**Name:** Elizabeth Sanders

**Title:** Miss Fulton County’s Outstanding Teen

**#AgricultureEducation**

Agriculture has always been a huge factor in my life. I live on a farm, and I work with animals on a daily basis. When I was in the third grade, I ventured into showing livestock through our county’s 4H program. Later, I became more involved in 4H and competed in different areas as well as participated in community service projects. The 4H program allowed me to focus on agriculture, which is something I am passionate about. I also developed leadership skills, social skills, the ability to work hard toward goals, and began to provide service to others. Prior to my experience in the 4H program, I was extremely shy and did not consider public speaking as one of my strengths. The 4H program allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and to develop skills which will serve me throughout my life. When I entered middle school, I had the opportunity to become involved in our middle school FFA program. While continuing with 4H programs, I was able to further develop my skills through leadership opportunities and further agriculture based competitions.

Georgia is a diverse state comprised of different regions and people; however, one thing we all have in common is the need for agriculture. Agriculture is Georgia’s largest industry ─ 1 in 7 jobs are in the agriculture fields contributing close to $73.3 billion each year to our state’s economy. Unfortunately, many students do not have a good understanding of where their food comes from and how it gets from the farm to their tables. During the school year 2019-2020 Georgia is beginning a pilot program in which 20 elementary schools will begin teaching agriculture education programs. As Miss Fulton County’s Outstanding Teen, I would like to further my platform #AgricultureEducation by reaching out to these schools as they develop programs for elementary school students. I want to educate these students about agriculture and its importance in their lives, and I also want to help establish their foundation for participating in the agriculture education programs such as 4H and FFA as they get older.

I have provided opportunities for #AgricultureEducation through various appearances and events:

* As the president of our FFA Chapter, I have been able to organize events that promote agriculture and provide hands-on experiences for hundreds of young people.
* As a volunteer for the Georgia National Fair, I reached hundreds of fairgoers to educate them about livestock and Georgia grown products.
* Through various school visits to elementary schools, I integrate literacy in my appearances and teach lessons about how their food gets from the farm to their table.
* Agriculture Awareness Week ─ I visited with second grade classrooms to celebrate #AgHeroDay.
* New FFA Program ─ I visited Long Cane Middle School along with my show cow, Helen, to educate the students about the many opportunities the FFA program can provide them.
* 4H Agriculture Literacy Day ­­─ I educated local 4H students about Georgia Grown products and beef by-products we use in our everyday lives with hands-on activities.

My platform #AgricultureEducation will move the Miss Georgia Organization forward by educating our state about the importance of agriculture education to our elementary school children. The 4H and FFA programs which are available to our children can develop strong leaders who are driven to serve others. I want to encourage young people to participate in these programs so they can experience the same growth I have known, as well as learn more about agriculture and healthy living along the way.

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Signature/Date