



## **Connecticut State FFA Association**

**Bill 1061**

**Monday, February 13, 2007**

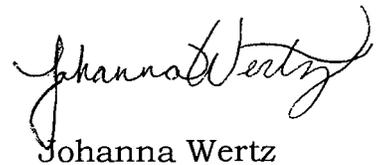
Hello ladies and gentleman. I am Johanna Wertz, and this year I am proudly serving all 2600 Connecticut FFA association members as their state president. The FFA is the world's largest student organization bringing in 500,000 national FFA members from all 50 United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Our organization is an Agricultural Based leadership program whose mission is to inspire premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through Agricultural Education and Technology.

As an intra-curricular program the FFA runs strongly within our agricultural education and technology classrooms. FFA and agricultural education classes working together allow a better agricultural learning experience. For example, Student Agricultural Experiences or SAE's as FFA members refer to them, are a guided at home activity required by all Agricultural Science and Technology students. SAE's range vastly as do Agricultural Science and Technology classes, anywhere from landscaping and design to aquaculture, forestry to animal handling, and food sciences to veterinary medicine. In my case I earned SAE hours by working at Stonington Beef, a production farm in North Stonington. Also, by interning in the Agricultural Science and Technology Department at Ledyard High School. These hours will help me achieve my American FFA degree. Not only do our hours help obtain degrees, they also help us to acquire skills that will follow us our whole lives. Our members keep their own records for four years enforcing responsibility.

Our classrooms are more hands on compared to most school classrooms. Our students grow their own plants, learn to drive tractors, do soil

and water tests and much more. These viable skills will help our students make up the growing workforce in our states. Some of our members took skills from the classroom and have gone on to become veterinarians, teachers, gone into the medical field as well as those students who have opened their own businesses, helping to make up Connecticut's growing small business community. A former Ledyard Agricultural and FFA student started his own business right out of high school and owns the beef farm that I work on.

By adding extra funding to our Agricultural Education and Technology programs you are giving students more opportunities and are supporting America's future leaders, employees and business owners. Thank you very much for your time and I hope you will consider voting for bill 1061.



Johanna Wertz

Connecticut FFA Association President