

# FFA

The National Organization of Agriculture Students



**Hermiston Chapter**  
Hermiston High School  
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“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...who at best knows the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” – Theodore Roosevelt

Oregon FFA,

The dim lights of Highway 395 shone on my eyes through the passenger window. It was early in the morning, earlier than I normally cared to be awake, but this was a special occasion, and not of the pleasant variety. On that cold morning, we were taking my dad to the airport because he had been called into active duty for the Army.

As we drove, I thought about everything, from how much freedom I would have with just one parent at home, to all of the responsibility I would have to shoulder in the approaching months. On that early morning drive, I came to the halting realization that, at age 14, I would have to become the man of the house. This ride would change my life in ways I could not imagine at the time.

At some point in our lives, we all arrive at an obstacle that seems insurmountable, whether an academic challenge set to you by a teacher, a dilemma in your personal life, or a situation that demands more physical ability than you think you possess. It is times such as these, which, even when we fail, allow us to look within ourselves and realize who we really are. My freshman year, my father was deployed to Iraq, and he didn't return until a quarter of the way through my sophomore year. During that year, I could have closed off from the world, and thought only of myself. Instead, I stood strong for my mother and sister, and became involved in FFA (a long-time dream of my father's, since he gained so much through his involvement). Through FFA, I built my existence on life-long relationships, hard work, and a passion for agriculture.

Oregon FFA, I challenge you to face your fears, to fight the bonds holding you back, because **I Believe** that, together, we, the members of Oregon FFA, can overcome any obstacle set before us. It is with great excitement that I announce my candidacy for the 2012-2013 Oregon FFA State Officer Team. I cannot wait to see all of you in my hometown of Hermiston, for the Oregon FFA's 84<sup>th</sup> State Convention!

Yours Truly,

Michael J Wallace

Hermiston FFA Chapter Vice President

