

The Honorable Shannon Francis,

I am in support of HB2201 which authorizes the creation of a Kansas FFA specialty license plate that will allow supporters to showcase their commitment to agriculture education.

As a bit of background information on myself, I grew up on a small dairy farm in Southeast KS. After getting a degree from KSU, I started my teaching career in Bird City, KS. After 4 years at Cheylin, I accepted a job at Scott City where I spent the next 27 years as FFA Advisor and Agriculture Education Teacher.

When I retired from teaching in 2015, there were approximately 9,000 FFA members served by 186 Agriculture Education programs, where now, a short 10 years later, there are 13,641 Members served by 232 Ag Programs.

Agriculture is vital to the state of Kansas, both economically and culturally. It's a cornerstone of the state's identity and plays a major role in its success. Agricultural education and the FFA play a crucial role in shaping both individuals and society. Here's why:

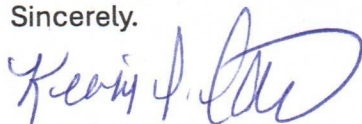
**Developing Skills for the Future:** Agricultural education provides students with practical skills that are essential for careers in farming, agribusiness, food science, environmental sustainability, and more. It's not just about growing crops and raising animals; it's about teaching technology, and problem-solving skills that can be applied in a variety of fields.

**Promoting Sustainability:** As the world faces issues like climate change, food security, and resource management, agricultural education helps students understand how to approach these challenges with innovative solutions.

**Addressing Global Needs:** Agriculture is essential to feeding the global population. FFA helps bridge the gap between education and industry, ensuring the next generation is prepared to tackle these global challenges.

**Connecting with Communities:** Agricultural education and FFA also foster a connection between students and their communities. By being involved in projects that promote local agriculture, students learn the importance of community service, collaboration, and helping others.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Davis

FFA Foundation Board Member