$20,710
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	\$400	\$20,710
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	\$400	\$20,710
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	\$400
2. Sources of Cash Gifts	\$1,500
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	\$1,200
7. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$0
8. Net Personal Contribution	\$700

D. Net Worth	Beginning Value	Ending Value
1. Contributed Capital (Represents the value of personal contribution)	\$400	\$700
2. Retained Earnings (Represents the value of SAE net income, entrepreneurship, placement, research)		\$20,010
3. Total Net Worth	\$400	\$20,710
4. Total Liabilities & Net Worth	\$400	\$20,710
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		\$20,310
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)	\$400	\$20,710





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Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Earnings & Productively Invested

G. SAE Earnings	
1. Placement SAE Earnings (Cash)	\$20,010
2. Entrepreneurship SAE Earnings (Cash & Non-Cash)	\$0
3. Total SAE Earnings (Retained Earnings)	\$20,010

H. Productively Invested	
1. Change in Net Worth (Productively Invested from Operations)	\$20,310
2. (Add) Total Educational Expenses (Personal Use)	\$0
3. (Deduct) Net Sources of Assets from Gifts or Non-SAE	\$300
4. Total Growth in Productively Invested	\$20,010

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	\$20,010	Met
b. SAE Earnings at least \$2000	\$20,010	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%	1,001%	Met
b. Unpaid Hours/600 + SAE Earnings/\$2000 is at least 100%	1,001%	Met



A. Skills, Competencies, Knowledge

	AFNR Performance Indicator	Contributions to Success
1	CRP.08.01 Apply reason and logic to evaluate workplace and community situations from multiple perspectives.	When working cattle it is always important to have a plan to make sure things run smoothly and efficiently. At McCurry Brothers I witness family members discussing who would be doing what job when. For instance, when A.I.'ing cows, my grandpa inseminates, I tag and record info and my uncles and cousin push the cows through and manage the chute. We understand we should only have a few head in the circle at a time so we work fast and thoroughly so problems and injuries are less likely to occur.
2	CRP.10.04 Identify, prepare, update and improve the tools and skills necessary to pursue a chosen career path.	Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a program that provides information to U.S. beef producers of how good husbandry techniques can be used with scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management conditions. On my operation, every person is BQA certified in both the seedstock and commercial modules. It has improved methods, as well as traditional practices, to help make McCurry Brothers successful and we market the certification to bull customers to help set our ranch apart from others.
3	CRP.10.02 Examine career advancement requirements (e.g., education, certification, training, etc.) and create goals for continuous growth in a chosen career.	I have taken six agricultural courses during my first three years of high school. Classes like Ag Mechanics have improved my ability to fix simple engines while Animal Science has helped me understand the anatomy of my animals better. Additionally, receiving the Beef Quality Assurance certification has improved my ability to give vaccines, operate machinery and handle animals. I will also attend AI school. These skills are constantly used on my operation and have allowed me to be successful.
4	AS.02.01 Demonstrate management techniques that ensure animal welfare.	Animal welfare is the center of focus for the operation. It means we provide top grade food, water and veterinary care to our livestock. We understand the importance of handling cows calmly and correctly and provide them with the right feed and forage to grow and reproduce. All members of the operation, including myself, are Beef Quality Assurance certified. Our cattle are provided with the best care possible. We understand humane care is in the consumers best interests, as well as our own.
5	ABS.01.03 Devise and apply management skills to organize and run an AFNR business in an efficient, legal and ethical manner.	I know how important it is to provide animals with safe living conditions. Our barn and pasture is designed to ensure that our animals have plenty of space to graze and roam. In the barn, we provide clean cedar fiber bedding and fans for the show cattle. The animals are treated in the most humane way possible. We also make sure we load cattle correctly by not overcrowding the trailer to prevent injury. Efficiency is key to our operation, and we work to do a better job everyday.
6	AS.08.02 Evaluate the effects of environmental conditions on animals and create plans to ensure favorable environments for animals.	During the winter of 2023, the ranch experienced weeks of snow, rain and sub-zero temperatures. The imperfect weather made it very important that all cattle had warm, dry areas to calve and lay in. I placed straw in pens of bulls to maintain fertility and created straw bale wind breaks for pasture cows. Solar waters froze up at McCurry Brothers, making it a necessity to break pond ice each day and constantly monitor drinking sources. Exact head counts and giving extra forage was essential too.
7	AS.04.01 Evaluate animals for breeding readiness and soundness.	The cows in the operation are primarily on grain-centered feed rations until they reach breeding age. We utilize CIDR's and heat tags on the tail-head to know readiness. Bred cows are moved to pasture as soon as possible after showing, and weaned off feed until their diet consists of grass, hay and mineral. This ensures the cows are lean, yet healthy animals and ready to become mothers. Feet are trimmed regularly to prevent lameness of hooves and to allow functional, productive dams in the herd.



8	AS.03.02 Analyze feed rations and assess if they meet the nutritional needs of animals.	I have learned through trial and error about how to feed cattle. Showing cattle allows you to conduct a science experiment on each animal to fully see how they grow with various feeds. I have learned a 10-11 percent protein is adequate and that corn is expensive to feed and not always needed in growth. I learned roughage like cottonseed and soybean hulls are essential and the value of oat hay versus prairie versus alfalfa. I study the protein content of everything before it goes in the cow.
9	AS.04.03 Apply scientific principles to breed animals.	Part of my role at McCurry Brothers is to help with breeding decisions, which revolves around selection traits using Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). Evaluating livestock and competing in team sales at the Jr. Angus Show has increased my knowledge of genomic data. I use low birth-weight bulls to ensure a live offspring on first-time heifers. I look for balanced EPD profiles to allow productive growth, carcass merit, and docility. I use these principles before each breeding season.
10	AS.06.03 Select and train animals for specific purposes and maximum performance based on anatomy and physiology.	Showing cattle has been a staple of our operation for many years. In order to halter-break a new show calf I allow them to drag a rope halter for two weeks. I also sit at the feeder with them as they eat. Daily hair care and selective feeding has been essential to my success in the show-ring with cattle I have raised. I have learned how important it is for the correct amount of protein and roughage to be consumed, along with supplements for fill and bloom. Starting with a quality animal is key.





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Leadership/FFA Activities

Activity	Chapter	Area, District or Region	State	National Finals Multi-State	National
Beef Placement Proficiency Award		24	24		
Blue Dragon Classic Livestock Judging		22,23,24			
Discussion Meet		21	22		
District Livestock Judging		22,23,24			
Employment Skills		23,24	24		
Extemp Speaking		23,24	24		
FFA Water-Kickball Meeting	21,22,24	23			
Greenhand Conference		21			
Greenhand Information Test		21			
Horse Evaluation		21,22	22		
Kansas Beef Expo Livestock Judging		22,23			
Kansas State FFA Convention			22,23,24		
National FFA Convention					21,22,24
Prepared Public Speaking		23,24	24		
South Barber Livestock Judging		22,23			
State Livestock Judging			22,23,24		





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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
Operation Holiday	Packaged food and prepared it to be given to the less fortunate during the holidays.	6.00
No Till on the Plains	I volunteered to introduce guest speakers and workshop leaders at the No-Till-On-The-Plains Conference	5.00
TOTAL		11.00

2022

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Hunt Retriever Dog Contest	I worked to launch catapults that released ducks in the air. This was in order to train peoples dogs to retrieve them. These people came in from all over the country to train their dogs and time how fast they could complete the course	24.00
Colwich Heritage Days	I designed an FFA float to be presented during the Colwich Community Parade. At the conclusion, I hosted a basketball 3v3 tournament and officiated the bounce houses.	8.00
Beef Eaters Steak Feed	I sold tickets for the raffle at the Steak Feed. The event was a fundraiser to raise money for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. Additionally, I helped serve the meals and collected trash.	5.00
TOTAL		37.00

2023

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Kansas Junior Livestock Show	I assisted to help check in goat exhibitors during the 2023 KJLS. I also worked the ring and assisted the holding area during the show.	6.00
Homeless Resource Center	I created Tye-Blankets for the homeless during the holiday months.	3.00
TOTAL		9.00

2024

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Andale Summerfest	I helped prepare the food for our communities summer parade/festival. We prepared nearly 1000 hot dogs, nachos, and burgers all together.	5.00
Andale Farmers	I packaged meals and delivered them to farmers at the local Co-op during harvest.	3.00
TOTAL		8.00

Qualification Check

	Your Value	Condition
At least 2 different activities	9	MET
At least 25 hours	65.0	MET





2025 Kansas State Degree

Checklist of Minimum Qualifications

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





2025 Kansas State Degree

State Degree Manual Review Sheet of Qualifications

Circle	Initial
Y N	

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

_____ Chapter FFA Officer: _____
_____ FFA Committee Chairman: _____
_____ FFA Committee Member: _____

Circle	Initial
Y N	

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

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

Circle	Initial
Y N	

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

1. (Title) _____ (Length) _____

Circle	Initial
Y N	

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

Circle	Initial
Y N	

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

Circle	Initial
Y N	

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

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

Signature of FFA Advisor

Date



State Star in Agricultural Placement

KS

KS0246

604550909



Applicant Information

Candidate Name

Jackson McCurry

FFA Chapter Name

Andale FFA

Star Type

Application Type

Star in Agricultural Placement

Application Level

State

Primary Pathway

Animal 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 beef placement SAE is a position I have as ranch hand working for McCurry Brothers Angus located in Sedgwick, Kansas. The ranch consists of more than 1,000 registered Angus and commercial cows and the ranch farms corn, beans, cotton, hay and alfalfa. The crops are used for cattle feed or sold at the local co-op. McCurry Brothers is known for selling high quality Angus bulls across the country and raises show cattle to compete nationally. The ranch is a nearly 100-year-old family operation with four equal partners as my bosses and I work alongside cousins too. On the ranch, I work directly with the partners to feed grain rations, fix fence, tag calves, haul cattle to the vet and to the sale barn and artificially inseminate cattle. I assist with doctoring cattle and freeze branding and work in the fields alongside my uncle and cousin to plant forage and bale and cut hay each season. One of the most important parts of working for McCurry Brothers is to have the mindset to do whatever needs to be done. I work in the show barn to wash, clip, and work hair on show cattle. Whenever the cattle are sold, I travel to the show and fit on the cattle for the family. I started my SAE simply by wanting to find a job to have some money set aside. I was nervous at first, but in 2021 at family Christmas, I told my Grandpa I would come out and help on the ranch. What started as just something to do during winter break, turned into where most of my time has gone during high school.

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

As my SAE has progressed, I am much more knowledgeable and capable of taking care of livestock. Vaccinations occur often in the large cattle herd. During year one, I would run the head gate to catch the cow in the chute and watch as my uncle performed the vaccine. Now when an animal needs a vaccine or medicine on the ranch, I can perform it quickly and effectively because of the experience and lessons I have learned. Additionally, I manage the custom feed ration and base it on protein, fiber, and fat content. When I started my SAE I would just pour the gain into the trough without knowing the nutrition behind it. As the years progressed I asked questions, and currently, have been responsible for the nutrition in the herd. Because I feed correctly, the cattle are efficient and grow steadily. Feed was an aspect I never understood when I started working there freshman year. Now I take pride in designing rations based on the animals needs because of the value and confidence my bosses have in me. I have learned numerous management skills including branding, vaccinating, artificial insemination, and business sales. The partners have trust in me to take cattle to the sale barn or deliver them to customers. That is entirely because I gained experience riding in the passenger seat four years ago. When I started working there I was nervous because of my lack of experience, but as time progressed I am proud of my abilities.

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

The greatest challenge I have faced is overcoming the winter conditions during calving season. During my work at McCurry Brothers, we had 150 calves on the ground during November 2023 to January 2024 and had to manage calving in negative wind chills and caring for cattle in rain, snow and muddy conditions. I checked pastures regularly and brought cows into calving pens and barns. I also brought some newborn calves into warmer environments and bottle-fed them until they could be returned with their mother. The cold winter nights seemed incredibly long. In order to address this challenge, I managed up to ten water tank heaters at a time, chopped pond ice, put out hay for bedding and for cattle to eat and at one point, and moved round bales of hay to a dry location. The extreme cold and moisture meant extra supervision was required and I used my knowledge of previous winters when working at McCurry Brothers. When the newly-installed solar panel waters were frozen, I had to haul water to cow tanks. More hay was consumed than normal, which required more diesel fill-ups in the pickups. I laid straw down for the pens of bulls to prevent testicle freezing. In years past we have had heifer ears freeze off so I know how important it is to dry off a calf after it's born and make sure its body temperature is warm enough. Unpredictable weather in the Midwest is always a challenge, but when you're doing what you like to do it only seems like a minor obstacle.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Performance Review B

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

Accomplishment/Finding #1

I've learned at McCurry Bros to order and mix a grain ration that provides a 10-11% protein and a 18-22% fiber content for the cows. I have listened to how the feed order is made and have asked questions about the levels of protein, fat, and fiber. My SAE work has given me the chance to then see how cows and bulls respond to the ration and then watch them grow and hit maturity. Today, I create feed rations for the farm and utilize concepts that I have learned the past four years. My "Grower" ration is 12% protein, 16% fiber, and 4% fat. It consists of steam flaked grains, oats, soybean meal, wheat middlings, corn distillers grains, cottonseed holes, and vitamins and minerals to ensure that the feed is palatable and effective for cattle.

Accomplishment/Finding #2

One of my greatest accomplishments is that I can successfully Artificially Inseminate Cattle. In 2024, I bred 60 cows using A.I. When I started my SAE, I was always curious about how to complete the process. During my junior year I asked my grandpa if I could A.I. a cow. He watched as I heated the semen straw and loaded it into the catheter. He reminded me to use my palpation arm first and then slowly insert the catheter into the tract. He described the feeling of the cervix and once I passed it, he told me how to make sure I was in the uterine body. After depositing the semen and removing the catheter and hand, I was very excited, but nervous if she would settle. She did, and ever since I have been trusted to A.I. cattle whenever needed.

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 Certified Angus Beef (CAB) program is a market goal of my family's Angus operation. CAB is a brand label given to retail beef products that meet strict live animal and carcass requirements to ensure a high quality beef coming from Angus-type cattle. There are 10 requirements (live and carcass). Cattle that qualify for CAB receive up to \$10.80/cwt in premiums. In 2024, McCurry Bros had 55 head qualify for CAB which brought in more profit for the operation. Specifically, the program makes me evaluate bulls from a carcass perspective. When AI season comes around, I breed cows to bulls that have high carcass genomics which helps their offspring qualify for CAB - and bring in bigger premiums on the rail for the operation.





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 objective is to grow an Angus herd to 200 head of quality, registered cattle and market bulls across the country. I can achieve this by using the connections I've made working for McCurry Brothers and participating in the National Jr. Angus Association programs. I have traveled to leadership conferences, cattle shows, and judging camps and competitions to increase my knowledge of the livestock industry. My SAE has allowed me to learn how quality seedstock are raised and develop public relation skills. I have learned how the FFA LDE events, as well as the evaluation and identification CDE's have helped prepare me for a livestock career. I am more confident in my ability to market livestock, build relationships, and build a brand.

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

My SAE project has convinced me to attend national leadership conferences like NJAA's Raising the Bar and LEAD, where I have toured feedlots, greenhouses, cow-calf operations, meat science labs, almond farms, and processing facilities. My most recent LEAD trip to Modesto taught me about California planting, rotation, and harvesting seasons, as well as touring three California Angus ranches. It was interesting to compare that state's agriculture practices and regulations to ours in Kansas. The differences made me realize that agriculturists may do things differently, but we all strive for the same goal: to produce great livestock and meet great people. These opportunities have sparked my interest in different ways of raising cattle.

Experience/Activity/Opportunity #2

Another opportunity my SAE has given me is to travel the country to different cattle shows and sales. At the 2023 Cattlemen's Congress, I not only competed in the cattle show with two heifers from McCurry Bros, but attended the Embryos on Ice sale and the National Angus Bull Sale. There I learned more about the genomic traits and progeny of sires. I brought this information back to the operation and have bred cows to these sires with approval. Additionally, I got to meet many other Angus breeders that share common career interests. This opportunity helped me build relationships so I can hopefully do business with them in the future. I am fortunate for this experience because it has expanded my knowledge of the cattle industry.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Learning Outcomes & Efficiency Factors

	Learning Outcome or Efficiency Factor	Beginning Level	Level Attained	Description
1	Artificial Insemination for Cattle: Measured by # of Cows Successfully Bred in 2024	<u>2021</u> 0 Cows Bred	<u>2024</u> 60 Cows Bred	Simply from watching my grandpa breed cows over the years I gained the ability (small steps at a time) to successfully A.I Cattle. The process is not guaranteed but is a necessity to improve the genetics of the herd. This skill is something that took a long time to learn but is extremely beneficial.
2	Develop grain requirements for healthy cattle herd: Measured by # of Feed Rations Created and Used.	<u>2021</u> 0 Rations Developed	<u>2024</u> 3 Rations Developed	I never knew how important nutrition was for cattle until I started working on the ranch. I created a starter, grower, and finisher ration in 2024. I was able to complete this with assistance and trust of the bosses and from simply watching cattle develop on different rations the past four years.
3	Input data for cattle herd: Measured by # of Cattle Recorded on Excel Spreadsheets 2024.	<u>2021</u> Not Capable, 0 cows monitored	<u>2024</u> Proficient, 300 cows monitored	I learned the ability to input data into an excel spreadsheet to keep track of the herd in 2023. This includes identification, latest vaccines, heat cycles, and sire and dam registrations. I know the importance of being organized with herd statistics to eliminate future problems/questions.
4	Livestock Evaluation: Measured by # of Contests Attended.	<u>2021</u> Basic, 0 Livestock Contests	<u>2024</u> Experienced, 25 Livestock Contests	When selecting show cattle, cattle for the sale barn, or animals you want to retain in your herd, you have to know how to evaluate them. I have attended judging clinics, competitions, and listened to those more experienced than me. Doing so has polished my ability to evaluate over the years.
5	Vaccinating Cattle: Measured by # of Cows Vaccinated 2024.	<u>2022</u> 0 Cows Vaccinated	<u>2024</u> 200 Cows Vaccinated	At the start of 2022 the only vaccine I was knowledgeable about performing was an intravenous vaccine. Now I can perform any vaccine when doctoring cattle with full confidence. Types of vaccines include subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intranasal.





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	AS.08.02 Evaluate the effects of environmental conditions on animals and create plans to ensure favorable environments for animals.	During the winter of 2023, the ranch experienced weeks of snow, rain and sub-zero temperatures. The imperfect weather made it very important that all cattle had warm, dry areas to calve and lay in. I placed straw in seven pens of bulls to maintain fertility and created five straw bale wind breaks for pasture cows. Solar waters froze up, making it a necessity to break all four pond ice each day and constantly monitor drinking sources. I brought 20 cows into the barn so they could calve easier.
2	AS.04.03 Apply scientific principles to breed animals.	Part of my role at McCurry Brothers is to help with breeding decisions, which revolves around selection traits using Expected Progeny Differences. Evaluating livestock and watching the more experienced has increased my knowledge of genomics. I use low birth-weight bulls to ensure a live offspring on first-time heifers. I look for balanced EPD profiles to allow productive growth, carcass merit, and docility. I use these principles before each breeding season and have bred 60 cows because of it.
3	AS.03.02 Analyze feed rations and assess if they meet the nutritional needs of animals.	I have learned through trial and error about how to feed cattle. By watching them develop, I have learned a 10-11 percent protein is adequate and that corn is expensive to feed and not always needed in growth. I learned roughage like cottonseed and soybean hulls are essential and the value of oat hay versus prairie versus alfalfa. I study the nutrient content of everything before it goes in the cow and because of that I have created three feed rations and feed them actively to the herd.
4	AS.04.01 Evaluate animals for breeding readiness and soundness.	The cows in the operation are primarily on grain-centered feed rations until they reach breeding age. Bred cows are weaned off feed until their diet consists of grass, hay and mineral. This ensures the cows are lean, yet healthy animals and ready to become mothers. Feet are trimmed regularly to prevent lameness of hooves and to allow functional, productive dams in the herd. I utilized over 100 CIDR's in 2024 and used heat tags on the tail-head to know readiness and synchronize the females.
5	AS.06.03 Select and train animals for specific purposes and maximum performance based on anatomy and physiology.	Showing cattle has been a staple of our operation for many years. In order to halter-break a new show calf I allow them to drag a rope halter for two weeks. I also sit at the feeder with them as they eat. Daily hair care and selective feeding has been essential to the success in the show-ring. I have learned how important it is for the correct amount of protein and roughage to be consumed, along with supplements for fill and bloom. I have halter-broke over 40 bulls and 60 females during my SAE.

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

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
6	ESS.02.02 Compare and contrast the impact of current trends on regulation of environmental service systems (e.g., climate change, population growth, international trade, etc.).	There is doubt that cattle prices are extremely high in 2024. And while it makes McCurry Bros more profitable at the sale barn, it also means that more cattle are leaving the farm. I have seen first hand that drought and high input costs make cattle get sold more often and because of that, I have hauled and sorted more cattle than the previous three years combined. I have learned so much about the international and national market because it has directly affected the tasks I do at work.



7	PST.02.02 Operate machinery and equipment while observing all safety precautions in AFNR settings.	As I learned to drive tractors and combines for the ranch, they always emphasized safety. This past summer I mowed seven pastures to control weeds and had to make sure to avoid potholes, trees, and fences. I always make sure to turn the tractor off before getting out, check the oil and fuel beforehand, and be cautious of surroundings at all times. These also apply when I work in the hay fields or crop fields. I thank my bosses for teaching me the safety protocols of operating machinery.
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C. Three Career Ready Practice and/or Cluster Skills standards

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
8	CRP.10.02 Examine career advancement requirements (e.g., education, certification, training, etc.) and create goals for continuous growth in a chosen career.	I have taken eight agricultural courses during my high school career. Classes like Ag Mechanics have improved my ability to fix simple engines while Animal Science has helped me understand the anatomy of my animals better. Ag business has taught me about the input costs to run an operation and how agriculture commodities are marketed. These skills are constantly used on the operation and have allowed me to be successful.
9	CRP.10.04 Identify, prepare, update and improve the tools and skills necessary to pursue a chosen career path.	Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a program that provides information to U.S. beef producers of how good husbandry techniques can be used with scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management conditions. On the operation, all six people are BQA certified in the Seedstock and Cow/Calf Modules. During Jan 1st of each year, all members are required to be re-certified because management techniques are always updated and changing year after year. BQA has helped me be up-to-date at work.
10	CRP.08.01 Apply reason and logic to evaluate workplace and community situations from multiple perspectives.	When working cattle it is always important to realize what your strengths are so things run smoothly. At McCurry Brothers I witness family members discussing who would be doing what job. For instance, when vaccinating cows, my grandpa mainly doctors, I tag and record info, and my uncles and cousin push the cows through and manage the chute. We understand to work fast and with communication so injuries are unlikely to occur. I always work with at least one other person when working cattle.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Resume

Objective

My objective is to use my knowledge of the cattle industry to improve the genetic standards and phenotypic requirements of my operation. I plan to grow my herd to 200 quality Angus females. I will use my knowledge gained in my Beef Placement SAE at McCurry Bros. and aspects of my entrepreneurship SAE to progress my herd. Feed, selective breeding, and humane treatment will be my focal points.

Agricultural Classes/Coursework

Beef Quality Assurance Commercial and Seedstock Certification, 2023-24
Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Certification, 2021-24
Principles Honor Roll, 2021-24
Ag Economics 101 (Dual Credit), Fall 2024
Ag Research and Development, Fall 2024
Ag Mechanics, Spring 2023
Ag Placement/Leadership, Spring 2023
Ag Business, Fall 2023
Advanced Animal Science, Spring 2023
Animal Science, Fall 2023
Intro to Agriculture, Spring 2022

SAE

Beef Entrepreneurship, McCurry Farm, Show Cattle Manager, 2021-24

- Created feed rations and worked cattle hair
- Halter broke calves and hauled trailers
- Built and maintained functional fencing and show pens

Beef Placement, McCurry Brothers Angus Farm, Farm Assistant 2021-24

- Assisted with morning feed chores and checked health of cattle
- Learned to utilize artificial insemination and give proper vaccines
- Assisted with direct sale of bulls and cows to buyers
- Learned pedigree information for sales, managed expenses, and created marketing materials

FFA Leadership

South Central District FFA Reporter, 2024-25
Andale FFA Chapter President, 2022-24
FFA Prepared Public Speaking, 2022-24
FFA Extemp Public Speaking, 2021-24
FFA Discussion Meet, 2022-23

FFA Activities

National FFA Convention, 21,23,24
Kansas FFA State Convention, 21-24
SCD Extemp Speaking, 22-25
SCD Livestock Evaluation, 22-24
SCD Dairy Cattle Evaluation, 21-24
SCD Vet Science, 21-22
SCD Horse Evaluation, 21-22
Greenhand Conference, 2021



Community Service

Meals to Andale Farmers During Harvest, September 2024
Andale Summerfest, July 2024
Homeless Resource Center, December 2023
Kansas Junior Livestock Show, October 2023
Hunt-Retriever Dog Contest, April 2022-23
Beef-Eaters Steak Feed, September 2021-22

School and Extracurricular Involvement

Kansas Junior Angus Association Secretary, 2024-Present
Kansas Junior Angus Association Member, 2016-Present
Colwich Clovers 4-H Member, 2016-Present
National Junior Angus Association Voting Delegate, 2022-23

Awards and Honors

High Individual, South Barber Invitational Livestock Evaluation, October 2024
First Place, NJAS Prepared Public Speaking, July 2024
First Place, NJAS Extemp Public Speaking, July 2024
Finalist, Kansas FFA Beef Proficiency Placement, June 2024
First Place, SCD Beef Placement Proficiency, February 2024
Third Place, SCD Senior Prepared Public Speaking, February 2024
Third Place, SCD Extemporaneous Public Speaking, February 2024
First Place, SCD Employability Skills, January 2024
First Place, SCD Dairy Cattle Judging, October 2023
First Place, Kansas FFA State Discussion Meet Contest, May 2023
First Place, Kansas FFA State Horse Judging Contest, May 2023
Fifth Place, Kansas FFA State Livestock Judging Contest, May 2023

Certifications

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA). I am certified in both the cow calf and seed stock portion of the class. Both of these certifications required me to complete the modules by reading information and taking a test after each module. This program has taught me skills that I currently use in my SAE's. The main focus is to treat animals humanly. This includes proper vaccination techniques, how to move cattle through a chute, and learning the reproductive tract of breeding animals.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). This certification has been required to exhibit Livestock at the Kansas State Fair and Junior Livestock show. The program focuses on proper handling of show animals, nutrient importance, and food safety.

Skills

Public Speaking
Livestock Evaluation
Relationship Building
Adaptability
Active Listening
Time-Management



References

Cheyenne Holliday, 2021-2023 FFA Advisor
18371 Rock Springs Road
Lincoln, AR 72744
(479) 601-6841
moyer.cheyenne@gmail.com

Tom Patterson, Owner: Blender Ranch
2350 240th Rd.
Strong City, KS 66869
(620) 794-4927
twpatt@hotmail.com

Hunter Smith, Andale High School FFA Advisor
700 Rush Ave.
Andale, KS 67001
(620) 842-2866
hunter.smith@usd267.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.

I have encountered so many opportunities in FFA. Looking back I have realized that the milestones I have achieved were not done by chance, but by passion and perseverance. FFA has introduced me to agriculture and its future. When I was a freshman in high school I was fortunate enough to have great mentors and advisors help me with my goals. They encouraged me to compete in everything and to put myself in uncomfortable situations. From personal growth to professional accomplishments, these achievements have made me realize my career goal and have given me the necessary skills to pursue my passions.

My entire high school career has been centered around being the chapter FFA president. I have been fortunate to lead our chapter as a sophomore, junior, and senior. Leading my FFA chapter means guiding the more than 100 registered members through monthly activities and chapter meetings. My responsibilities include being innovative, organized, and being a team-player. I assist the advisors in organizing competition teams with preparation for the contests. Some of the highlights of being chapter president are leading community service activities, which range from serving dinner at the local co-op to making tie blankets for women and children in need and serving lunch during the community summer festival. During harvest this fall, my fellow FFA members and I packaged meals to hand out to local area farmers. We also greeted farmers at the co-op as they were weighing grain and we sought out the combine/grain-cart drivers still in the nearby fields and delivered them a meal. I am very proud of the community involvement that I have been able to lead during high school.

FFA has offered me many chances to compete at district, state and national levels. One of my favorite experiences in FFA was competing in the state FFA Discussion Meet contest. This contest is a simulation of a board meeting, an open discussion between four FFA members on a predetermined agriculture topic. Each FFA member at the table must give a timed intro, discuss the topic at hand cordially and extensively, offer facts and provide solutions, and then finish with a verbal conclusion and assessment of the discussion. I was named first in the state my sophomore year in the FFA Discussion Meet contest. Being on the state FFA convention stage, hearing my name announced as the winner was the most amazing feeling. My fellow competitors were very good, so good I truly had no idea if I had won or not. I was grateful to have been with them in the FinalFour of the contest. But the reality is that I studied, interviewed industry leaders, wrote my intro and conclusions well and focused on the contest with everything I had. I remembered the advice of my adviser and parents to be considerate of others, to call out facts and to summarize the conversation so each person felt included and heard. The same year I won Discussion Meet I also won the state FFA Horse Judging contest, and was Fifth in the State FFA Livestock Judging contest. It was a great time in my life, and I'll never forget how much I studied, sweated and learned about myself in order to meet my goals.

Livestock judging is a skill that came naturally to me. And maybe it should, being the grandson of a cattle judge and the son of two Angus cattle breeders. My sisters showed goats and pigs, so I had experience with those two species but nothing like my knowledge of beef cattle. The one species I knew nothing about, sheep, was truly intimidating. I had no idea how to judge lambs when I started with FFA livestock judging competitions. It's amazing what you learn from an Ag teacher who cares. My advisers have spent time with me to evaluate classes in person and on the computer to pick up various tricks and gain amazing experience, only to become a better evaluator of livestock. I was the high individual in cattle at the 2024 Kansas Beef Expo and finished top 10 in 15 different livestock judging competitions during high school. I am so proud of these accomplishments and know they will be beneficial to the future.

I started my beef placement SAE my freshman year. I always knew that I wanted to work at my Grandpa's Angus Ranch, but never had the confidence to get started. I remember right before Christmas break in 2021, I told him I would come to the ranch everyday and help in any way I could. I rode in the truck opening gates and helped lift buckets and panels. I asked as many questions as I could like what the pastures were called and how the cattle were sorted, tagged, and kept track of. Although it was my grandpa, I never talked to him in a professional working setting before, but knew if I wanted to work on the ranch I would have to put myself out there.

Working with Angus cattle has always been my passion. In my role as a ranch assistant with McCurry Brothers, I absolutely know how lucky I am to work alongside my grandpa and great uncles. At McCurry Brothers these people are my mentors and my bosses, and I am so fortunate to have them be my leaders. When I got on the payroll, my tasks consisted of filling up water, feeding buckets of grain, and opening gates. After my first year I understood so much more. I learned how to tag a calf's ear, where to put an injection, and even how to drive a tractor. I have learned to be patient and although my work environment can be hectic at times, I try to step back and learn how to do things the right way.

I asked so many questions, even the same ones over and over until I knew I could do things by myself. The summer before my junior year is when I really felt accomplished. I studied feed labels online and created a "grower" feed ration for calves when they are freshly weaned. I talked to my bosses and they helped me complete the feed and keep it cheap



enough. I purchased the feed at Custom Mills in Hutchinson, Kansas and tried it on my own calves at home. It's a "sweet feed" meaning there is molasses in it and grounded pellets containing proteins, vitamins and minerals. McCurry Brothers bought one pallet of it and fed it to calves kept in the showbarn. To this day we still feed it and have loved seeing cattle develop on it. I felt so excited that I had an idea that impacted a large scale of the operation - of course with the help of my uncles.

Additionally I am proud of my hands-on skills with cattle. We artificially inseminate 20% of the cows on the farm. My grandpa is the one that has always bred them. My freshman year I helped move cattle through the chute and hand him whatever he needed. After watching the uncles do the process, I then had the job to put new ear tags in and record them on the data sheet. Then my grandpa told me it was my turn to AI a cow. I knew the steps from simply observing but he guided me through the cervix and described to me the feeling and what to feel for. B247 was her tag number, the first cow I ever bred. Now when AI season comes around, I get the chance to breed a couple cows when needed and I am so grateful for that accomplishment.

I am grateful for the public relation ability I gained on the ranch. Buyers would come look at cattle and I would stand by one of the uncles and after they introduced me and the small talk was over, I would listen to the way he talks pedigree, value, and the market. These concepts interest me greatly. I got to the point where when people were unavailable, I would be the one talking to the customer. The bosses tell me what the bulls are priced at and I am around them so much I know the pedigree and traits of nearly all the bulls on the farm. I have successfully closed a couple sales and helped load them on the trailer. Primarily, we deliver bulls to buyers that have looked and spoken for one. I have delivered cattle across the state because I am trusted by my bosses. My public relation ability is one of my proudest traits and without my work on the farm I would not be confident in my skills.

McCurry Bros doesn't have a production sale anymore because of the older age of the partners. This is the reason I work there. My career goal is to take over the family business that I value so deeply and not let it be just another statistic in the loss of farms in our country. The skills I learned in my SAE will be valuable forever and I am beyond grateful for this high school experience.

I hope my Star FFA Placement application shows you the real deal of working for an Angus cattle operation. I have enjoyed it very much and hope to continue down the path of raising livestock with my family. The plaques and ribbons I won in FFA contests coupled with the time I spent on the ranch mean much more than their basic value. My knowledge of agriculture in general increased so much during high school because of the work I put in and the great people that helped me. I am certain that the community involvement, evaluation and public speaking skills, and hands-on cattle work will prepare me extremely well for the future.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Safety Photo #1



Every day at McCurry Brothers is a lesson in safety. I have built eight electric fences and four barbed wire fences during my SAE experience. I always wear eye protection with safety goggles and leather gloves while fixing a barbed wire fence. I also know to tuck my jeans in my boots and not have loose clothing around to catch on the wire or when I operate the tractor or bale mover. Fixing/building fence in a safe way is one of the most common safety steps I take and is very important.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Safety Photo #2



I learned the proper technique and asked questions about what the vaccines do and the proper dosage. I have given vaccinations to over 200 cows on the ranch in the past two years. I hold the cow in a squeeze chute allowing just enough space for her to be comfortable and allowing me plenty of room to give the injection. My arm is in the top space of the chute so I can retreat if the cow were to jump. Safety when performing a vaccine and protecting yourself is extremely important and useful.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #3



My bosses encouraged me to get my CDL when I turned 18. Right away I took the test and received my license. Because of getting my CDL I can now run grain carts and the cattle pot. Most recently, I took 40 head of cattle to the Salina sale barn where they were sold in that week's sale. It's very helpful to run the big machinery and deliver cattle for the operation. Doing so, I always make sure I am safe by checking tires, lights, and the oil, as well as the safety of the cattle.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #4



Each winter, sub-zero temps and inches of snow and rain freeze all water sources available for our cattle. With solar panel conductors also frozen, I attached my truck to a water tank trailer and hauled water to fill four tanks every day for nine days at work. Water is crucial for cattle, especially in the freezing conditions. Additionally, I used an axe to break thick layers of ice on tanks and ponds. Then I used a pitchfork to scoop ice chunks out of the trough to prevent immediate refreezing.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #5



With a goal raising high quality show cattle, one of my responsibilities is to work hair every day. This includes washing, blowing dry, adding sheen to grow and direct hair in the correct direction and keeping them cool all day long. Hair and skin care is a major factor at cattle shows and helps enhance visual appearance. This Angus steer was raised and shown in 2022, Tommy, was champion Angus at many jackpot shows, reserve Angus at Kansas Classic and fourth in class at Angus Junior Nationals.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #6



I enjoy nothing more than when a cow has a young calf. However when cows don't take responsibility to nurse their calves, I bring them into the heated office to raise their body temperature and give them a bottle of milk-replacer twice a day - or colostrum if necessary. After a day or two I bring the calf back out to its mother and put the cow in the chute. I then see if the calf will nurse off the cow while she is safely restrained and turn them back out to pasture when they are ready.





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 - Andale FFA
Jackson McCurry 604550909
SAE Agreement - McCurry Brothers

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2/21/2025 18:29

SAE Information

Name:	McCurry Brothers
SAE Type:	Placement
AFNR Pathway/Category:	Animal Systems - Beef

SAE Plan - McCurry Brothers

Description

My interest and motivation is to learn new practices to grow a cattle herd and expand my knowledge of working on a cattle operation.
The project started in the winter of 2021 and I still work there today.
My goals are to reduce costs of the farm, expand my knowledge about vaccinations and medical treatment, and learn how to improve genetics in a herd.
My project will be evaluated by Greg McCurry, owner of McCurry Bros and a professional.
My safety areas include: safe vaccinations, humane treatment, and tractor safety.

Time Investment

I plan to invest 30 hours a week during the school year and 60 hours a week with no school.
My time will vary but my common activities are FFA competitions, showing cattle, and medical appointments.
I am getting paid for my time. I started at \$10 per hour and make \$15 now.
My time relates to my career plan which is to raise cattle on my own.

Learning Objectives (SAE Skills):

Skill Area	Planned Activities	Results or Outcome
AS.02.01 Demonstrate management techniques that ensure animal welfare.	I am beef quality assurance certified which teaches me the correct way to handle animals. My time on the farm has helped my utilize animal welfare while working with animals. Proper moving/loading techniques and correct vaccination techniques are the most important.	
AS.05.01 Design animal housing, equipment and handling facilities for the major systems of animal production.	The barns and working facilities are up to 50 years old at McCurry Brothers. I have been tasked to fix them and I make sure they are up to the proper conditions to handle animals. The working chute and fill-alley are efficient and have always worked well. We provide barns with bedding for show animals and cows calving in the winter months.	
AS.06.03 Select and train animals for specific purposes and maximum performance based on anatomy and physiology.	McCurry Bros has exhibited cattle all over the country for the past 50 years. Feeding animals so that they grow productively and efficiently has been a main focus. I halter break the cattle to allow them to be led in the show ring and easy to be loaded on trailers. The animals are fed based on their physical needs and are trained to be more docile.	

Signatures

<i>Jackson McCurry</i>	<i>2/3/2025 10:28:00 AM</i>	<i>Rhonda McCurry</i>	<i>2/14/2025 6:43:00 AM</i>
Student	Date	Parent / Guardian	Date
<i>Hunter Smith</i>	<i>2/6/2025 10:41:00 AM</i>	<i>Greg McCurry / McCurry Brothers</i>	<i>2/7/2025 11:27:00 AM</i>
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.

Hunter Smith
Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor
Andale High School
700 Rush Ave
Andale, Kansas 67001
(620) 842-2866
hunter.smith@usd267.com

2/19/2025

Dear Members of the Awards Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Jackson McCurry as he applies for the STAR in Agricultural Placement Award. I have had the privilege of working closely with Jackson during his time as an active and dedicated FFA member, and it is clear that he embodies the qualities of leadership, responsibility, and work ethic that make him a strong candidate for this prestigious award.

As the current President of our FFA chapter, Jackson has demonstrated outstanding leadership in both his role and his community involvement. He has effectively led our chapter, organizing and motivating our members, and always ensuring that our programs run smoothly. Jackson is a natural leader, balancing his responsibilities as president while also serving as a role model for others. His leadership skills have been evident in numerous chapter events, and he continually fosters a positive and supportive environment for all FFA members.

Jackson's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project in beef production placement is another example of his dedication and work ethic. He works on a local cattle ranch, where he is responsible for many of the daily tasks related to cattle management, from feeding and grooming to health care and record-keeping. His hands-on experience has not only deepened his knowledge of cattle care and ranch operations, but it has also taught him valuable skills in time management, responsibility, and problem-solving. Jackson's dedication to his SAE has been remarkable, and his work on the ranch has provided him with a solid foundation for his future in agriculture.

In addition to his work on the ranch, Jackson has also been involved in showing cattle at local, county, and state fairs. His commitment to presenting these animals in the best possible light at these events has been evident through the care and preparation he puts into each show.

Jackson McCurry is not only an exemplary FFA member but also a driven, responsible young adult who is committed to advancing his skills in agriculture. His work ethic, leadership, and dedication to his SAE project make him a standout candidate for this award. I am confident that Jackson will continue to make significant contributions to the agricultural community, and it is a privilege to recommend him for this honor.

Thank you for considering Jackson's application. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Hunter Smith Andale
FFA Advisor



McCurry Brothers

Greg McCurry • 10811 No. 215 West • Sedgwick, Kansas 67135 • 316-796-1464
www.mccurrybrothers.com • mccurrybro@aol.com

February 20th, 2025

Kansas FFA Star – Ag Placement

Letter of Recommendation

Dear FFA STAR Committee Members,

I strongly recommend Jackson McCurry for the Kansas FFA STAR in Ag Placement award. I have enjoyed watching Jackson grow while working on the ranch and can't appreciate enough the impact he has made.

Jackson has always been involved with Angus Cattle. He raises show heifers on his own and competes at the National Junior Angus Show every year. When he began working in 2021, he was always willing to learn. He asked questions and tried to work with anybody that needed help. If you were to ask anybody that works on the farm, they would say he has made their job easier.

He always says he prefers the cattle side of things rather than the row crop farm. Because of his prior cattle knowledge he knows how to handle animals. He halter breaks bulls and heifers, moves them through the chute and puts the brand or ear tag on them. The process is done quicker and more efficiently because of his attention to detail and determination.

I served on the American Angus Board of Directors from 2022-2024. Because of the commitment, I went to conventions and meetings for a heavy amount of time. Jackson would take care of the homeplace when I was traveling, which was a huge help for two years.

As a couple of years passed, he was working all the time. Whether it was ten degrees below zero or the hottest day of summer he always came with a positive attitude and was willing to assist anyone. He took cattle to the vet or to the sale barn and helped artificially inseminate cows and heifers. He always asked questions about how to do things the right way and was a fast learner. His skills have developed tremendously during his work at McCurry Brothers. When cattle need doctored, moved, or sorted he is the hand you call.

In conclusion, I without a doubt endorse Jackson McCurry for the Kansas FFA STAR in Ag Placement Award. His passion and knowledge of the cattle industry coupled with his leadership skills, determination, and love for agriculture make him the clear candidate for this award. If you have any questions or need any further information, contact me at mccurrybro@aol.com.

 2-22-25
Greg McCurry, McCurry Brothers Angus



5201 E Rd 110
Scott City, Ks 67871
620-874-4273
www.kansasangus.org

February 16, 2025

RE: Jackson McCurry
Kansas FFA Star, Ag Placement
Letter of Recommendation

Dear Selection Committee,

It is without hesitation that I recommended Jackson McCurry Kansas FFA Star Award. I have known Jackson since he was a young child and have watched him grow into the accomplished young man he is today.

His path as a young Angus breeder and in the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) has led him to excellence the showring, leadership and educational contests. He has served the 170 members of the KJAA in several leadership roles including two terms as district director, membership director and is currently serving at the 2024-25 secretary. He is a "team player" representing the KJAA on national Certified Angus Beef ® Cook Off, quiz bowl and sales teams.

He has been selected by his peers in the KJAA to represent the membership as one of two voting delegates to the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Annual Meeting at the National Junior Angus Show.

Jackson is a accomplished public speaker and has excelled in public speaking in contests on the state and national levels and uses those skills to advocate for agriculture and the beef industry.

I have observed that his quiet but intentional leadership style makes him quick to volunteer, help others and a very effective leader and role model for his peers as well younger junior Angus members. When Kansas hosted the 2022 National Junior Angus Show, Jackson served on the welcoming committee and spent hours assisting with trailer unloading , taking shifts cleaning up in the showring as well as many other tasks. He has also attended three NJAA Leaders Engaged in Angus Development national conferences as well a several NJAA Raising the Bar conferences.

Through active involvement and leadership in Angus, 4-H and FFA he has demonstrated his dedication to academics, service, agriculture and the beef industry. I believe that this dedication and work along with his accomplishments make him worthy of this award.

Anne Lampe
Kansas Angus Association, Secretary/Manager
Kansas Junior Angus Association, Advisor