



# MADRAS FFA CHAPTER

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Greetings Oregon FFA,

It was a hot July afternoon on the day of weigh-ins for the Jefferson County Fair. I was proud and confident as I swung open the trailer gates to unload my steer. I saw a puzzled look on the clerk's face as she read the weight aloud, "1,624 Pounds". Unfazed by the words she spoke, I responded, "Well they only pay to 1,550 pounds but they can be over, right?" The clerk responded, "No Wade, they must weigh under 1,550 to sell." My mind raced, this can't be, I thought. After the initial disbelief I began to feel confused and dejected. I found my advisor and told him, "We had the rules wrong, I can't sell my steer at market." My first-year advisor had spent countless hours with me, prepping and consulting with me on fitting so that my steer could reach his full potential. His interpretation of the rules for a "Finished Steer" had been the same. My advisor was equally devastated and remorseful. I immediately recognized that I could not allow my advisor to take the blame or be upset with him. I took full accountability for not verifying the rules myself.



Over the course of the fair week, people questioned why my "Finished Steer" was not in Market Class. I explained to them that I had simply made a mistake with respect to his weight and the applicable rules. In the end, I learned a great deal at the fair that year. What I first thought was only a mistake, turned out to be an important life lesson. In my reflections on that year, I came across a quote that helped me find perspective, "Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." \*Jack Welch

Life still has many lessons to teach me but I'm confident that I have wisdom to share as well. My desire to become a great leader and to help others is what drives me to be a part of the Oregon FFA Leadership Team. It is with great honor that I announce my candidacy for the 2023-2024 Oregon FFA State Officer Team!

Sincerely,

Wade G. Simmelink  
Madras FFA President  
Central Oregon District Vice President

<b>Freshman</b> 2019-20	<b>Sophomore</b> 2020-21	<b>Junior</b> 2021-22	<b>Senior</b> 2022-23
<p><b>Positions held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Greenhand President</li> </ul> <p><b>Degree Held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Greenhand Degree</li> </ul> <p><b>SAE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Market Steer</li> </ul> <p><b>CDE's:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ag Sales</li> <li>•Creed Speaking</li> <li>•Tractor driving</li> <li>•Soil Judging</li> <li>•Shop Skills</li> <li>•Livestock Judging</li> </ul> <p><b>Other FFA Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter Meetings</li> <li>•Greenhand Night</li> <li>•Jefferson County Fair</li> <li>•Les Shwab Food Drive</li> <li>•FFA Week</li> <li>•Farm Bureau Booth</li> <li>•Volunteer (Ag Fest -Salem)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Football, Basketball</li> <li>•Tennis</li> <li>•Trade Fair</li> <li>•Cowdeo</li> </ul> <p><b>Scholarly Accomplishments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.0 GPA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Positions held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter Treasurer</li> </ul> <p><b>Degree Received:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter Degree</li> </ul> <p><b>SAE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Market Steer</li> </ul> <p><b>CDE'S:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter Meetings</li> <li>•Jefferson County Fair</li> <li>•Shop Skills</li> <li>•Livestock Judging</li> <li>•Treasurer Book</li> <li>•Co-Op Quiz</li> <li>•Horse Judging</li> <li>•Extemporaneous Speaking</li> <li>•Tractor driving</li> </ul> <p><b>Other FFA Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Les Shwab Food Drive</li> <li>•TS&amp;S Ford Roadside Cleanup</li> <li>•Christmas Tree Sale</li> <li>•Turkey Raffle</li> <li>•Plant Sale</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-FFA Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cowdeo</li> <li>•Football</li> <li>•Basketball</li> <li>•Track &amp; Field</li> </ul> <p><b>Scholarly Accomplishments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•4.0 GPA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Positions held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter President</li> <li>•District Vice President</li> </ul> <p><b>Degree Held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter Degree</li> </ul> <p><b>SAE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Market Steer</li> <li>•K&amp;S Farms Placement</li> </ul> <p><b>CDE'S:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Shop Skills</li> <li>•Livestock Judging (1st Place District + State Team)</li> <li>•Tractor Driving</li> <li>•Co-Op Quiz (1st in District + State Competitor)</li> <li>•Job Interview</li> </ul> <p><b>Other FFA Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Officer Retreat</li> <li>•Chapter Meetings</li> <li>•Les Shwab Food Drive</li> <li>•Christmas Tree Fundraiser</li> <li>•Hog Raffle</li> <li>•Cowdeo Fundraiser</li> <li>•Plant Sale</li> <li>•Educational Tours (Wilbur Ellis + Ottenwalter Show Pigs)</li> <li>•U.C Davis Livestock Judging Competition</li> <li>•Banquet Planning Committee</li> <li>•Chapter Banquet</li> <li>•State Convention</li> <li>•Oregon District Office Training</li> <li>•Washington Leadership Conference</li> <li>•Jefferson County Fair</li> <li>•Business Donation Visits</li> <li>•Meal Packing Volunteer</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-FFA Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cowdeo Announcer/D.J</li> <li>•Varsity Football</li> <li>•Varsity Basketball</li> <li>•Varsity Track &amp; Field</li> <li>•State Track Competiton (4x100 Anchor)</li> <li>•Convened Discussion with Congressman Bentz</li> </ul> <p><b>Scholarly Accomplishments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 GPA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Positions held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chapter President</li> <li>•District Vice President</li> </ul> <p><b>Degree Held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•State Degree</li> </ul> <p><b>SAE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Market Steer</li> <li>•K&amp;S Farms Placement</li> </ul> <p><b>CDE'S:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Extemporaneous</li> <li>•Job Interview</li> </ul> <p><b>Other FFA Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Officer Retreat</li> <li>•Les Schwab Food Drive</li> <li>•Christmas Tree</li> <li>•Fundraiser Chair</li> <li>•Cowdeo Fundraiser Chair</li> <li>•National Convention</li> <li>•Chapter Meetings</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-FFA Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cowdeo Announcer/D.J</li> <li>•Varsity Football</li> <li>•Varsity Basketball</li> <li>•Varsity Track &amp; Field</li> <li>•Key Club Member</li> <li>•Madras High School Mentor Program</li> <li>•Testimony to State Legislature (Youth Voices)</li> </ul>