

**From:** bounce-122052539-76929370@list.cornell.edu  
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Good Morning,

I know that many of you are in the thick of your annual fruit sale! May sales be plentiful! I would like to also take a moment and congratulate the chapters from NY who received National FFA Living to Serve Grants this year. Afton, Carthage, DeRuyter, Prattsburgh, Southern Cayuga, Greenwich and Hamilton all received these grants. Thus far, National FFA has awarded over \$440,000 to chapters in 42 states and Puerto Rico. Of this amount, NY Chapters received a total of \$15,270 that was used to support members of their communities that are in need. Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity and allowing your students to have this experience.

## **AG ED/Professional Development Updates:**

**Have you completed your Agriculture Education Incentive Grant?- Deadline December 1st**

Don't miss out on this funding opportunity for your chapter! For more information about the program, please visit the [Incentive Grant](#) on the New York State FFA webpage. Our goal is to provide funding to as many qualifying schools as we can through this program while also working to collect accurate data on our agricultural education programs across the state.

**Do you have an idea that you would like to share?** The NYAAE Professional Development Committee has begun planning the 2018 summer conference. We have learned from past experiences that we learn best from our peers. ***This is YOUR opportunity to shine in front of YOUR colleagues.*** Please visit the [Call for proposals link](#) if you would like to be considered as a professional development workshop presenter at the summer conference scheduled for **Sunday, June 17 to Wednesday, June 20, 2018** at the Oswegatchie Educational Center in Croghan, NY.

**Do you need help?** Just have a agricultural content specific question? Could you benefit from a few new lessons or ideas from an agricultural education colleague? NYAAE has expanded its agricultural education-mentoring program. **Please visit the [NYAAE mentoring portal](#) , click on a mentor's name and reach out for assistance.**

Register to Attend 212/360 with your students. **January 27-28 2018**, Syracuse, NY- Receive professional development while your students attend the 212/360 FFA Leadership Conferences. Each teacher will be eligible for up to six hours of professional development credit.

## WHERE WILL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TAKE YOU THIS SUMMER?

**Save the date- June 17-20th NYAAE conference** for all NY Agricultural Educators. **Plan ahead and submit a conference request to your school now to ensure that funds will be available for you in**

**June.** Cost to attend will be \$495/participant. <http://www.nysffa.org/nyaaconference>

2018 NYAAE CASE Scholarships will be available at the end of this week- Visit <http://www.nysffa.org/case>

Hello Ag Teachers, Oswegatchie Educational Center has openings this winter for your students to retreat to the Adirondacks! Join us for a weekend filled with comradery, fresh air, and your choice of activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, winter survival and campfires.

Openings in Sutliff Lodge include <http://www.oswegatchieretreats.org/sutliff-lodge.html>

March 23-25

March 30-1 (Easter)

Openings in Foster Lodge include <http://www.oswegatchieretreats.org/foster-lodge.html>

Many Weekends! Contact us if you have a group of less than 24!

If you would like more detail about winter retreats at Oswegatchie request information from [rwaite@oswegatchie.org](mailto:rwaite@oswegatchie.org)



## **New York Association of FFA Updates:**

The state officers are beginning to schedule chapter visits. Some may happen this fall and others in the spring, but expect to be contacted in the future. It is very helpful if you can respond to their email to you even if your chapter isn't planning on having them come do a visit. We want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving next week and hope that you get to spend quality time with friends and family!

**212/360:** Registration for 212/360 is open. All conference information is available on our website. Please visit [www.nysffa.org/212360](http://www.nysffa.org/212360). Please make sure to register in a timely fashion because there is a limit to the number of students that will be able to attend these two conferences. Professional development for educators will take place, that information will be provided in the near future.

### **Registration Tips:**

- The registration portal requires you to register yourself (advisors) as the primary attendee first so you get all event emails and have access to modify your registrations.

- When modifying registration to add more attendees, the system requires you to click “continue” until you reach the “register another” page. This is where you can add additional students or chaperones.
- When you have finished registering all members of your group, be sure to click the “make payment” button, this will make sure that all of your attendees have been confirmed and will give you access to your invoice.

**Reminders:**

- Payment must be postmarked to the FFA Office by January 12<sup>th</sup> with attention to Nancy Grossman.
  - No room changes will be accepted after January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**State Convention Housing:** Plans for the 2018 state convention are well underway. The official hotel of the 2018 convention has had a name change, it is now the Rochester Riverside Hotel. This facility is ideally located to all convention venues with direct access via skywalk to the convention center with a short walk to the Blue Cross Arena. Most workshops and LDE/CDE’s will be held in either the Rochester Riverside Hotel or Convention Center. Please visit our website for more information about reserving rooms for your chapter: <http://www.nysffa.org/state-convention-hotels>.

**You are now able to make reservations.** The hotel is working on an online system to reserve rooms with our room block as well, this should be available very soon. Please limit the number of excess rooms you reserve so all schools have the opportunity to join us at this location.

**FFA Membership:** The new **FFA roster** year started on September 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been many updates and changes to the system. Please read **ALL** of the following information carefully so that this transition can be as smooth of a process as possible. We have created a new page on our [www.nysffa.org](http://www.nysffa.org) website just for help with FFA membership and help with rosters. Please visit this link for information and tutorials on how to do your student roster this year:

<http://www.nysffa.org/membership/>. As our state continues to see growth in our membership, we are starting to see some overlap with our homeschools and BOCES centers having students in two programs. As a reminder, students can only be members in one chapter. This is a student’s choice which chapter they will be a member of. In order to be a member of a chapter students should be receiving instruction from the certified agriculture teacher at that program. **A new policy that took affect September 1<sup>st</sup> is, 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade members must be added to the national roster, only 6<sup>th</sup> graders can be added to the NY Only Roster.**

**Governmental and Global Awareness Institute:** NY FFA is pleased to announce that we will be offering GGAI to our teachers and students in 2018. This event will be held at the Hilton Albany on February 5-6, 2018. We will update our website as more information becomes available:

<http://www.nysffa.org/governmental-awareness>. Registration for this event will be open before the end of the year.

**National Officer Candidate Selection:** There are 3 steps involved with the selection process of our

national officer candidate.

1. Submit letter of intent electronically to [dhill@cornell.edu](mailto:dhill@cornell.edu) by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Submit NOC application by January 15<sup>th</sup> using the **online application** which can be found at: <http://www.nysffa.org/apps/2015/9/23/leadership-awards-applications>
3. Participate in the selection process on February 24, 2018 at the NYS Fairgrounds. For more information about national office please see the national officer candidate handbook on the National FFA website, [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org). NY's selection process includes the following rounds: One on One, Stakeholder, Stand & Deliver and a Personal round.

If potential candidates have questions about the process please contact Derek Hill at [dhill@cornell.edu](mailto:dhill@cornell.edu) or 315-254-2880.

**The National FFA Scholarship application is now LIVE!** Applications are due February 1st. Students must be on this year's roster to complete the application.

## National FFA Updates:

### 1. **Hurricanes Irma and Maria Relief for Puerto Rico**

Many of you have reached out about helping our friends in Puerto Rico after hurricanes Irma and Maria. The situation, as widely reported, is devastating. There is significant catastrophic damage, and lines for rationed food, gas, and water often stretch for days. Survival remains the top priority. The storms have especially impacted our FFA members and advisors, many of whom work and live on the outskirts of the heaviest-populated centers.

National FFA recently established limited contact with state staff in Puerto Rico, and we are working with them to see how we can help. We will pass along news about how to support our FFA members in Puerto Rico when it becomes available. We ask that you direct any questions to our [Local Program Success team](#).

If you would like to help with a financial contribution, please send a check or money order to:

**PR FFA Association**

Attn: Noemi Ramirez – FFA Executive Secretary

P.O. Box 190759

San Juan, PR 00919-0759

Make checks payable to the **Futuros Agricultores de America** (the account name is

registered in Spanish). Write “Hurricane Relief” in the memo section of the check or money order. Donations are tax-deductible.

As soon as we have news from our chapters in the U.S. Virgin Islands, we will let you know.

## 2. **Watch FFA in Action**

If you haven’t had a chance, take a few minutes to check out our [FFA Video Center](#). We have videos on topics ranging from careers in agriculture and FFA history to supervised agricultural experiences. Speaking of SAEs, we recently added a new [video profile on FFA member Peyton Moore](#) from Bullard, Texas, and her SAE in agritourism. She works on her family’s pumpkin patch. On fall weekends, people can pick their own pumpkins, and Peyton helps to educate them about how pumpkins are grown and about agriculture in general.

## 3. **Convention Student Workshops**

More good news about the national convention and expo continues to come across my desk. We just learned that more than 12,400 students attended student workshops this year. There were 90 student workshop opportunities at convention. Attendance by day was Wednesday – 1,193; Thursday – 6,713; and Friday – 4,590. Our education team collected attendance numbers for each workshop and will review attendance numbers, in conjunction with workshop student evaluations, to prepare for 2018.

## 4. **Arkansas Alumni Strong**

Staff member Allie Ellis joined Alumni Council members Taylor McNeel and Bill Carlson to facilitate workshops at the Arkansas FFA Alumni State Conference in Bismarck Nov. 3-4. More than 50 FFA Alumni members attended, including several collegiate alumni chapters and U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman.

## 5. **Mobilizing Legions of Volunteers**

The alumni team is proud to announce that growth in the association has hit another record! In 2009, there were 50,307 alumni members; today, there are 344,239 alumni members! Each day, the alumni team works with the goal in mind to have more people at the local level helping our FFA chapters. More information on alumni membership can be found at [FFA.org/joinalumni](http://FFA.org/joinalumni).

## 6. **Perdue Continues to Show His Support for FFA**

Last weekend, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue traveled to his alma mater, the University of Georgia, to guest lecture courses in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. While there, the secretary met personally with Ian Bennett, the newly elected national FFA southern region vice president. After his visit to Georgia, Secretary Perdue traveled to California where he met with Breanna Holbert, the newly elected national FFA president, and Mark Cavallero, a finalist for American Star Farmer. On both visits, Secretary Perdue and attending congressmen Jimmy Panetta and Jim Costa spoke on the importance of leadership from FFA members like Breanna and Mark as we prepare to develop young people to pursue agricultural careers and face the challenge of

the aging farmer population.

#### 7. **National FFA Supporters in the News**

Purdue University President Mitch Daniels on Tuesday announced that Jay Akridge has been named the university's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity, effective immediately. Akridge has served in the position in an interim capacity since July 1.

Bob Funk, former member of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board and co-founder, CEO and chairman of the board of Express Employment Professionals and Express Ranches, will be honored as an inductee of the 2017 Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Honorees will be formally inducted at the 90th Annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 16, in Oklahoma City.



Derek Hill  
New York FFA Director  
Youth Program Specialist  
Cornell University  
300 Kennedy Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Office: 607-254-2880  
Cell: 716-353-1271  
Website: [www.nysffa.org](http://www.nysffa.org)

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.