

Good Afternoon my name is Sarah Davis and I am proudly serving The Connecticut FFA Association as State Secretary and Reporter. I would like for you for a moment to go back to the fall of 2001 that was when I entered the Killingly Agricultural Education Program. I came into the program as in my mind just another farm kid who knew how to shovel manure and pick up hay bales. I left Killingly's Agricultural Education Program as a mature confident young adult who has risen to become Barn Manager at my family's dairy farm. Throughout my four years at Killingly I quickly climbed the ladder of success attending numerous leadership conferences including the Washington Leadership Conference that is held in our nations Capitol every year. I also served as a Chapter officer two years in a row including serving as chapter president in my senior year while also serving as president of Student Government. I also won many other awards and achieved many other goals but my proudest moment was when I learned that I a National Proficiency Finalist. This is a prestige honor only earned by 200 of the half a million FFA members every year. This honor was earned through careful record keeping of my growth throughout my Supervised Agricultural Education \ project, growth that would have never been possible if not for the Agricultural Education Program. As I stood on stage in October in front of thousands of other FFA members waiting to see if I was to be the top Dairy Student I came to the realization that I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all the support and encouragement I got along the way. The FFA and Agricultural Education Programs strongly support and teach; premier leadership, personal growth, and career success and with their support and dedication I became who I am today. I am here today to ask you to support us in our request for increase in funding so that they can continue their superb work and help other students become the best they can possibly be. I was just

a farm kid who came from another small town with almost no opportunities but with the FFA and Agricultural Education Program I have achieved so much and have so many more opportunities are available to me. Also if you were to ask the other members in the crowd today they would all have stories similar to mine so I ask you once again to support our increase for funding so that the FFA an Agricultural Education Programs can continue their superb work.

Thank you