

Personal Testimony of a Farm Animal Veterinarian in Ohio

My name is Brianna Jordan, and I am a proud Ohio citizen, a veterinarian, and an educator employed by The Ohio State University in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. I serve as a veterinarian and clinician-scientist in the Hospital for Farm Animal Medicine, where I am responsible for educating the next generation of veterinarians both in the classroom and on the clinic floor.

I grew up in the small rural town of Attica, Ohio, where I was involved in 4-H, raising beef steers and market lambs. From a young age, I was fortunate to have strong relationships with my local veterinarians—people I looked up to and admired. As a first-generation college student, I pursued an undergraduate degree in Animal Sciences at Ohio State, made possible by a land-grant scholarship. It was this opportunity that opened the door to a future in veterinary medicine.

My passion for farm animal medicine led me to stay at Ohio State for my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. I drew on the familiarity and comfort of my upbringing, knowing that I wanted to give back to the kind of communities I came from. After graduation, I pursued a food animal medicine and surgery internship at the College of Veterinary Medicine to gain mentorship as my mentors from back home had either retired or moved into industry and weren't available to be a steppingstone into practice.

That internship turned into a calling. I stayed on to complete a surgical residency in farm animal medicine and surgery, and after three years, I accepted a clinical instructorship within the Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery department. Now, I have the privilege of teaching veterinary students—whether in the classroom, in the clinic, or out in the field. I strive to make every rotation meaningful, interactive, and fun, with the hope of inspiring more students to choose large animal medicine, a field that is both critically important and increasingly underrepresented.

Beyond the walls of the university, I am actively involved in outreach. I participate in elementary school career days, speak with 4-H clubs, and engage clients and students alike in conversations about food animal medicine. I serve as a mentor for the Early Commitment Program through the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) and the College of Veterinary medicine, focused on identifying and supporting students after their second year of undergraduate school who have an interest in farm/large animal, and am always available as a resource for students looking to explore this rewarding path.

Back home in Attica, I regularly receive phone calls from friends and family and friends of family and friends of friends of family with veterinary questions—because there are so few veterinarians left in the area. This highlights a very real concern: rural communities in Ohio are experiencing a growing shortage of veterinary professionals. That's why programs like the Protect OHIO initiative are so vital.

Through my work in the College, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to teach and mentor our extraordinary veterinary students and offer support for Ohio's rural communities and the food and fiber producers who rely on the expertise and dedication of veterinarians like me. Funding for the Protect OHIO initiative will allow me to continue to engage in this critical work past July of this year to protect the public and agriculture health of the Buckeye state.

Ohio needs food/farm/large animal veterinarians. Our farmers need support. Our students need mentorship. I respectfully urge continued investment in programs like Protect OHIO so that I—and others like me—can continue to serve our state, its animals, its agricultural economy, and its future veterinarians.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the amendment that Chair Schaffer and Vice Chair Koehler had drafted to restore the line item for Ohio's only college of veterinary medicine to the level that Governor DeWine included in his executive operational budget, a total of \$20 million per year over the FY26-27 biennium.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.