



2025 Kansas State Degree

KS

KS0124

604600148

6 KS



Student Approval

Applicant Name

Tucker W. Leck

Chapter Name

Neodesha FFA

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

3/4/2025 12:24:00 PM

Date

Tucker Leck

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.

3/4/2025 12:33:00 PM

Date

Talia Leck talia.leck@usd286.org

Parent/Guardian Signature

Principal or Superintendent Approval

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

3/4/2025 12:26:00 PM

Date

Eric Swanson eswanson@usd461.org

School Principal or Superintendent



2025 Kansas State Degree

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Applicant Contact Information

Name as you want it to appear on the certificate

Tucker W. Leck

Gender

Male

Address

18596 700th Rd

City

Neodesha

State

KS

Zip Code

667571599

Email Address

leck569@stu.usd461.com

Name on the FFA Chapter Roster (if different)

Tucker W. Leck

Name Pronunciation

Home Phone

(620) 716-1841

Parent/Guardian Name

Marcus Leck

Parent/Guardian Occupation

Department of Transportation

Parent/Guardian Name

Talia Leck

Parent/Guardian Occupation

School Psych

Chapter Information

FFA Chapter Name

Neodesha FFA

School Address

1001 N 8th St

School Phone

(620) 325-3015

School Name

Neodesha High School

School State

KS

School Zip Code

66757-1384

School City

Neodesha

Chapter Advisor(s)

Emma Lehmann

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

5

Ag Education completed in High School

Years: 4

Hours: 720

Postsecondary/Vo-Tech Education Completed

Semesters:

Quarters:

Four-year College Completed

Semesters:

Quarters:

Major

School Attended

Military Duty - Dates of Full-Time Active Military Duty

World Experiences in Agriculture - Date of International Placement





2025 Kansas State Degree

Basic Award Setup Information

I. Application Dates

Began Agricultural Education

8/18/2021

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	\$950	\$14,278
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	\$930
b. Sources of cash from Ag related (non-SAE) and personal earnings	\$0
c. (Deduct) Total Personal Expense/Draw	\$9,362
d. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$538





2025 Kansas State Degree

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	Leck Family Show Pigs Swine Production Farm Assistant- My Swine Placement SAE began in August of 2021 at Leck Family Showpigs. In this 20-sow program, the focus is on producing purebred and crossbred show pigs. This year, I learned how to complete chores daily, vaccinate and treat illness in all swine, and check all farm facilities. I earned \$7.50 an hour and logged 114 hours in 2021. My working knowledge includes the proper feed used in daily chores and I have become proficient in administering medicine.	0	114	114	\$856	\$0
Animal Systems	Leck Family French Bulldogs Canine Care Assistant: My Small Animal Production and Care Placement SAE began in August of 2021 at Leck Family French Bulldogs. In this 19 female, two stud dog operation, my primary focus this year was assisting with whelping of French Bulldog puppies. I also became involved with monitoring the health of newborn puppies and ensuring proper feeding. I helped to maintain the hygiene in the kennel and my employer helped me establish a strong base for responsible breeding practices.	0	52	52	\$392	\$0
Animal Systems	Leck Family Fresh Eggs Egg Production Assistant: My Poultry Production Placement SAE began in August of 2021 at Leck Family Fresh Eggs. In this 38 laying hen operations, my responsibilities started with ensuring the health and productivity of laying hens. I was able to learn about quality control systems to monitor egg production, maintain high standards during the cooler months, and focus on daily egg collection and coop maintenance.		38	38	\$286	
TOTAL		0	204	204	\$1,534	\$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	Leck Family Show Pigs Assistant Herd Manager- Gaining responsibilities in the areas of indicating heat in gilts/sows, farrowing baby piglets, maintaining herd health, and independently vaccinating all swine, I have successfully logged 425 hours with a pay increase to \$8.25/hour. I have increased my skill level in all areas, but most importantly, I've had the opportunity to successfully establish a preservation program after the purchase of a Meishan boar and gilt from Kentucky.	0	425	425	\$3,508	\$0
Animal Systems	Leck Family French Bulldogs Reproductive Health and Marketing Coordinator: This year, there was significant improvement in my skills as they related to reproductive health. My employer showed me how to utilize a progesterone testing machine. This allowed me to begin precise ovulation tracking and improving the efficiency of artificial insemination. Additionally, I received a raise to \$8.25/hr, which came as I began implementing marketing strategies including social media promotions.		147	147	\$1,216	
Animal Systems	Leck Family Fresh Eggs Flock Health and Production Coordinator: This year, I began to experiment with lighting strategies to enhance egg production and also began to introduce forage crops to improve the laying hens' nutrition. Due to my increased skills in managing the hens' diet and feeding rations, I was able to gain a pay increase to \$8.25/hr. Additionally, customer satisfaction became a focus, leading to refinements in egg collection and sales strategies.		81	81	\$668	
TOTAL		0	653	653	\$5,392	\$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	Leck Family Show Pigs Herd Manager- 2023 was an experience of incredible growth and personal development at Leck Family Showpigs. I was promoted to herd manager and received a pay increase to \$9/hr. Additional responsibilities include marketing outreach, picture-taking for online sales, and communication with buyers. I've also been tasked with overseeing artificial insemination practices. As the manager of the Meishan herd, one litter fruited 12 offspring, helping increase the U.S. Meishan operation.	0	489	489	\$4,401	\$0
Animal Systems	Leck Family Fresh Eggs Flock Health and Production Manager: This year, my skills in marketing expanded significantly. I was able to coordinate with my employer to launch a holiday promotional campaign, created an egg subscription service to ensure consistent sales, and collaborated with local culinary enthusiasts to showcase the quality of the eggs. This allowed for my pay to increase to \$9/hr, and I also emphasized skills to improve coop conditions, especially during extreme temperatures.	0	99	99	\$891	\$0
Animal Systems	Leck Family French Bulldogs Kennel Operations and Customer Relations Manager: I was able to expand my role in both hands-on care and customer outreach, prompting a raise to \$9/hr. After communicating with my employer, I began running targeted advertising campaigns that led to successful puppy sales and strengthened engagement by reaching out to past buyers for testimonials and photos. Additionally, there was an increased focus on hygiene and health monitoring, including independently managing vaccinations.		202	202	\$1,818	
	TOTAL	0	790	790	\$7,110	\$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	Leck Family French Bulldogs Kennel Operations Manager: This year, I had taken full responsibility for advanced reproductive care, including independent artificial insemination of females, advanced vaccination protocols, and precise record-keeping with the AKC system. Additionally, I've assisted in whelping multiple litters and monitored newborn development. My marketing strategies also became more sophisticated, and incorporating enhanced website content to increase buyer confidence, increasing pay to \$9.25/hr.		224	224	\$2,074	
Animal Systems	Leck Family Fresh Eggs Flock and Egg Production Operator/Manager: For Leck Family Fresh Eggs, I saw significant growth in both production and customer engagement, allowing for my promotion and a pay increase to \$9.25/hr. I focused on hen health, biosecurity, and marketing to expand sales. I improved coop maintenance, managed summer heat stress, and was able to address production challenges to ensure customer trust for a profitable year. I also was able to amplify customer outreach with 47 social media posts.		120	120	\$1,110	
Animal Systems	Leck Family Show Pigs Herd Manager; As I managed all artificial insemination practices for 13 gilts/sows, I improved breeding efficiency by using OvuGel and was able to increase the effectiveness of breeding procedures. I also made sure to increase and maintain strong customer support by assisting with the feeding and exercise routines for 16 show pigs that were sold in previous sales. Year-end efforts were focused directly on herd evaluation, and I began cleaning and maintaining facilities for farrowing preparations.	0	549	549	\$5,078	\$0
	TOTAL	0	893	893	\$8,262	\$0





2025 Kansas State Degree

Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Assets & Liabilities

A. Assets	Beginning Value	Ending Value
1. Current Assets		
a. Cash on hand, checking and savings	\$950	\$14,278
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	\$950	\$14,278
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	\$950	\$14,278
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





2025 Kansas State Degree

Financial Balance Sheet Information - Personal Contribution & Net Worth

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

1. Beginning Value	\$950
2. Sources of Cash Gifts	\$930
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	\$9,362
7. (Deduct) Education Expenses Taken Out	\$538
8. Net Personal Contribution	-\$8,020

D. Net Worth	Beginning Value	Ending Value
1. Contributed Capital (Represents the value of personal contribution)	\$950	-\$8,020
2. Retained Earnings (Represents the value of SAE net income, entrepreneurship, placement, research)		\$22,298
3. Total Net Worth	\$950	\$14,278
4. Total Liabilities & Net Worth	\$950	\$14,278
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		\$13,328
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)	\$950	\$14,278





2025 Kansas State Degree

Financial Balance Sheet Statement - Earnings & Productively Invested

G. SAE Earnings	
1. Placement SAE Earnings (Cash)	\$22,298
2. Entrepreneurship SAE Earnings (Cash & Non-Cash)	\$0
3. Total SAE Earnings (Retained Earnings)	\$22,298

H. Productively Invested	
1. Change in Net Worth (Productively Invested from Operations)	\$13,328
2. (Add) Total Educational Expenses (Personal Use)	\$538
3. (Deduct) Net Sources of Assets from Gifts or Non-SAE	\$0
4. Total Growth in Productively Invested	\$13,866

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	\$13,866	Met
b. SAE Earnings at least \$2000	\$22,298	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%	693%	Met
b. Unpaid Hours/600 + SAE Earnings/\$2000 is at least 100%	1,115%	Met





2025 Kansas State Degree

Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge

A. Skills, Competencies, Knowledge

AFNR Performance Indicator		Contributions to Success
1	ABS.04.03 Identify and apply strategies to manage or mitigate risk.	I utilized my SAE position to make an impact. After my employer learned of a declining swine breed, I decided to take the initiative to find a solution by mitigating the risks of Meishan extinction. I drafted a plan to purchase a Meishan boar and gilt from Kentucky, becoming herd manager of Kansas's first registered Meishan operation. By effectively caring for and maintaining these Meishans, 24 offspring were produced and sold to establish 13 additional breeding programs in 9 states.
2	AS.04.03 Apply scientific principles to breed animals.	Learning reproduction practices was a demanded skill for the show pig operation. In 2022, \$875 in semen purchases were unable to be used due to poor synchronization. I consulted with Dr. Fox and learned that OvuGel dramatically improves synchronization. In 2023, because I applied this new scientific principle and gained skill in A.I. from my employer, there was \$0 in wasted semen. Maximized breeding efficiency increased the bottom line with 2 additional females successfully bred.
3	AS.06.03 Select and train animals for specific purposes and maximum performance based on anatomy and physiology.	As an SAE goal, customer relations became essential to my employment. I attended the K-State Judging Camp and Swine Day to improve my evaluation ability. I could then communicate effectively with buyers to provide them with my perspective on the skeletal makeup and quality of each lot offered in online sales. Afterward, I communicated and assisted buyers in training livestock in care, exercise, and nutrition, maximizing swine performance. In 2023 and 2024, customers earned 19 champion honors.
4	AS.05.01 Design animal housing, equipment and handling facilities for the major systems of animal production.	After this SAE began, my responsibilities included maintaining breeding females in Leck Family Showpigs' facilities. With additional female purchases, I desired to develop further housing infrastructure. I learned how to create a breeding facility by designing the land layouts for seven huts, four watering systems, and 2,500 feet of hot wire for containment. In 2023, after employer approval, I engaged with other swine leaders to purchase feed bunks. This helped reduce feed waste by 16%.
5	CRP.04.02 Produce clear, reasoned and coherent written and visual communication in formal and informal settings.	I set an SAE goal to communicate clearly to improve customer outreach for Leck Family French Bulldogs. I made formal advertisement flyers and published puppy highlights on social media, connecting with 245 new people and 59 potential customers. Engaging in informal communication during two kennel puppy showcase events I scheduled, I created visual fact sheets including information about puppies for sale and their genetic background—this helped increase revenue from 2022 to 2024 by \$13,496.
6	AS.03.02 Analyze feed rations and assess if they meet the nutritional needs of animals.	My employer stated that assessing nutrition for Frenchie females is critical for animal health. I communicated with 3 feed representatives to learn about nutritional differences during whelping and lactation. I recorded the feed intake each week in my journal, noting visual differences to make adjustments. This competency allowed me to increase my management of the females' dietary needs from 0 to 20 females, impacting the conception of 4 additional females for increased puppies in 2024.



7	CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.	During my employment, there were animal health challenges. Research regarding vaccine requirements and usage from YQCA training allowed me to maintain proper handling and humane care. By managing the conditions of the Frenchies, I kept a 97% survival rate for all dogs. A group of 45 community members who toured the operation in August of 2024 noted that the healthiness and conditions of the dogs demonstrated superior care, promoting positive discussion about puppy production in the community.
8	AS.08.02 Evaluate the effects of environmental conditions on animals and create plans to ensure favorable environments for animals.	In January of 2023, winter weather presented a risk to hen safety. I learned how to create a hazardous weather preparation plan. After recommending the purchase of one bag of shavings per laying box, I applied the additional bedding. I also made a daily feed ration to increase feed per female from .25 lbs. to .5 lbs. per day. My employer stated that five hens previously died when temperatures were this low. Due to the new weather preparation plan, zero hens were harmed during the winter.
9	ABS.02.01 Apply fundamental accounting principles, systems, tools and applicable laws and regulations to record, track and audit AFNR business transactions (e.g., accounts, debits, credits, assets, liabilities, equity, etc.).	Quickly realizing that members in the community couldn't afford to purchase a bulk amount of eggs, I created a plan where members could purchase eggs while fulfilling their payment throughout the year. Using Google Sheets, I tracked this financial assistance program. As the egg production manager I identified this financial disparity problem and adapted operational strategy to meet workplace and community needs. As a result of this plan, there were 12 more dozen of eggs purchased in 2024.
10	CRP.06.01 Synthesize information, knowledge and experience to generate original ideas and challenge assumptions in the workplace and community.	Recognizing seasonal production fluctuations, I developed a data-driven approach to track hen health, egg quality, and environmental impacts, allowing me to optimize laying rates and maintain consistent supply. This also allowed me to challenge assumptions about small-scale poultry management by testing and refining marketing practices to provide sustainable measures, especially when implementing proactive strategies to counter production declines due to extreme temperatures.





2025 Kansas State Degree

Leadership/FFA Activities

Activity	Chapter	Area, District or Region	State	National Finals Multi-State	National
Ft. Scott Aggie Days; Sr. L.J. Team; Top 20 Ind.		23			
Allen County Aggie Days; L.J.; 4th High Ind.		24			
Attended National FFA Convention					21,22,23,24
Banquet; Performed Opening and Closing Ceremonies	22,23,24				
Canton-Galva FFA L.J. Contest; 7th High Ind.		23			
Canton-Galva Lives. Judging Contest: 15th High Ind		22			
Chapter Star Farmer; Proficiency Winner	23				
Chapter Star Greenhand, Chapter Proficiency Winner in Swine Production Placement	22				
Creed Speaking; Nat. Finalist and 2nd Overall					22
Ft. Scott Aggie Days Lives. Judging: 19th High Ind		22			
Gold Medalist and 8th Overall: Extemp. Speaking					24
Kansas FFA Convention; 2nd-Prep. Public Speaking			22		
Keynote Speaker: Coffeyville FFA Discovery Days		23			
KS FFA Board of Trustees; Presented FFA Creed			23		
KS FFA CDES; Livestock Judging; 10th High Ind.			23		
KS FFA CDES; Livestock Judging; 2nd High Ind.			22,24		
KS FFA Convention; 1st Place Creed Speaking			22		
KS FFA Convention; 1st Place: Extemp. Public Sp.			23		
KS FFA Convention; 1st Place: Prepared Public Sp.			23		
KS FFA Convention; 3rd Place Ritual Team			23		
KS FFA Convention; State Winner- Extemp. Speaking			24		
KS FFA Convention; State Winner- Swine Prod. Plac.			24		
KS House Agriculture Cmte., Presented FFA Creed			23		
KSU Ag Ed Club Speech Contest: 3rd in Prepared Sp.			22		
KSU Ag Ed. Speech Contest; 1st- Extemp. Speaking			24		
KSU AgEd Contest: 1st in Extemp. & Prepared Sp.			23		
Leavenworth County Livestock Contest; 1st Ind.		21			
Mid American Stock Show; Lives. J.; 4th High Ind.				22	
National Finalist & 4th Overall: Prep. Public Sp.					23
National Western L.J. Contest; 6th High Ind-Sheep				23	
National Winner: Swine Prod. Placement					24
NEO Speech Contest; 1st Place: Ag Policy		23			
NEO Speech Contest; 3rd Place: Extemp. Speaking		24			
Neodesha Speech Inv.: 1st in Prep. Public Sp					
Neodesha Speech Inv.; 1st in Creed Speaking					
Neodesha Speech Inv: 1st- Extemp. and Prepared Sp.					
SED District Speech Contest; 3rd Place Sr. Prep.		21			
SED FFA Job Interview: 3rd High Ind.		22			
SED Greenhand Conference: 2nd Place Creed Speaker		21			
SED Greenhand Parlaw and Ritual: 1st Place Parlaw		21			
SED Job Interview Contest; 1st High Ind.		24			
SED Job Interview; 3rd Place; State Qualifier		23			
SED Leadership School: 2nd Pl. Parlaw; Master President		24			



SED Leadership School: Sr. Master Treasurer		22			
SED Leadership School; 2nd Over. Team; Master V.P.		23			
SED Lives. Judging Contest: 9th High Ind.		22			
SED Livestock Judging Contest: 5th High Ind.		24			
SED Livestock Judging Contest; 1st High Ind		23			
SED Speech Contest: 1st- Extemp. and Prepared Sp.		22			
SED Speech Contest; 1st in Extemp. Speaking		23			
Star Farmer; Swine Production Entre. Winner	24				
Swine Prod. Entrep.: Gold Medalist and 6th Overall					23
Winter Classic L.J. Contest: Competed on Sr. Team		21			





2025 Kansas State Degree

Community Service

2021

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Neodesha Recreation Commission	As a volunteer Game Clock Operator for the recreational flag football league, I managed the game clock to keep accurate time during play and assisted referees, coaches, and players by providing clear time updates.	6.00
Wilson County Livestock Association; Erin Cobb	As a Purple Power Livestock Show Volunteer, I played a key role in helping organize and check in exhibitors and their livestock. I assisted with setting up and maintaining show arenas, pens, and equipment.	4.50
Wildcat Extension District	As a Fairgrounds Clean-Up Volunteer, I picked up and disposed of trash around the fairgrounds prior to the beginning of the county fair. I also swept and cleaned walkways and seating areas.	4.00
TOTAL		14.50

2022

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Neodesha High School	As a volunteer Game Clock Operator for volleyball matches, I helped ensure that the matches ran smoothly by managing the scoreboard and clock. This included operating the scoreboard to update the score after each point and managing the game clock for timeouts and between-set breaks.	2.50
Wildcat Extension District	After a costly flood, I volunteered my efforts to helping rebuild and replace lost infrastructure/repair damaged areas prior to the beginning of the Wilson County Fair and Rodeo. I also volunteered to clear areas with waste to make the environment more welcoming to others.	9.00
W.R. Rankin Memorial Library	In 2022, I volunteered by organizing and returning books to their proper locations on shelves, helping maintain order and easy access for patrons. I also assisted during children's storytime by setting up materials, engaging with children, and helping with clean up afterward. I also provided basic assistance to patrons using library computers and printers and helped set up, organize, and clean up after library programs that included the book club and craft night.	14.00
USD 461	Volunteered as a judge for the elementary science fair, where I helped judge 65 elementary student entries, with wide-ranging projects from basic experiments to interesting research about the amount of air in a basketball and how that influences a shooter's performance.	5.00
Bar S Ranch	Volunteered as part of the recovery efforts for ranchers in Western Kansas, particularly those who were part of the Bar S Ranch, during their efforts to repair fences and infrastructure. Spent a majority of my time removing burned fence and replacing posts.	12.00
Ms. Cheri Nelson	Volunteered to help mentor younger 4-H members in their reasons for livestock evaluation and helped check-in veggies for the county fair.	5.00
TOTAL		47.50

2023



Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Neodesha High School	As a volunteer Game Clock Operator for the recreational flag football league, I managed the game clock to keep accurate time during play and assisted referees, coaches, and players by providing clear time updates.	2.00
Wilson County Extension District	This year, to mitigate the extremely hot temperatures that would be coming for visitors at the Wilson County Fair, I volunteered my time to assisting in installing fans around the Wilson County Fair premise, along with doing additional work around the fair ground to make the area more comfortable for spectators. This included washing all of the seating areas around the arena.	6.00
W.R. Rankin Memorial Library	This year, I focused on welcoming patrons, answering questions about books, and the large portion of my time was spent directing visitors to different sections of the library. I also assisted by helping repair damaged books by taping torn pages and adding protective covers under staff supervision.	10.00
Neodesha Promise Scholarship Board	Volunteered numerous hours and days conducting interviews and writing feature stories about NHS graduates who were pursuing the NHS Promise Scholarship, and describing their success for the local school newspaper and magazine.	6.00
The Neodesha Derrick Newspaper	I volunteered numerous hours of my time to writing feature articles about the success of Neodesha High School Students, their academic and scholastic accomplishments, and new and exciting news about the Neodesha community. This included information about the Scholars Bowl team, KDOT projects in the area, and the Donkey Basketball Tournament.	5.50
TOTAL		29.50

2024

Individual / Group / Organization to whom service was PROVIDED	Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable	Hours
Wildcat Extension District	This year, with more trash that circulated from area residents, I volunteered my efforts to cleaning the fairgrounds from all trash, and in addition, helped clean three barns and the arena. I then located the trash disposal area, and took this waste to this location, properly disposing of all material.	7.00
W.R. Rankin Memorial Library	This year, I organized research materials and helped patrons find resources. I also helped promote library events by creating flyers and preparing materials for outreach programs in the community. Finally, I volunteered to keep the library neat by dusting shelves, organizing reading areas, and ensuring books and materials were properly arranged.	13.00
Neodesha Promise Scholarship Board	I conducted two additional interviews, including with the founder of the Neodesha Promise Program, and volunteered my time to writing feature stories about their experiences and success.	3.50
The Neodesha Derrick Newspaper	I volunteered one additional hour this year to gathering quotes for a feature story about the new Neodesha Athletics partnership with local businesses to sponsor the entry costs for students to athletic events.	1.00
Wilson County Election Board	Volunteered to assist Ms. Kayla Busch during the 2024 Presidential Primary and General Elections. Assisted by helping voters check-in with the process, and made sure to keep the process running smoothly throughout the entire day.	10.00
TOTAL		34.50

Qualification Check

	Your Value	Condition
At least 2 different activities	19	MET
At least 25 hours	126.0	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

KS0124

604600148



Applicant Information

Candidate Name

Tucker Leck

FFA Chapter Name

Neodesha

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.

Aiming to produce the highest quality show pigs for 4-H and FFA members, French Bulldogs for pet enthusiasts, and farm-fresh eggs for my community, I'm proud to work for Leck Family Enterprises. My enthusiasm for agriculture began at seven when my father purchased a show pig and French Bulldog female. After exploring SAE options, I selected this experience because this operation significantly impacts American agriculture. As a 20-sow operation focused on crossbred and purebred genetics, a 16-female, 2-male French Bulldog program, and a 39-hen egg facility, the goal is to utilize artificial insemination for top-quality production while managing nutrition and biosecurity for optimal egg conditions. The enterprise successfully functions with a 6-crate farrowing house, two livestock barns to develop and showcase swine offspring after weaning, five gilt/sow gestation facilities, a kennel, and a chicken coop. The operation also preserves a specialty Meishan herd to protect an endangered swine breed. Since my Freshman year, I have logged 2,540 hours and earned \$22,298. Starting at \$7.50 per hour with tasks such as vaccinating swine, monitoring newborn puppies, and focusing on egg production, I have gained expertise in swine production, French Bulldog marketing, and poultry nutrition, now assisting in advanced breeding practices, neonatal care, and feed management. My SAE experience, agricultural education, and FFA involvement have helped me achieve my SAE Placement goals.

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

My responsibilities were limited when I started at Leck Family Enterprises, focusing on feeding, cleaning, and health monitoring. Over time, my role expanded significantly. In Leck Family Show Pigs, I advanced from basic care to managing AI, genetic selection, and heat detection. I implemented marketing strategies that increased sales, leading to a 45% rise in average lot prices (\$513 to \$743) and establishing the only registered Meishan operation in Kansas, producing 34 piglets by 2024. In 2023, I was promoted to Herd Manager, overseeing breeding and farm sales, contributing to \$52,010 in revenue from 70 head, a \$101 per-head increase. In Leck Family French Bulldogs, I progressed from whelping assistance to mastering progesterone testing, AI, and neonatal care. I launched marketing campaigns and buyer education efforts, increasing engagement and demand. In 2024, I fully managed breeding logistics, health monitoring, and customer outreach, leading to a 37% sales increase and improved puppy survival rates. For Leck Family Fresh Eggs, I transitioned from egg collection to optimizing nutrition and lighting, boosting production. I introduced a subscription service and social media marketing, increasing customer retention. By 2024, sales rose 32%, and I expanded the customer base through direct-to-consumer strategies. I evolved from laborer to strategic decision-maker and started this SAE at \$7.50/hr, received multiple raises, and now earn \$9.25/hr after logging 2,540 hours.

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

CHALLENGE: When my employment began, I quickly noticed that feed wastage financially threatened the Leck Family Showpigs operation. This challenge became evident after I measured the amount of waste per day, where I evaluated that the herd did not consume 20% of the feed. First, this nutritional depletion posed a severe threat to herd health. I further examined that Leck Family Showpigs was financially hindered because feed costs for the operation increased by 15% to supplement swine with increased feed to counteract the wasteful conditions. **SOLUTION:** Communication was critical in utilizing the skills I learned throughout the SAE to solve this challenge. I conversed with Dave Dickmeyer, a veteran swine producer, along with a veteran nutritionist at the co-op, to solve this problem. This crucial conversation and research resulted in adding a Bentonite Additive to the feed. As a pH buffer, this additive decreases the presence of mycotoxins in feed and the effect of lactic acid buildup. Bentonite comes from the marine environment's smectite group. I utilized a non-agriculture-related sector to solve this problem. My employer and I also traveled to Iowa to purchase feed bunks for sow housing facilities, optimizing feed intake with its J-shape concrete structure of heavy gauge wire mesh and rebar. Due to a new nutritional additive and implementing an industry tool to minimize spoilage, feed wastage was reduced by 16%, and feed costs were lowered by 10% by the end of 2024.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Performance Review B

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

Accomplishment/Finding #1

In this SAE, my foremost accomplishment was my promotion to the position of herd manager at Leck Family Showpigs. In 2023, I assisted in marketing of 56 head that generated \$28,728 in sales. In 2024, I became responsible for training piglets for open house showcase events, creating flyers for social media, and writing lot descriptions. As a result, 70 head were effectively sold for \$52,010. Due to increased responsibilities in marketing that allowed me to yield a significant role in offspring promotion that increased profits by \$203 per head from the prior year, I was able to increase profitability for the firm. This influenced my success and growth with a pay increase of \$1.75 per hour and an expanded role within the company.

Accomplishment/Finding #2

My accomplishment in learning artificial insemination practices helped increase the profitability of Leck Family French Bulldogs. Following my employment, I learned how to properly identify signs of estrus in dogs, including swollen vulvas and bloody discharge. However, in 2023, \$2,785 in semen purchases were unable to be utilized due to poor ovulation tracking. As a result, I consulted with Dr. Willard and learned about advanced progesterone therapy, helping identify ovulation. In 2024, I was able to independently utilize progesterone testing, resulting in \$0 in wasted semen. Four additional females were successfully bred which impacted the bottom line of Leck Family French Bulldogs with an increase of 13 puppies for marketing.

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.

An agricultural issue that became concerning to Leck Family Enterprises was the declaration of the Meishan breed as endangered. The quality of Meishan pork provides a lucrative retail option for consumers, making preservation efforts a responsibility. In December of 2022, I consulted with the American Meishan Breeders Association, exploring options to purchase a boar and gilt and researching additional preservation steps. After my employer bought a Meishan boar and gilt from Kentucky, I became responsible for managing this unique preservation program. By the end of 2024, 3 litters of 34 piglets were produced, strengthening the breed's population nationwide. Leck Family Enterprises is the only registered Meishan operation in Kansas.





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.

I first considered the career of an agricultural lobbyist in the third month of employment in my SAE when a fellow producer mentioned that agricultural advocates are important in society. I researched this position by touring The University of Notre Dame's Law School. This opportunity became available through the connections I have made in FFA. Second, after shadowing the Kansas Attorney General, Derrick Schmidt, I concluded that an agricultural lobbyist would best fit me. I then conversed with Mr. John Donnelly, a current lobbyist for the KS Farm Bureau. He informed me that a degree in Political Science would provide a foundation for law school that would bolster my agricultural knowledge, which I plan to pursue this year at Notre Dame.

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

In 2023 and 2024, the herd manager experience allowed me to share SAE insight with the media in my community. One aspect of this outreach is my position as the Co-Editor of the Neodesha Streak Week Magazine, where I was able to construct seven articles that focused on poultry care and ag issues. While a majority of readers were optimistic in their response to this new medium of writing, five academic peers challenged specific aspects of swine production that I discussed. Thus, this opportunity allowed me to explore plans of action to communicate agricultural information with others, even during times of disagreement. Additionally, I explored that an agricultural lobbyist must focus on dialogue that can result in respect for our industry.

Experience/Activity/Opportunity #2

My employer instructed me from the beginning that our responsibility as a livestock producer is to invest in the well-being of the community. Through an initiative that I was tasked with establishing, Leck Family Enterprises partnered with Neodesha Athletics and Booster Club to pay for all student entries in a rivalry basketball game in the winter of 2024. While this plan may seem unconnected, establishing this approach prompted further students to become involved with their school and create a family culture of support. I was able to explore that as an agricultural lobbyist, the utilization of our resources can extend far beyond the operation, where agriculture can impact and promote a generation of unified, family-oriented communities.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Learning Outcomes & Efficiency Factors

Learning Outcome or Efficiency Factor		Beginning Level	Level Attained	Description
1	Canine Whelping Management and Neonatal Care	<u>2021</u> Assisted w 1 whelping, provided care to 0 puppies	<u>2024</u> Managed 7 whelpings, provided care to 32 puppies	As I was able to become independent in providing neonatal care for puppies, such as feeding, thermal regulation, and handling during the whelping process, I was able to decrease my employer's travel and time expenses. This experience also allowed me to ensure operational safety for all dogs.
2	Development of an Online Marketing Strategy for Increased Puppy Profitability	<u>2021</u> \$1,250 average per puppy in traditional sales	<u>2024</u> \$2,566 average per puppy in online sales	In 2022, my employer mentioned that he desired to transition to a website to increase profitability. After training, I became capable of taking photos of puppies and writing descriptions. This skill significantly improved income, with a \$1,316 in income earned per puppy by the end of the 2024 year.
3	Proper processing of piglets, male castration, maintenance of herd health, and hernia removal	<u>2021</u> Processed/Vaccinated 22 hd. and 1 Hernia Removal	<u>2024</u> Processed/Vaccinated 215 hd. and 6 Hernia Removals	With no initial skill, The YQCA training and veterinary guidance helped me become proficient in intermuscular injections, ear notching, tail docking, castration (photo 1), and procedures to eliminate hernias. Now, minimal veterinary assistance is required, decreasing input costs by \$6 per head.
4	Quality Assurance Process for Egg Grading	<u>2021</u> Average egg weight: 52 grams	<u>2024</u> Average egg weight: 61 grams	From 2021 to 2024, I enhanced hen nutrition with balanced feed, optimized living conditions for comfort, implemented health monitoring, and adjusted lighting to influence hormonal regulation and the secretion of melatonin, affecting egg size. This also helped reduce stress with consistent lighting.
5	Swine Heat Detection and Understanding of Proper Artificial Insemination Techniques	<u>2021</u> Detected 3 Females in Heat with 33% Impregnation	<u>2024</u> Detected 13 Females in Heat with 85% Impregnation	In 2021, my employer completed a majority of reproduction tasks as I was limited in my abilities. However, I learned the skill of A.I. and utilized OvuGel for synchronization. In 2024, I checked females daily to evaluate estrus timing, allowing me to successfully complete the herd manager role.





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.06.03 Select and train animals for specific purposes and maximum performance based on anatomy and physiology. As an SAE goal, customer relations became essential to my employment. I attended the K-State Judging Camp and Swine Day to improve my evaluation ability. I could then communicate effectively with buyers to provide them with my perspective on the skeletal makeup and quality of each lot offered in online sales. Afterward, I communicated and assisted buyers in training livestock in care, exercise, and nutrition, maximizing swine performance. In 2023 and 2024, customers earned 19 champion honors.
2	AS.05.01 Design animal housing, equipment and handling facilities for the major systems of animal production. After this SAE began, my responsibilities included maintaining breeding females in Leck Family Showpigs' facilities. With additional female purchases, I desired to develop further housing infrastructure. I learned how to create a breeding facility by designing the land layouts for seven huts, four watering systems, and 2,500 feet of hot wire for containment. In 2023, after employer approval, I engaged with other swine leaders to purchase feed bunks. This helped reduce feed waste by 16%.
3	AS.04.03 Apply scientific principles to breed animals. Learning reproduction practices was a demanded skill for the French bulldog operation. In 2023, \$2,785 in semen purchases were unable to be used due to poor ovulation tracking. I consulted with Dr. Fox and learned about advanced progesterone testing to identify ovulation. In 2024, I was able to independently utilize progesterone testing, resulting in \$0 in wasted semen. Four additional females were successfully bred, which impacted the direct bottom line of Leck Family French Bulldogs.
4	AS.03.02 Analyze feed rations and assess if they meet the nutritional needs of animals. My employer stated that assessing nutrition for Frenchie females is critical for animal health. I communicated with 3 feed representatives to learn about nutritional differences during whelping and lactation. I recorded the feed intake each week in my journal, noting visual differences to make adjustments. This competency allowed me to increase my management of the females' dietary needs from 0 to 20 females, impacting the conception of 4 additional females for increased puppies in 2024.
5	AS.08.01 Design and implement methods to reduce the effects of animal production on the environment. In January of 2023, winter weather presented a risk to hen safety. I learned how to create a hazardous weather preparation plan. After recommending the purchase of one bag of shavings per laying box, I applied the additional bedding. I also made a daily feed ration to increase feed per female from .25 lbs. to .5 lbs. per day. My employer stated that five hens previously died when temperatures were this low. Due to the new weather preparation plan, zero hens were harmed during the winter.

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

AFNR Pathway Standard	Description of Activity
6	ABS.04.03 Identify and apply strategies to manage or mitigate risk. I utilized my SAE position to make an impact. After my employer learned of a declining swine breed, I decided to take the initiative to find a solution by mitigating the risks of Meishan extinction. I drafted a plan to purchase a Meishan boar and gilt from Kentucky, becoming herd manager of Kansas's first registered Meishan operation. By effectively caring for and maintaining these Meishans, 34 offspring were produced and sold to establish 13 additional breeding programs in 9 states.



7	ABS.02.01 Apply fundamental accounting principles, systems, tools and applicable laws and regulations to record, track and audit AFNR business transactions (e.g., accounts, debits, credits, assets, liabilities, equity, etc.).	Quickly realizing that members in the community couldn't afford to purchase a bulk amount of eggs, I created a plan where members could purchase eggs while fulfilling their payment throughout the year Using Google Sheets, I tracked this financial assistance program. As the egg production manager I identified this financial disparity problem and adapted operational strategy to meet workplace and community needs. As a result of this plan, there were 12 more dozen of eggs purchased in 2024.
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C. Three Career Ready Practice and/or Cluster Skills standards

AFNR Pathway Standard		Description of Activity
8	CRP.04.02 Produce clear, reasoned and coherent written and visual communication in formal and informal settings.	I set an SAE goal to communicate clearly to improve customer outreach for Leck Family French Bulldogs. I made formal advertisement flyers and published puppy highlights on social media, connecting with 245 new people and 59 potential customers. Engaging in informal communication during two kennel puppy showcase events I scheduled, I created visual fact sheets including information about puppies for sale and their genetic background—this helped increase revenue from 2022 to 2024 by \$13,496.
9	CRP.01.01 Model personal responsibility in the workplace and community.	During my employment, there were animal health challenges. Research regarding vaccine requirements and usage from YQCA training allowed me to maintain proper handling and humane care. By managing the conditions of the Frenchies, I kept a 97% survival rate for all dogs. A group of 45 community members who toured the operation in August of 2024 noted that the healthiness and conditions of the dogs demonstrated superior care, promoting positive discussion about puppy production in the community.
10	CRP.06.01 Synthesize information, knowledge and experience to generate original ideas and challenge assumptions in the workplace and community.	Recognizing seasonal production fluctuations, I developed a data-driven approach to track hen health, egg quality, and environmental impacts, allowing me to optimize laying rates and maintain consistent supply. This also allowed me to challenge assumptions about small-scale poultry management by testing and refining marketing practices to provide sustainable measures, especially when implementing proactive strategies to counter production declines due to extreme temperatures.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Resume

Objective

I plan to graduate from the University of Notre Dame in 2029 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Global Affairs by focusing on agricultural sustainability. Then, I plan to earn my J.D. at Harvard Law. Long-term, my goal is to transition from an employee to the primary owner of Leck Family Enterprises to use this agricultural program to advocate for agriculture across the country.

Agricultural Classes/Coursework

2024: Kansas State University Swine Day Meeting

2024: American Meishan Breeders Association Seminar

August of 2024-December of 2024: (First Semester of Current School Year) Neodesha High School; Ag Leadership; 1/2 Credit = 90 Hours

2023-2024: Neodesha High School; Agribusiness; 1 Credit = 180 Hours

2022-2023: Neodesha High School; Agribusiness; 1 Credit = 180 Hours

2021-2022: Neodesha High School; Agriscience; 1 Credit = 180 Hours

Total Hours / Credits: 3.5 = 630 Hours

SAE

2021-2024: Swine Production (Placement)

2021-2024: Swine Production (Entrepreneurship)

2021-2024: Specialty Animal Production (Placement)

2021-2024: Poultry Production (Placement)

FFA Leadership

2024-Ongoing: Neodesha Chapter President

2023-2024: Neodesha Chapter Vice President

2023-2024: Southeast District FFA Reporter

2022-2023: Neodesha FFA Treasurer

2023-2024: Southeast District Banquet Planning Committee

2022-ongoing: Chairperson, Strengthening Agriculture Support Group

2022-ongoing: Chair, Agricultural Awareness, Committee

2022-2024: Barn Dance Planning Committee

2022-2024: Monthly Meeting Planning Committee

2022-2024: School Board Communication Committee

2021-ongoing: Chapter Banquet Committee

2022-2023: Kiss the Pig Committee

2022-2024: FFA Supporters Appreciation Breakfast Committee

2022-2023: National Western Livestock Evaluation Fundraising Committee

2022-2023: Adopt-A-Family Committee

FFA Activities

2024: National FFA Convention (Top 8 Overall in Extemp. Speaking, National Winner in Swine Production Placement)

2024: KS FFA Convention (1st in Extemp. Speaking, 1st in Swine Production Placement)

2024: KS FFA CDEs (2nd Overall Ind. in Livestock Judging, 4th Overall Team)

2023: National FFA Convention (National Finalist in Prepared Speaking, Gold Medalist and 6th Overall in Swine Production Entrepreneurship)

2023: KS FFA Convention (Winner in Extemp. and Prepared Speaking, Winner in Swine Production Entrepreneurship)

2023: KS FFA CDEs (10th High Ind. in Livestock Judging, 3rd Overall Team)

2022: National FFA Convention (National Finalist and 2nd Overall in FFA Creed Speaking)

2022: KS FFA Convention (Winner in FFA Creed Speaking)



Community Service

2024 (35 hrs) – Assisted with Wilson County elections, cleaned fairgrounds, organized library events, wrote feature stories, and enhanced local newspaper content.

2023 (30 hrs) – Managed game clocks, cleaned fairgrounds, assisted at W.R. Rankin Library, repaired books, and contributed articles to the newspaper and feature articles for the Neodesha Promise

2022 (48 hrs) – Helped at school events, fairgrounds, library (clean-up after library events), and Bar S Ranch after costly wildfire to repair infrastructure; judged science fair; mentored 4-H members; assisted with game clock.

2021 (15 hrs) – Assisted with Neodesha Rec Commission, Wilson County Livestock Show, fairgrounds cleanup, and maintained farm facilities.

Total: 126 Hours

School and Extracurricular Involvement

2023-2024: Neodesha Site Council

2023-2024: National Spanish Honors Society; (2024-ongoing) Chapter President; Voting Member (2023-2024)

2023-2024: National Honors Society Member

2021-2024: Chief Yearbook Editor, Neodesha Streak Week Publications Manager, Streak Magazine Contributor; Neodesha Yearbook Chief Editor (2023-ongoing), Editorial Writer (2021-2024), Feature Contributor (2021-2024)

2021-2024: FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America); Chapter STAR Events Coordinator (2024-ongoing), Southeast District V.P. of Communication(2023-24), Kansas FCCLA 1st Vice President (2022-2023)

2021-2024: Forensics (Public Speaking and Debate); Team Competitor; Speech Mentor (2023-ongoing); Neodesha Forensics Tournament Coordinator

Awards and Honors

2024: John Lewis Student Leadership Award

2024: AAPPL Seal of Biliteracy

2024: Swine Production Placement Proficiency Award; National Winner

2024: National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking; Top 8 Competitor

2024: KSPA Editorial and Feature Writing Contest; 3rd Place

2024: United States Senate Youth Program; Discussed agricultural policy with the President of the United States and other high-ranking government officials

2024: Chapter STAR in Ag Placement Award Winner

2024: Elected Neodesha FFA President

2024: Received KS DAR Good Citizen Award

2023: National FFA Prepared Public Speaking; National Finalist and 4th Overall

2023: National FFA Swine Production Entrepreneurship; 6th Overall and Gold Medalist

2022: KSPA Writing: 1st Place

Certifications

2024: Microsoft Office Specialist

2024: AAPPL Spanish Seal of Biliteracy Silver Level

2024: Adobe; Certified in Photoshop and In-design

2023-2024: Artificial Insemination Certification: SEK Genetics

2022-2024: Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Certification

2022: ServSafe Food Handler Certification

2021: CPR and First Aid Certification



Skills

- *Problem Solving
- *Communication
- *Organization
- *Foreign language knowledge: Spanish
- *Mathematical Capability: Advanced Calculus
- *Flexibility
- *Equipment operation
- *Interpersonal Skills
- *Utilization of Technology
- *Critical Thinking
- *Team Work
- *Industriousness
- *Adaptability
- *Time Management
- *Scientific Knowledge
- *Analytical Skills

References

Professional:

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Former W.R. Rankin Memorial Library Director
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Educational:

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Kansas Farm Bureau President
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620-716-1908
joedana55@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.

It is an honor to represent the Southeast FFA District, the Neodesha FFA Chapter, and the thousands of agriculturalists across the globe who dedicate their lives to feeding, fueling, and clothing our world for this STAR in Placement award category. American agriculture is more than an industry—it is a legacy of resilience, innovation, and leadership.

From my first steps in a barn to my first time stepping onto a national stage, agriculture has shaped every part of who I am. My work at Leck Family Enterprises has been more than a job—it has been a lifelong pursuit of excellence in livestock genetics, research-driven management, and sustainable production.

Working at Leck Family Enterprises, I have logged over 2,540 hours and earned \$22,298, progressing from a farmhand responsible for cleaning pens and monitoring animal health to a key decision-maker and problem-solver. Throughout this journey, I have developed my expertise in agriscience research, business management, and breeding programs, preparing me for a future advocating for agricultural producers on national and global platforms.

One of the most valuable aspects of my Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) has been conducting research that directly improves the performance and competitiveness of the show pig operation. In early 2023, I launched a study to evaluate the impact of early skeletal development on structural correctness in show pigs. While many breeders focus on muscle growth alone, I recognized that long-term success in the show ring depends on the soundness of a pig's skeletal structure, particularly pastern strength, joint flexibility, and hip angle.

To test this, I developed a study tracking 19 pigs from birth to 13 weeks of age, analyzing the effects of mineral supplementation—specifically using calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and zinc—on joint integrity and bone density. I recorded changes in bone growth at four-week intervals, comparing pigs on a controlled mineral-balanced diet with those receiving additional supplementation. The results were undeniable: pigs receiving enhanced mineral support exhibited an improvement in pastern strength and a reduction in early joint fatigue indicators. The data confirmed that optimizing skeletal health in young pigs not only prevented structural faults but also improved overall balance and mobility, critical factors for success in the show ring. This research was directly applied to the breeding and feeding strategies at Leck Family Show Pigs, leading to stronger, more structurally correct pigs capable of excelling at high-level competitions.

However, optimal structural development is only one part of preparing high-caliber show pigs. I also focused on refining exercise regimens that enhanced stamina, muscle expression, and flexibility—traits that judges prioritize in elite show rings. Through controlled trials, I experimented with incline walking and resistance conditioning in sand to determine their effects on stride length and overall endurance. Pigs that followed a structured exercise regimen displayed increased muscle tone, improved movement efficiency, and greater overall balance, providing them with a competitive advantage in showmanship and evaluation. This program has since been adopted at Leck Family Show Pigs and its customers, maintaining animals with superior structural integrity and athleticism.

Beyond nutrition, training, and development, I have worked extensively to improve biosecurity measures within our operation. With the threat of diseases, such as avian influenza looming over the industry, I took a proactive approach to disease prevention. I conducted an in-depth study on how environmental factors, such as temperature fluctuations and seasonal weather changes, impacted disease prevalence in poultry. After analyzing herd health records and consulting with veterinarians, I developed and implemented a comprehensive biosecurity protocol tailored specifically for the Leck Family Enterprises operation.

Key measures included establishing a strict quarantine protocol for incoming pigs and poultry, requiring all visitors to utilize disinfectant footbaths, and implementing a rodent control system that reduced disease vector risks by 41%. By incorporating USDA best practices and real-time health tracking, we maintained a zero-case record for viral outbreaks in 2024, protecting the genetic lines and ensuring the well-being of the livestock. The economic impact of these measures was undeniable—by preventing a potential PEDv or avian influenza outbreak, we safeguarded over \$31,000 in revenue that could have been lost due to mortality, treatment costs, and decreased performance in the show ring.

However, research and business management alone are not enough to secure the future of agriculture. I have recognized that agriculture's success depends on strong policy and informed leadership. This understanding led me to take action beyond the farm gate. When I learned that only 63% of eligible rural voters had participated in the last general election, I saw this as a critical issue for the future of agriculture. Working with local officials, I spearheaded a voter registration initiative focused on young farmers and agricultural stakeholders, ensuring they had the resources to make their voices heard.

Through extensive outreach efforts, I successfully registered agriculturalists to vote, leading to a 5% increase in rural voter turnout in my county. Many of those I helped register later reported that they voted on public servants who invested in policy positions directly impacting agricultural trade, water rights, and land use regulations. This experience reinforced my belief that the future of agriculture depends not only on innovation in the barn but also on representation in the legislative chambers where policies are made.

My advocacy efforts extended beyond local initiatives and took me to the highest levels of government. In 2024, as part of the United States Senate Youth Program, I had the opportunity to meet with President Joe Biden and top officials to discuss agricultural policy. Recognizing the growing impact of global conflicts on American farmers, I conducted extensive research on the effects of the Ukraine war on U.S. grain markets, specifically its influence on feed



costs for livestock producers. My findings, presented in a policy report, highlighted how supply chain disruptions had increased input costs by an average of 22% for swine producers. I proposed strategies to mitigate these challenges, including strengthening domestic feed production and enhancing trade agreements that prioritize agricultural stability.

While working on policy solutions, I also realized the growing role of biotechnology in shaping agriculture's future. With increasing scrutiny on livestock breeding practices, I researched the impact of gene editing technologies—such as CRISPR—on swine health and performance. My research focused on the potential for gene editing to improve disease resistance in pigs, particularly in reducing susceptibility to PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome), a disease that costs the U.S. swine industry over \$600 million annually. I utilized a partnership with the American Junior Academies of Science, where I have previously been provided with an academic fellowship, to analyze data from research institutions and create valuable assessments. I concluded that responsible gene editing could be a game-changer for swine production, reducing economic losses and improving herd viability without compromising ethical breeding standards.

Through each challenge—whether in research, business management, or policy—I have reinforced my dedication to advocating for American agriculture. My future is clear: I will graduate from the University of Notre Dame in 2029 with a degree in Political Science and Global Affairs, followed by earning my J.D. from Notre Dame Law School. With this foundation, I will fight to defend farmers' private property rights, promote sustainable livestock production, and ensure that agricultural policies reflect the needs of those who dedicate their lives to working and sustaining the land and its products.

To represent the Southeast FFA District, the Neodesha FFA Chapter, and the agriculturalists who make our nation strong is not just an honor—it is my duty. Most importantly, these experiences have helped me develop the skills of diligence, confidence, loyalty, and persistence that will stay with me each and every single day of my life. I am forever grateful for the encouragement I have received from my community, my employer, and fellow FFA members to pursue my dream of becoming an ambitious agricultural attorney and advocate that are industry greatly deserves.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Tucker Leck
Neodesha FFA





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Safety Photo #1



Hauling chicken feed, building dog pens and loading sows into farrowing crates require operating a Kubota tractor. Safety is a top priority. Therefore, I reviewed the USDA Safety, Health, and Environment Training Manual, which taught me to balance heavy loads with an implement on the tractor's rear, preventing rollovers. Examining tire pressure, checking for leaking or damaged hoses, and fastening the lap belt before operating the tractor are all steps that I take to increase workplace safety.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Safety Photo #2



Proper safety is key when handling animals. By properly administering oral medication to a puppy while wearing gloves, I aim to prevent contamination and ensure important safety for both the animal and myself. Responsible livestock and companion animal care is essential in my SAE, where I focus on ethical breeding and health management. Every step, from proper restraint to dosage accuracy, plays a critical role in keeping animals healthy and thriving every day.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #3



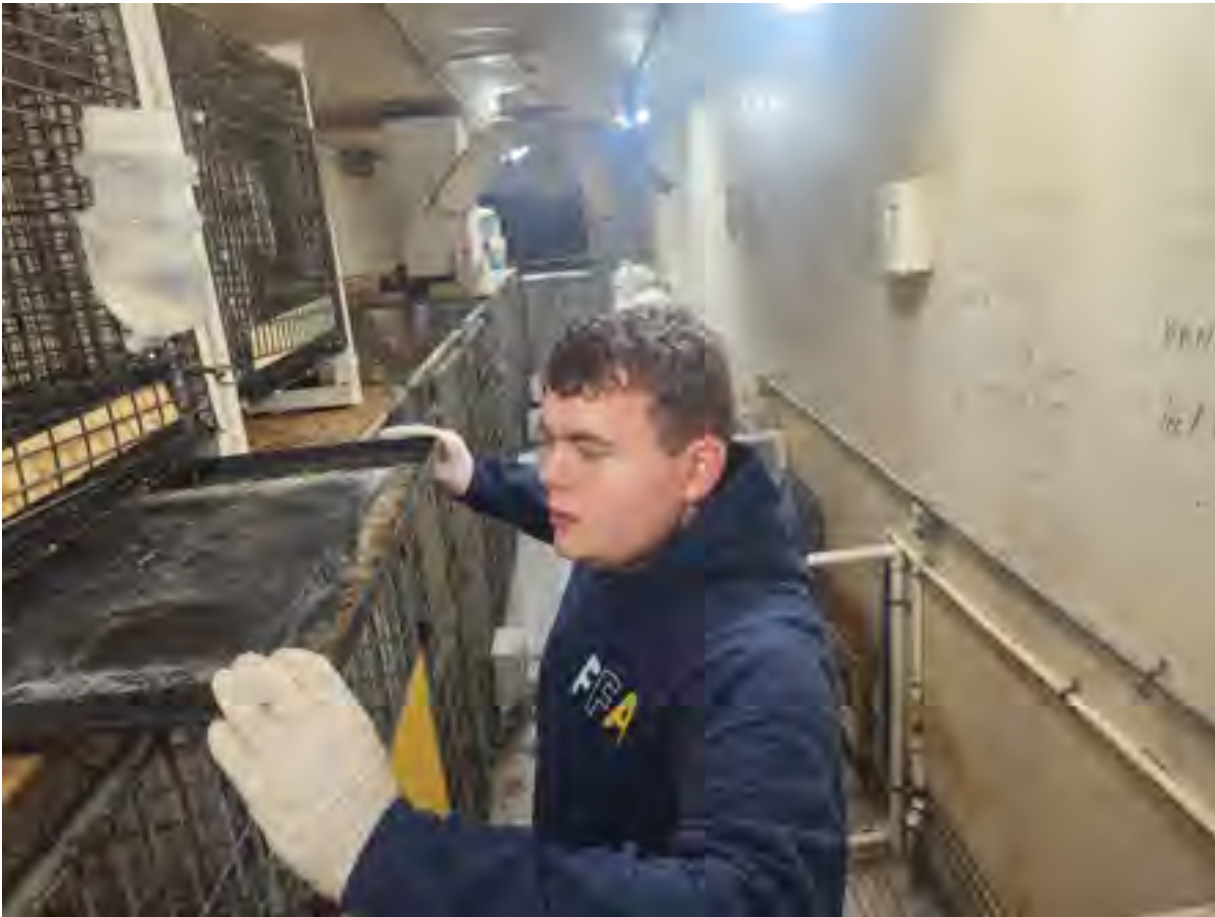
Artificial insemination is not flexible, whether in the early morning or the middle of the night. As herd manager at Leck Family Showpigs, this responsibility has taught me accountability and livestock management skills. Not only has my employment allowed me to improve my breeding practices, but this additional skill has allowed me to increase the settling of females for the operation. While A.I. is often done in the least favorable of times, timing is essential for breeding success.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #4



Cleaning the kennel and removing puppy trays may seem simple, but it's actually a skill that requires precision, biosecurity awareness, and efficiency. As my employer and I always desired for maintaining a sanitary environment to prevent disease, this promotion of health ensures top-tier animal care. Proper waste disposal, disinfecting surfaces, and monitoring hygiene are essential to responsible breeding. Throughout my SAE, I decided that workplace excellence starts with the important basics.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #5



Interpreting a progesterone test is crucial to my French Bulldog Placement SAE, ensuring precise breeding timing for optimal success. This advanced reproductive management technique requires accuracy and scientific knowledge, allowing me to predict ovulation and maximize litter viability. Mastering this process allowed me to improve operational efficiency, reduce complications, and enhance genetic planning. I've come to learn that precision in animal science is key to responsible breeding.





State Star in Agricultural Placement

Project Photo #6



Cleaning the chicken coop is more than just chores, it's a skill vital to poultry health. In my SAE, I focus on biosecurity, proper waste disposal, and air quality management to prevent disease and maximize egg production. Knowing how to balance bedding, control ammonia levels, and sanitize equipment ensures a thriving flock. This allows for strong animal husbandry with strong management practices because working to prevent risks of disease and proper biosecurity increases profitability.





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)



SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE AGREEMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM

I, Agnes to employ agree to employ to work in the business for the purpose of gaining knowledge, skills, and experience related to the business

1. Work Agreement:

Starting Date: 10/1/14 Work Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wages - starting: \$12.00/hr Wages are to be paid on: 10/1/14

Overtime arrangements: 10/1/14

2. The student will be given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the total operation of the business that the student's ability and progress permit. The employer and/or persons designated by him will assist the student in learning the skills and competencies necessary for the student to be successful in the placement program.
3. The parents or guardians will be responsible for the personal conduct of the student while on the job. They assume all responsibility for transportation to and from the place of employment. When it is necessary for the student to miss work, the student or a member of his/her family will notify the employer as early as possible.
4. The employment of the student shall be in conformity with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
5. The student shall abide by all the rules, regulations, and policies of both the employer and the school during the period of training.
6. The employer shall provide safety instruction to the student relating to any and all equipment the student will operate and/or environmental hazards the student could be in contact with.
7. The Ag Education Instructor shall supervise the placement program by making visits to the business during the student's hours of employment to evaluate the student's progress, by discussing the student's progress and evaluations with both the student and the employer, and by coordinating on-the-job experiences with in-school instruction. The Ag Education Instructor, the student, or the employer has the right to terminate this placement agreement at any time.

Signed _____

(student)

(date)

Signed _____

(parent/guardian)

(date)

Signed _____

(employer)

(date)

The undersigned approves of the agreement and agrees to provide assistance as desired necessary to provide a successful experience for this student as outlined above.

Approved _____

(Instructor)

(date)

08/16/21

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE AGREEMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM

_____ agrees to employ _____ to work in the business for the purpose of gaining knowledge, skills, and experience related to the business

1. Work Agreement:

Starting Date: 01/01/22 Work Hours: _____

Wages - starting: \$7.00 Wages are to be paid on: 15th Overtime arrangements: _____

2. The student will be given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the (total) operation of the business that the student's ability and progress permit. The employer and/or persons designated by him will assist the student in learning the skills and competencies necessary for the student to be successful in the placement program.
3. The parents or guardians will be responsible for the personal conduct of the student while on the job. They assume all responsibility for transportation to and from the place of employment. When it is necessary for the student to miss work, the student or a member of his/her family will notify the employer as early as possible.
4. The employment of the student shall be in conformity with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
5. The student shall abide by all the rules, regulations, and policies of both the employer and the school during the period of training.
6. The employer shall provide safety instruction to the student relating to any and all equipment the student will operate and/or environmental hazards the student could be in contact with.
7. The Ag Education Instructor shall supervise the placement program by making visits to the business during the student's hours of employment to evaluate the student's progress, by discussing the student's progress and evaluations with both the student and the employer, and by coordinating on-the-job experiences with in-school instruction. The Ag Education Instructor, the student, or the employer has the right to terminate this placement agreement at any time.

Signed _____

(student)

(date)

Signed _____

(parent/guardian)

(date)

Signed _____

(employer)

(date)

The undersigned approves of the agreement and agrees to provide support and assistance as deemed necessary to provide a successful experience for this student as outlined above.

Approved _____

(Instructor)

(date)

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE AGREEMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Leah Hanning agrees to employ Leah Hanning to work in the business for the purpose of gaining knowledge, skills, and experience related to the business.

1. Work Agreement:

Starting Date: Jan. 2023 Work Hours: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Wages - starting: \$4.00/hr Wages are to be paid on: 1st of the month Overtime arrangements: N/A

2. The student will be given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the total operation of the business that the student's ability and progress permit. The employer and/or persons designated by him will assist the student in learning the skills and competencies necessary for the student to be successful in the placement program.

3. The parents or guardians will be responsible for the personal conduct of the student while on the job. They assume all responsibility for transportation to and from the place of employment. When it is necessary for the student to miss work, the student or a member of his/her family will notify the employer as early as possible.

4. The employment of the student shall be in conformity with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

5. The student shall abide by all the rules, regulations, and policies of both the employer and the school during the period of training.

6. The employer shall provide safety instruction to the student relating to any and all equipment the student will operate and/or environmental hazards the student could be in contact with.

7. The Ag Education Instructor shall supervise the placement program by making visits to the business during the student's hours of employment to evaluate the student's progress, by discussing the student's progress and evaluations with both the student and the employer, and by coordinating on-the-job experiences with in-school instruction. The Ag Education Instructor, the student, or the employer has the right to terminate this placement agreement at any time.

Signed Leah Hanning (Student) (date) 01/01/23

Signed Leah Hanning (parent/guardian) (date) 01/01/23

Signed Leah Hanning (employer) (date) 01/01/23

The undersigned approves of the agreement and agrees to provide and maintain as deemed necessary to provide a successful experience for the student as outlined above.

Approved Leah Hanning (Instructor) (date) 01/01/23

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE AGREEMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Lec Family Enterprises agrees to employ Tucker W. Lec to work in the business for the purpose of gaining knowledge, skills, and experience related to the business

1. Work Agreement:

Starting Date: Jan 2024 Work Hours: After School Wednesdays 12:00-2:00 PM

Wages - starting: \$9.25/hr Wages are to be paid on: the 1st of each month Overtime arrangements N/A

- The student will be given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the total operation of the business that the student's ability and progress permit. The employer and/or persons designated by him will assist the student in learning the skills and competencies necessary for the student to be successful in the placement program.
- The parents or guardians will be responsible for the personal conduct of the student while on the job. They assume all responsibility for transportation to and from the place of employment. When it is necessary for the student to miss work, the student or a member of his/her family will notify the employer as early as possible.
- The employment of the student shall be in conformity with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations
- The student shall abide by all the rules, regulations, and policies of both the employer and the school during the period of training.
- The employer shall provide safety instruction to the student relating to any and all equipment the student will operate and/or environmental hazards the student could be in contact with.
- The Ag Education Instructor shall supervise the placement program by making visits to the business during the student's hours of employment to evaluate the student's progress, by discussing the student's progress and evaluations with both the student and the employer, and by coordinating on-the-job experiences with in-school instruction. The Ag Education Instructor, the student, or the employer has the right to terminate this placement agreement at any time.

Signed Brandon W. Lec 01/01/24 The undersigned approved of this agreement and agrees to provide supervision, and assistance in deemed necessary to provide a successful experience for this student as outlined above.

Signed John Lec 01/01/24 Approved Michael Lec 01/01/24

Signed Michael Lec 01/01/24 (date)



Neodesha Ag Ed/FFA
1001 N. 8th St.
Neodesha, KS 66757
PH: (620) 325-3015
E-Mail: elehmann@usd461.org

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Tucker Leck for the Kansas Star Farmer Award. Over the past four years, it has been a privileged to get to know Tucker on a student level and on a more personal basis. During this time, I have found Tucker to be a student who maintains a positive attitude towards FFA, education, Neodesha, and remains highly motivated in my classes and activities he's involved in. He has a strong work ethic, positive outlook, mature personality, is responsible, and goal oriented in life and in school. Because of his determination and dedication, Tucker has assisted in growing Leck Show Pigs, Leck French Bulldogs, and Leck Family Fresh Egg both in quantity and quality. With his gained knowledge and experience in livestock management and care from these entities, Tucker has been mentoring younger FFA members and agricultural education students as they work through similar livestock experiences. It is this same determination and dedication to succeed that Tucker will apply towards his future schooling and life goals.

In addition to setting high academic and life goals, Tucker has been a key and valuable member of the Neodesha High School FFA Chapter. While serving as the Chapter Treasurer, Chapter Vice-President, and now the Chapter President, Tucker has made several contributions to the chapter through planning and executing numerous activities. He has proven to be reliable, dependable and an honest worker time and time again through FFA. Tucker has assisted students in completing various applications over the years further developing his skills of record keeping and teamwork. Additionally, with the variety of experience he has gained through work, school, and FFA Tucker has utilized his knowledge to advocate for agriculture. These are great and useful skills he has developed and will continue to use effectively in his future endeavors. The amount of leadership and positive influence Tucker has shown is incredible, serving as an outstanding role model for other high school and middle school students.

As Tucker pursues his future plans, to become an Agriculture Attorney in hopes of defending the private property rights of farmers and ranchers; I believe he will work hard and persevere to achieve his life goals. I, without a doubt, recommend Tucker Leck for the Kansas FFA Star in Placement Award. If you would like further elaboration on Tucker's qualifications, feel free to call me at (620) 490-0217.

Sincerely,

NHS Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing ***premier leadership, personal growth, and career success*** through agricultural education.



Leck Family Show Pigs



Dear Recruitment Committee,

I am deeply humbled to be writing a letter of recommendation for my son, Tucker Leck. Tucker has been employed at Leck Family Show Pigs, Leck Family Premea Bulldogs, and Leck Family Fresh Eggs since 2021. When Tucker first began his employment, his roles were more maintenance focused tasks. He would ensure the pig and French Bulldog facilities were cleaned daily and that animals were properly fed and that eggs were gathered. However, just a short time, Tucker showed interest in taking on bigger roles and having more responsibility. Tucker is a quick learner and takes initiative. He does not stand around waiting on someone to tell him what to do, but looks and observes and seeks out tasks that need to be completed. This is a skill that I feel too few of our youth possess today. Tucker went from learning about AI techniques for both the show pigs and bulldogs and began assisting with AI practices. If you have ever met Tucker, you know that he does not know "no" things. His strong communication skills also allowed Tucker to take on bigger roles with marketing and making sure customers were satisfied with their purchases after they left the farm. He researched the farm moving to an online platform for photos and spent countless hours training and pinning pigs, which increased the revenue for show pig sales significantly. Tucker was also an avid supporter of the farm investing in a Mission pit and horse and knew the importance of sustaining and enlarging swine herd, although this effort came with added duties.

Raising French Bulldogs is not a job for one that lacks willpower. Females are not good toothers and require help during the whelping process, which requires constant purpose in hushing throughout the day and night and constant observation. Tucker was quick to offer assistance with the whelping process and due to his effort, the survival rate of puppies notably increased. When not busy completing duties with the pigs and French Bulldogs, Tucker increases his knowledge and skills with egg production and hen health. Tucker marketed eggs to the public and even developed a subscription program, to maintain and retain customers in the community.

In 2023, after seeing Tucker's skills have increased significantly, I gave him the opportunity to become the Front Manager of Leck Family Show Pigs. In two years, Tucker went from cleaning barns and feeding animals, to having the ability to hear crack and determine when cows should be bred. He was able to AI cows and give independent and keep accurate records of the breeding system and dates bred. Tucker not only assisted in the breeding process, but also assisted in selecting boars that genetically matched our cows and give to produce the best show pigs the community desires. Tucker now processes pigs independently and oversees and manages the entire show pig cycle from the breeding date to farrowing to marketing and selling the show pigs across the nation using the online platform.

He also has that Tucker part that the farm is renowned. He takes pride in his work and does not complete tasks until complete them correctly and efficiently. There is a work ethic early morning and late night of jobs to do, yet he still attends school and serves as the President of PA President and maintains a 3.0 GPA despite not working hours.

Please give careful consideration to Tucker Leck as you select your Student Athlete in Agricultural Production. This Athlete has developed Tucker into the kind of person that makes me feel confident about the future of our country, agriculture and agriculture.

Sincerely,

Tucker Leck

Leck Family Show Pigs

March 14, 2025

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to discuss my engagement with Tucker Leck and his SAE project. Tucker a member of the Neodesha FFA Chapter has been active in the agriculture industry for several years. I have watched him grow his project over the past few years.

Tucker's SAE is Placement. Tucker has worked for Leck Family Enterprises which includes Leck Family Show Pigs, Leck Family French Bulldogs and Leck Family Fresh Eggs. This operation continues to grow and so does Tucker's involvement. He has worked his way up from basic responsibilities like feeding, cleaning pens, breeding, marketing and general veterinary care. Tucker became general manager of Leck Family Show pigs in 2023. He is still actively involved with the bulldogs and egg business. Tucker helps with the marketing of the puppies, general care and preparing them for their new homes. Marketing of eggs and delivery is just part of Tucker's everyday duties. Tucker always takes time to share with others in a variety of ways.

Tucker has a keen interest in agriculture, especially the small family farm. I am always amazed at the knowledge he has about the industry and issues facing it both nationally and internationally. As an Extension Agent I have the opportunity to work with the Kansas Department of Agriculture on many different levels. KDA Secretary Mike Beam has recognized Tucker for his work in preserving the Meishan breed of pigs. The endangered breed is a passion for Leck Family Enterprises and they have successfully increased the US Population by 2%. Tucker always impresses me with his hard work, skills and knowledge. I highly recommend Tucker Leck with this SAE.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nelson

4-H & Youth Development Agent

Wildcat Extension District