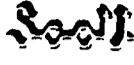


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## 2001 Keystone Kontest

Winning Essay  
by Elveita I. Kuhn  
New Oxford FFA  
New Oxford High School

FFA has taught me leadership, responsibility, and has given me a chance to grow in personality. FFA has also given me the opportunity to travel and meet people. Through FFA, I have been able to find my true personality and have been given the opportunity to work to improve myself and my personality.

When I joined FFA, I saw leadership as a quality to develop. I have learned to become a leader by giving ideas and advice or taking charge during a chapter meeting, county event, or a conference. While being in the FFA there are so many things that I have done to become a leader, like taking part in a community service event or becoming a chairperson of a committee. Another way to becoming a good leader is to give or take suggestions freely. With being a leader and learning leadership, I gained responsibility.

When I became a member of the FFA, I immediately became involved in chapter and county activities. When I started to involve myself in these activities and chapter events, I learned responsibility. Responsibility is an important quality to have, because I was a representative of my chapter. Being responsible is a life lesson that should never be forgotten.

Another thing that I gained as an FFA member was the chance to grow in personality. Since

joining the FFA, I have gone on many trips and events (PDFS, SLLC, State Activities Week, and National Convention.) Through participation in these events, I have learned a lot of things about teamwork. To

become a success as an FFA member, I had to meet new people. As I met new people, I learned that personality was a big part to dealing successfully with people. I grew in personality because when I entered the FFA as an eighth grader, I was shy and was afraid to talk in front of groups. As I got older and continued my membership through high school, my personality and speaking ability grew so much. Now I am never afraid

to get up in front of groups of people to talk. As a younger member, I was never one to have self-confidence. But, when I started to do other activities, such as public speaking, county contests, and starting new community projects, which may or may not have been successful, I gained self-confidence.

Having the chance to earn the Keystone Degree has been such an honor. As I grew in the FFA, I always wanted to some day earn the state degree. I have won many chapter awards such as, star greenhand, star chapter farmer, and many chapter proficiencies. I worked so hard to win these awards, and I have worked just as hard to earn the Keystone

Degree. Now that this time has come it means so much. I feel earning this degree will have a great impact on my life because my big plan is to run for a state office. If I would some day get a state office that would be another great experience.

Participating in the FFA has benefited me so much in several important ways teaching me leadership, responsibility, and giving me a chance to grow in personality. The FFA has truly been a positive experience in my life. I am sure that earning the Keystone Degree and continuing as an FFA member will be a life long experience that I will never forget.

## Discover The Power: National FFA Week Feb. 17-24

The young people of the 21st century are constantly on the go, with classes and homework, after-school activities, part time jobs, friends and family. It's hard for them to find the opportunity to look inside their hearts and encounter the high-caliber strength that resides there. FFA membership provides students many opportunities to tap into their own personal power in a variety of ways.

FFA membership offers young people numerous opportunities to cultivate their innate potential. Leadership experience and community awareness are gained when students give

speeches at public events and elect their own officers. Mentoring programs and national meetings foster responsibility and self-confidence. Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs motivate students by providing-real world professional experience. All of these qualities combine into a core of self-esteem and pride that forms the foundation of a student's inner power.

Students who have taken advantage of opportunities within FFA are better prepared for a future in the dynamic agricultural industry, which now encompasses more than 300 careers. They're also better pre-

pared to deal with our changing world, as technology brings different cultures closer together each day. These changes present new challenges for the new century — and new tools will be needed to meet those challenges. FFA membership gives students an advantage by exposing them to international cultures, global agriculture and emerging technologies. By equipping these students with the proper tools, FFA membership instills a power that will remain with them for life.

More than 450,000 young men and women have taken a step toward realizing their own power by joining FFA.

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