

Advocating for Agriculture

BY SYDNEY BRUCHHAUS

FFA is the premier youth organization preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.



My name is Sydney Bruchhaus, I am from the small town of Elton, Louisiana, and I am currently serving as the Louisiana FFA State Secretary for the Louisiana FFA Association.

Ever since I can remember I have been around horses. My father and I raise Quarter Horses, and raising them has taught me everything that I know. They have accompanied me through every trial and tribulation, and little did I know that when I joined Louisiana FFA, my two favorite things would go hand and hand. Serving in this leadership position and working with horses has pushed me to learn so much about myself as well as agriculture in general.

When I started to dig deeper into the history of the Louisiana FFA Association, I found myself reading the National FFA Creed over and over again. I found myself thinking of all the ways that I can relate to this creed on a personal level. All of the memories and experiences were of me working with, or learning about, Quarter Horses.

The Creed has 5 paragraphs, each describing different hardships that one will face in the agricultural world. I never truly understood my role in agriculture until I started relating my life to the FFA Creed. Coming from an agricultural background, I saw this as a fun job to bond with and watch the animals grow, but

I never understood the true importance of tending to those sassy horses and raising their babies.

The FFA Creed states, “I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.”

This was one of the lines that I could not stop thinking about. The agricultural life that I had taken for granted is an opportunity most people wish that they had. Walking into a barn and hearing these thousand-pound animals snicker because they are either hungry or excited—you never really know—was something I underappreciated, but the joys and discomforts will stick with me forever.

I have been through many discomforts with raising horses. When I was young, I was scared of these huge animals—as any little girl would be. Getting over this fear is something that will forever stick with me when I am facing something difficult. Over time, I started handling our horses with ease simply because I did not back down.

Not only did this teach me how to take control over a horse, but it also taught me how strong I was. It taught me that if I want something I cannot give up until I get the results I want. I may have gotten kicked a few too many times, but each kick symbolized growth. You face these challenges that will knock you down, but the key is to keep on going and never give up.

These challenging days in the barn often brought obstacles that I

thought were impossible to overcome, but through these obstacles I learned lessons and work ethic that I continue to use in my everyday life. Although I have faced many hardships, I have had even more joys in the same big red barn.

My favorite time of the year is the beginning of January. You may be thinking it is because it is the beginning of a new year. New year, new me; right? Wrong! I like to say new year, new foals.

The beginning of January is when all of our brood mares start to



have their babies. Starting fresh with new babies may be frustrating to some, but to me it is my favorite because they all have different personalities. Some of them love people right away, others you have to sit on a bucket for hours to even get the tiniest nibble from them.

These foals are unpredictable because I never really know how they are going to act from day to day. Watching them grow up and show me all their quirks is the most rewarding part of the whole raising process. These horses see me as their caretaker. They take me as I am. No matter what kind of day I have I know that I can walk into the barn and my horses will be so excited to see me. It may be

because they are hungry, but I take it as they like to spend time with me.

The joys and discomforts of my agricultural life will forever be a part of me. I will hold these memories close to my heart because of all the lessons that I have learned working around my horses.

Another line from the FFA Creed is, “I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.” All of these lessons have opened my eyes to further my education in agriculture by pursuing a degree in Agriculture Communications.

I want to help bridge the gap between agriculture and urban areas. My goal is to show people the importance of agriculture in everyone’s day-to-day life because many people do not understand the role that production agriculture plays in their lives, no matter where they live. American Agriculture is something that will forever be a part of me.

Raising racehorses with my dad molded me to be the successful young lady that I am today. It has taught me patience, determination, and has given me a chance to improve my work ethic. I hope to pass on these same joys and discomforts to my children and that they continue to carry on this love for agriculture.

Being a part of FFA and raising racehorses has made me grow as a person, as well as helped me discover my hidden love of advocating for agriculture.

“Growing the next generation of leaders who will change the world”