

Good morning members, guests, and friends of the Ohio Senate.

My name is Hannah Ziegler, and I represent Wyandot County here in Ohio. Before I begin, I would like to ask you to reflect on one of your greatest accomplishments? Now your greatest accomplishment may be a political science honor or even winning a state championship baseball game in high school. Three years ago, I began my agriculture journeys through the FFA. You could say I eat, sleep, and breathe agriculture. From taking part in many different Supervised Agriculture Experience projects and Career Development Events to meeting many new friends along the way, I have learned so much through FFA. In fact, one of my greatest accomplishments occurred this past December when I won the Ohio State FFA job interview contest and will be representing Ohio at the National FFA Convention and competition this fall.

Many of us have goals we are looking to accomplish from carrying on our families' businesses to attending college to obtain a degree useful in our chosen profession. Take my friend Emma for example. She is a young agriculturist that is looking to pursue a degree in the agriculture field. However, with money being tight and having to work on the family farm, she is not able to attend Columbus OSU for an animal science degree, so she is settling for a business and economics degree at a local technical college.

The sad realization is that many like Emma face the same issue. E.M. Tiffany famously states in the FFA Creed that we as agriculturists "know the joys and discomforts of agriculture life" even in the educational setting.

I ask you members, friends, and guests of the Ohio Senate to take into consideration the opportunities the Marion Prison farm could provide for many throughout our state from the long-term revenue to the opportunities in education it could afford for both high school and college students.

I ask you Senate members, guests, and friends to think about the next generation of agriculturists. Famously stated by Sydney Snider, the past eastern region National FFA vice president hailing from Felicity-Franklin FFA Chapter here in Ohio, in order "see hope, we must be hope."

Ohio Senate, let's get ready to transform our State into something bigger and better.

Thank you.