



Taylor McNeel

National FFA President

Age: 21

Birthdate: Dec. 11, 1994

Hometown and State: Vilonia, Ark.

Parents: John and Laura McNeel

Siblings: Mathew McNeel

FFA Stats

Chapter: Vilonia FFA

Enterprise: Goat Production and Diversified Livestock Production

State Office: 2013-14 State President

College Stats

Year: Junior

Major: Agricultural Business

School: Southern Arkansas University

College Activities: President's Ambassador, Ag Club, Honors College

Future Career Goal: To work on agricultural policy and governmental affairs for agriculture and to pursue international agriculture.

Growing up on a farm coupled with her years in FFA instilled a passion for agriculture in Taylor McNeel, but it was her eleventh grade year in high school that set her on her future path in agricultural policy.

"I was asked to speak at a hearing concerning the closing of the county's Farm Service Agency on behalf of the 800+ FFA and 4-H members in the county," she said. "This hearing exposed me to the government and policy aspect of agriculture and I became hooked."

McNeel was elected to the 2015-16 National FFA Officer team as president at the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo.

Originally from Vilonia, Ark., McNeel was Arkansas FFA president in 2013-14 and president and treasurer of the Vilonia FFA Chapter. In high school, she was active in 4-H, her church's youth group and nursing home ministry, the Arkansas state fair and the Red Cross.

While in FFA McNeel's supervised agricultural experiences included breeding and showing goats and developing and facilitating leadership and agricultural education workshops. She judged livestock for three years and competed in public speaking for two years. She credits FFA for honing her skills and guiding her toward a career in agriculture.

"I recently read Bob Goff's "Love Does" and learned about living palms up. Palms up means taking what is provided and passing it along to others. I look forward to living my year palms up, ready for what comes my way, and being there for the members ready to help out."

Today, McNeel is an agricultural business major with a minor in Spanish at Southern Arkansas University. After her year in office, she plans to study abroad to continue her Spanish studies and aim for a career in lobbying for agriculture trade associations or working on policy for elected officials.

"I am excited this year to learn about the different types of agriculture across the country. This year will provide an opportunity to talk with FFA members, consumers, and the public about FFA, agriculture education, and agriculture."