

Stephanie Berenda
Earl Park, Indiana
South Newton FFA
Matthew Armbruster and Anna Lanstrom-Smith, Advisors

Stephanie Berenda, 18, is currently serving as the 2024-2025 Indiana FFA State Northern Region Vice President. Stephanie is beyond fortunate to serve Indiana FFA and its members. Stephanie is the daughter of Wade and Amanda Berenda.

Throughout six years of membership in the National FFA Organization, Stephanie is extremely fortunate to have served in leadership positions at the Chapter, District, and State level. On the Chapter level, Stephanie has served as South Newton FFA Vice President and President. She has been recognized as Discovery Star, Greenhand Star, and Chapter Star in Placement and Entrepreneurship as well as being named the most active member. On the District Level, Stephanie has been stationed at the plow serving as the 2022-2023 District I Southern Region Vice President and currently positioned under the rising sun as the District I President. Her leadership on the State level including being an active member of the Indiana Executive Committee and attendee of numerous leadership conferences. These conferences have granted her the opportunity to mentor younger FFA members as a counselor. At the National level, Stephanie has attended the National Convention for four years and has competed at the national level.

Stephanie has been involved in numerous Career Development Events including reaching the national stage as Creed Speaking participant where she received a bronze emblem. Stephanie has also competed in Plant & Soil Science Demonstration- earning 2nd at State, Freshman Extemporaneous Public Speaking earning 1st at State, and Soils Judging- earning 7th place as a team at state.

Stephanie's Supervised Agricultural Experience is Beef Cattle Production Placement located at Berenda Farms. This operation runs 25 head of cows year round and sells an additional 30 head of show steers and heifers every fall. Her basic responsibilities include feeding, watering, and bedding the cattle but expand to marketing sale calves and interacting with customers. Stephanie has become a skilled clipper and fitter.

Stephanie has been extremely active within her school and community. She is going to be a 10-year 4-H member who competitively exhibited livestock at the county and state level. Within her school, Stephanie is a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, Spanish Club and currently serves as Class President. Stephanie has been inducted into the Indiana Association of School Presidents' Rising Star Class of 2024 and is a United States Presidential Scholar CTE Nominee.

Stephanie was ranked 1st out of 47 students in her class and graduated with Academic and Technical Honors in June. Stephanie plans to attend Oklahoma State University to major in Agribusiness: Pre-Law with a minor in Political Science. Stephanie has been selected as a McKnight Scholar - one of thirty five within Oklahoma State's incoming class of freshmen- waiving her out-of-state tuition, giving her an inclusive study abroad trip, and giving her access to leadership classes and networking opportunities.