

**PRESS RELEASE****ASHLEY STROUD NAMED  
2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Ashley Stroud of Spencer, Ohio, has been named a 2022 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES, recognizing the top graduating seniors from each of the academic units on the Columbus campus,” said Steven Neal, CFAES professor and associate dean and director of academic programs.

Stroud, an animal sciences major from Lorain County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

“One of the hallmarks of our college is an emphasis on student success, and it is heartwarming to see it exemplified through the accomplishments of our students,” Neal said. “Recipients are our future innovators and leaders who have already made an impact within the academic environment at this university and beyond.”

Stroud, a first-generation college student, started her studies with a career in veterinary medicine in mind. She said her experiences at Ohio State opened her eyes to the opportunities within the field and solidified her decision. Most inspiring, she said, has been realizing the ability she has to make a difference in the welfare of animals and humans alike.

“I find significant importance in science, medicine, and being able to excel under rigorous academic strain, but the lessons I have found most valuable are those that have taught me to be a better leader,” Stroud said. “My involvement in the Animal Welfare and Behavior Club allowed me to discover my passion for animal welfare, which is the ideology that while we use animals for our benefit, we owe them the highest standard of care possible.”

Stroud plans to start at veterinary school in the fall, possibly at Ohio State. “Veterinary medicine is just as human-centric as it is animal-focused,” she said. “My journey at Ohio State has taught me the importance of community and forming heartfelt connections with others.”

Stroud had an internship with Dairy Farmers of America. “The dairy industry holds a special place in my heart as my mother was a second-generation dairy farmer. Ohio State allowed me to form a connection with the country’s largest dairy-based cooperative, through which I was able to gain real-world field and laboratory experience and an appreciation for the legislation in place to protect consumers of dairy products.”

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD****Academic Programs**100 Agricultural Administration  
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210614-292-6891 | [students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu](http://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu)

Stroud has been a member of the Animal Welfare and Behavior Club at Ohio State for four years, and she serves as vice president and treasurer this year. She is also president of the Animal Science Community Alliance, and she is a member of a half dozen or more other student groups and organizations.

She said her greatest sense of self-accomplishment was her induction into the SPHINX senior class honorary. SPHINX seeks out exceptional students with an emphasis on scholarship, leadership, camaraderie, citizenship, and service. Each student honored is given a unique adjective, and the one chosen for Stroud was “inspirational.” “Truly I cannot think of anything that has meant more to me than that,” she said. “It has been such an honor and such a meaningful experience to see the effect I have had on others and this university that I love so much.”

Due to persisting impacts of the pandemic, celebration of this year’s CFAES Distinguished Seniors took place during a by invitation reception at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on The Ohio State University’s Columbus campus on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. At the recognition celebration hosted by CFAES dean and vice president for agricultural administration Cathann A. Kress and associate dean and director of academic programs Steven Neal, recipients were presented with special award packages. A YouTube video recognizing the award recipients on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel was also released on that same day. View the recognition video at [go.osu.edu/CFAES2022DSA](https://go.osu.edu/CFAES2022DSA).

While this year’s recognition took on a varied format from previous years for the 2022 recipients, Neal said, “We were pleased to be able to acknowledge their commitment to their education and dedication to their time as a student in CFAES by recognizing them with the YouTube video, and via social media and professional networking platforms.”

In autumn 2021, there were 2,859 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 34 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at [go.osu.edu/B4V2](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## **ASHLEY A. STROUD**

**SPENCER, OH**

ANIMAL SCIENCES - ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

Photo available by sending a request to [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)

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