



FFA THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STUDENTS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

"You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Christopher Columbus

Dayton FFA
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Oregon FFA,

Have you ever been so afraid that maybe a decision you made was the wrong one? What if that decision that you blindly followed happened to also guide you to the right path? What if your faith and courage was bigger than any of your fears or worries?

I have always been someone to follow her faith and instincts, but that certainly doesn't mean I haven't questioned my decisions or worried about future opportunities. I've battled the little voice saying, "Joanna, what if you are making a mistake? What if you aren't cut out for this?" There were times that I felt like succumbing to that little voice and agreeing with it, but thankfully, my friends, family, and even advisors were there to help guide me back to the path I wanted to be on and helped me see my courage and potential.

We as FFA members have all faced adversity and days that have made us rethink if we made the right decision. Those moments certainly do not define our futures or who we are; unless we allow it. It's what we do to overcome the struggles that define who we are. Whether we had a bad day of showing our livestock or we didn't perform as well as we wanted to while presenting a speech, as FFA members we know that these are all small setbacks. Without these small setbacks and what I choose to do to overcome my setbacks, I would not be the girl I am proud to be today.

Oregon FFA has helped me see the endless opportunities out there for me and has introduced me to many friends along the way. CDE's like Agricultural Sales has helped me become an attentive and compassionate listener. Public Speaking has helped me see the power of what simple communication can do for others and how to face my fears head on. Competitions like livestock judging and crops have helped me develop an inborn fondness and respect for every single farmer and what they provide. With everything this organization has done for me, I think it's time for me to give back to the organization.

If you would give me the opportunity to serve on the 2015-2016 Oregon FFA State Officer team, I will devote my year of service to helping fellow members lose sight of their fears and doubts and find their courage and develop their perseverance to reach their goals. It is my greatest desire to help others see the opportunities that the FFA has to offer them. It would be an honor and privilege to serve as one of your next six state officers.

Respectfully,

Joanna Kubes
Dayton FFA

