



NYFFA Speaks

February
2017

Hey New York FFA!

by Taylor McNamara

The month of February was fun-filled for FFA members! We brought January to a close at 212/360, where members gained leadership skills while having fun and meeting new people from all across New York. We kicked off February in Albany to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Smith-Hughes Act. Agriculture Education Day was a hit among students! Members had the chance to learn a little bit more about the political aspect of agriculture, meet with agricultural policy leaders, and experience our beautiful capital. Later in the month, many members gathered at the New York State Fairgrounds for the New York Farm Show. The State Officers helped sell raffle tickets for a 1936 Case Model C restored by FFA members from Marcus Whitman Central School in

Rushville, New York. The winner of the tractor was George Hazard of West Winfield. On the Friday of Farm Show, New York FFA Alumni held a toy auction and donated all proceeds to the New York FFA Foundation. It was an incredible turnout with 150 auction items raising \$3,600 for New York FFA. The National Officer Candidate selection process was held Saturday morning. The two candidates were Erin Langdale from Warwick Valley FFA and Maria Martinez from John Bowne FFA. Both girls showed a passion for FFA and agriculture and greatly impressed the nominating committee. Maria Martinez was elected as New York's National Officer Candidate and will be traveling to Indianapolis for the National Convention in October. Congratulations Maria!

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National Member Spotlight

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Monthly Horoscope

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A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2016-2017 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One

by Kim Doyle

District One has been very busy this month! January's community service and SAE opportunity was at Alley Pond Environmental Center. Here, a select number of students interested in earning their community service hours as well as some free SAE hours went to the environmental center and gave back to their community while gaining hands on experience and having fun. This opportunity sure was a hit and many students benefited from it, acquiring new skills that will help them in their future endeavors. Last week the John Bowne FFA chapter announced to all agriculture students that district competitions were coming up and many were very excited. Numerous people signed up for districts this year, met up with their advisor, and learned all about what they had to do to prepare. John Bowne is very excited for district competitions this year!

On January 12th they had just another regular chapter meeting... or so

everyone thought. At this chapter meeting, they decided to do an agriculture jeopardy game! They separated all the students into their respective age groups and each group had the opportunity to show off how much they really knew about agriculture. At first the students were hesitant to participate but before long everyone was fired up and ready to win! At the end, the juniors had the most points, but every group had a great time teaming up with each other while making new friends.

Member Spotlight



Jailene Cajilima, a twelfth grader at John Bowne high school, has been actively involved in her FFA chapter for the past three years and has remained active throughout her

senior year. Her SAE area is in Dairy Sciences.

Jailene worked at a Dairy Farm, Mercer Hill Farm, in upstate New York over the summers of 2015 and 2016. She enjoyed milking Holsteins, Jerseys and taking care of the calves. She also learned how to fix fencing and got to experience farm life that entire summer. She says that it was one of her most memorable experiences. Jay has competed in multiple CDEs and LDEs including Veterinary Science, Food Science and Technology, and Quiz Bowl. She hopes to go to National FFA Convention for Veterinary Science. "I love being in FFA because it's very diverse," Jay says.

"There are so many fun and interesting subjects that you can learn about and it just expands your world and gives you a different outlook on life." While being an active member of her chapter, she also participated in Educate for Peace and Progress. Keep up the awesome work Jay!

District Two

by Kim Doyle

District Two has made sure to stay busy this month! The Sharon Springs FFA chapter recently started getting their younger members to try new contests! The excitement is rising for this chapter as they prepare for district contests and the district winter weekend! This month, Tri-Valley held a chapter meeting to talk about the possibility of competitors for districts. The chapter organized many teams and are very excited to compete and find out how they place! They also continued packing backpacks for children in need to ensure that no student goes home hungry. The Cobleskill-Richmondville FFA chapter has held several meetings to discuss upcoming events including district competitions. They also held a movie night on January 20th for FFA members. Somehow with the start of contest prep, this chapter still manages to plan their upcoming officer selections! Greenville FFA is excited for the upcoming district events as well! They have

nearly 30 members in middle and high school working toward successful Career and Leadership Development Events. They also have 20 people headed to 212/360 and the chapter is full of excitement. As the chapter that will be hosting the eastern region substates, they are starting to prepare for the workload to come!

Member Spotlight



Caitlin Dearnley, the President of the Taconic Hills FFA chapter, has used her officer position to really make a difference in her chapter. Caitlin's Supervised Agricultural Experiences are in dairy

science and equine science. She started working at a local dairy farm to further her knowledge and appreciation of the dairy industry. Caitlin also made time to work on a horse farm in order to learn more about horses and expand her experience in an aspect of agriculture she was not as familiar with. Although Caitlin has not participated in any CDEs yet, she plans to compete this coming year. While being actively involved in her FFA chapter, she also is involved in the Eastern New York Jr. Holstein Association, 4H, and softball. She also serves as a Dairy Ambassador and actively shows dairy cows. Cait is currently looking into becoming an agricultural education teacher and has great things coming her way! Keep it up Cait!

District Three

by Grace Harrigan

Member Spotlight

This month District Three recognizes Katrina Oakes of the Salmon River FFA Chapter. Katrina is a junior at Salmon River High School and the eldest of five siblings. This past year, Katrina has taken her leadership role to a new level by serving as the Franklin County Dairy Princess. As a dairy princess, Katrina serves as a bridge between farmers and consumers by exposing consumers to the importance of dairy in a healthy diet and the measures dairy farmers take to provide optimal care to their animals and the land. She plays an active part in "ag-vocating" for agriculture through



newspaper articles she submits to her local newspaper every other week, visits to elementary classrooms throughout the county, being present at community events, and training her dairy ambassadors who will be next in line to the throne to represent the dairy industry in Franklin County. At the New York State Dairy Princess Pageant in February, Katrina made her county proud, becoming a finalist in the written communications category. She states that her favorite part about being a dairy princess is, "being able to promote dairy products and talk to the public about daily functions on dairy farms." Katrina also plays a key role on her family's first generation dairy farm, Adventure Dairy, where they milk around 200 cows. Katrina provides a helping hand by operating machinery to complete field work and assisting in milking the herd which gets milked three times each day. Katrina also enjoys showing Holstein cattle at the Franklin County fair, judging dairy cattle through 4-H, and being a

4-H member. Katrina is an active part of the Salmon River FFA's in-school efforts. Every fall the chapter sponsors the school's Fall Festival which showcases the FFA program as well as other school organizations.



Students in the chapter put together a petting zoo featuring animals such as rabbits and dairy calves. Pumpkins are also sold to elementary students at the festival. Katrina and other members of the Salmon River FFA are also active in maple sugaring. The chapter taps trees on school property and local farms to collect and boil their own sap. Outside of FFA and agriculture, Katrina is a member of Salmon River's swim, cheerleading, and softball teams. Keep up the hard work Katrina!

District Four

by Megan Peila

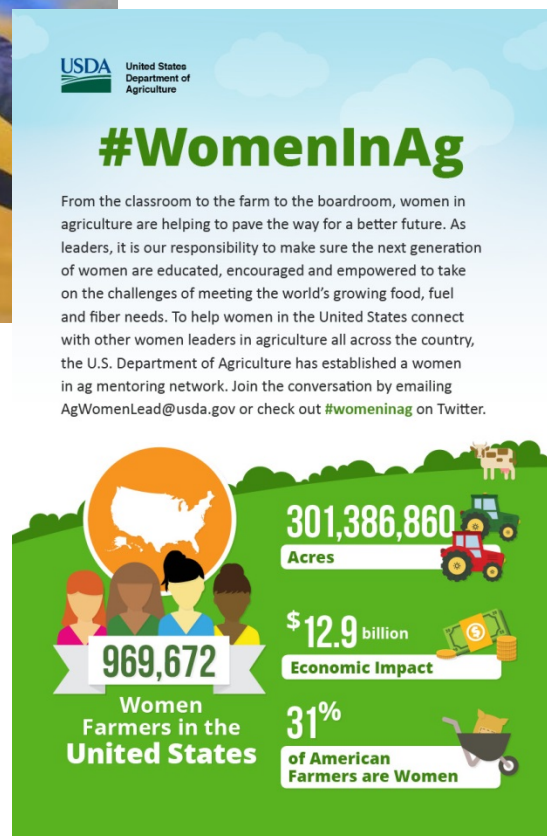
Afton has been busy with some really impressive events and service projects lately. Afton Central School has initiated the backpack program for students and families in need; the Afton FFA chapter decided to sponsor this project and help out by applying for grants to purchase food and other supplies for the program. On average, the program is able to pack 3-4 meals in each backpack to send home to families in need. The Afton FFA chapter received two Hunger Heroes grants from the National FFA that went toward helping to get the project started. Currently, they pack and support 53 backpacks per week for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. They became part of the Afton Inter Council of Churches and Central New York Food Bank and received 800 drawstrings bags for the program. With all of their great efforts as a chapter, they have impacted many students' lives by supplying them with food for the weekends and breaks. Keep up the amazing work Afton FFA!

Member Spotlight



One individual and member of the Afton FFA has shown great efforts toward making the chapter grow and succeed. Amelia Reuter is a senior at Afton Central School and participates in many extra-curricular activities. This includes volleyball, chorus, band, accent (a select vocal group), NYSSMA, SADD, Mock Trial, and of course FFA. She serves as the treasurer for the chapter and enjoys making origami creations, singing, and playing multiple instruments. Amelia says that the fundraisers are her favorite thing to organize in her chapter, because she enjoys

working hard to ensure that the chapter benefits. Her favorite fundraiser that the Afton FFA holds is the penny drive. This fundraiser helps fund the recycling program at Afton Central School. Amelia is hardworking, dedicated, motivated, and makes her



teachers, friends, fellow FFA members, and district extremely proud! Keep up the great work Amelia!

District Five

by Megan Lamb

District Five just recently attended the 212/360 conference at the Embassy Suites in Syracuse, New York and certainly left their imprint. District Five members from Fonda-Fultonville to DeRuyter attended the event. District Five had six chapters attend the 212/360 conference and had 58 District Five members sign the District Five book, where they had the opportunity to leave a physical imprint.



If you attended 212/360 Conference and did not sign the book, you will have the opportunity to still leave your imprint during chapter visits! Thank you to everyone for living out the 2016 State Convention theme and leaving your Imprint!

Member Spotlight

Congratulations Anna on being the District Five Member of the Month!

Anna is 13 years old and attends Madison Central School. She has been very involved in the FFA Chapter from the moment she joined.

Although Anna's time in FFA has been short, she has made every FFA event a memorable one. Anna first started her FFA career this summer when she attended Camp Oswegatchie. Anna has such a passion for FFA and exemplified that during her time spent at Camp Oswegatchie. "That's when I found that it's my passion," she says. Anna explains that after seeing what FFA had done for her sister, she was pretty sure she wanted to join, and immediately jumped on board when she was old enough. Anna is inspired by her sister Taylor and her accomplishments in FFA. Anna says that her favorite FFA activity is



State Convention because she will have the opportunity to meet new people and reunite with old FFA friends. Anna also says that State Convention is her favorite activity because she enjoys being surrounded by so many other people who have such a passion for FFA. She expressed that she looks forward to attending the

National FFA Convention very soon. Along with being such a go-getter FFA member, Anna also is the Junior Historian for the Madison FFA Chapter! Anna, your passion for agriculture and FFA along with your extremely outgoing personality will get you so far in life, and we all cannot wait to see where FFA and life takes you! Keep up the good work and once again, congratulations Anna!!!



District Six

by Lesley Aucter

Congratulations to all the District 6 members that competed in CDEs and LDEs! Everyone put in a lot of hard work and competition was tough! The hard work and competitive spirit didn't end after results were given, though. Many members are now preparing for sub-states at Carthage on March 18th! That's not all! Students have been and are continuing to fill out applications for their Empire Degree and Proficiency Awards. Many members are even preparing to run for State Officer or District President! Good Luck to everyone in their endeavors!

Member Spotlight

This month the District 6 member spotlight shines down on Kennedy Hayden-McGill! She's from the Gouverneur FFA Chapter and has been an FFA member for six years. Throughout those six years, Kennedy has done so much and has a lot to be proud of! She has attended State and National Conventions, State Fair, and helped to celebrate 100 years of agriculture education in Albany for Ag Education Day at the beginning of the month!



attended local Maple Expos. In addition, Kennedy goes above and beyond by participating in other agriculture programs through BOCES on top of participating in chapter events! Through BOCES, Kennedy works on a super cool and unique Supervised Agricultural Experience! She is studying Spotted Wing Drosophila and mainly focusing on how they're affecting raspberries! What a cool subject to study! Keep up the great work Kennedy! District 6 is lucky to have such an awesome FFA member in its midst!



This was an opportunity presented to students serving their chapters on an officer team! Kennedy has also competed in Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events. She has competed in Junior People in Agriculture, Extemporaneous Speaking, and this year Employment Skills! She also competed in Tree Identification and Dairy Judging at her local county fair. Kennedy has also



District Seven

by Sequoia Dixon

This month District 7 is holding its district competitions at Moravia Central School. Many of the members are excited to show off their skills while competing in Career and Leadership Development Events. Last month, the District enjoyed attending the 212/360 conference and gaining skills to become influential leaders. Many of the chapters were also visited during District 7 visits and enjoyed speaking to State President Camille Ledoux.

Member Spotlight

This month's member of the Month is Colin Byrnes from the Tully FFA chapter. Colin serves this year as chapter sentinel and he has been an active member for three years. Colin joined FFA because he loves to interact with people. He also feels that FFA helps you prepare for real life and the responsibilities that follow. Colin has competed in the welding competition at Empire Farm Days, taking

4th place. He will be competing in Agricultural Issues at the district levels. Colin also has a Supervised Agricultural Experience; he has worked at a farm,



Co-Val Holsteins, for the past three years. Colin performs many tasks around the farm. Recently he helped put up a new barn. He says it is fun to meet new people through his SAE and it helps him build a great work ethic for his future. Colin says his two favorite memories from FFA are when he was elected into office as the sentinel and when the chapter was blowing up water balloons for the day camp they host. They were almost done with the 1000 balloons that they were making when suddenly someone threw a water balloon, initiating an

intense water balloon fight among the members. They then realized that they would have to blow up another 1000 balloons all over again. We all remember times when the chapter got a little too carried away with something fun, but it was so worth it. When Colin graduates he wants to attend college for business management and finance. He hopes to begin at Onondaga Community College and then transfer to either Cornell University or Syracuse University. Ultimately, Colin would like to become a consultant for efficiency or help people improve their business. Colin talks about what FFA means to him saying, "It means being involved in many different aspects of life. FFA inspires its members to be true leaders." This statement is so true it is clear that Colin wholeheartedly believes in all that FFA stands for. Congratulations Colin and keep up the great work!

District Ten

by Jenna Kibbe

Member Spotlight

Gwen Chase is one remarkable FFA member who has been extremely involved in her community. Gwen is an older member of the Sherman FFA chapter and attends Sherman Central School. Ever since day one, which was four years ago, Gwen has involved herself in numerous activities all across the great state of New York. One event she has attended was the Meeder's Antique Tractor Auction. Her chapter served food and informed everyone who attend the day-long auction about Sherman FFA and their activities. Another way she is active in her community is through fundraisers. Gwen and her chapter sell meat, fruit, cheese and strawberries in the fall and spring. During the winter, Gwen takes advantage of all the leadership conferences available to her through FFA. Because she has been the Chapter Vice President for two years, she always works to improve and learn as

much as she can. Some of her favorite memories include attending COLT conference and 212/360. If Gwen isn't fundraising or participating in activities, you can most likely find her with her horse, Phoenix. For three years,



Gwen has been training her horse for fairs and competitions. Not only is training horses part of her Supervised Agricultural Experience, she also produces maple syrup at a local farm. Although she stays very busy working with her horse, she always finds time to improve her leadership, public speaking, and other professional skills by participating in many Career and Leadership Development Events. She has competed in People in Agriculture, Creed, Prepared Public Speaking, Food Science, and Jr. Chapter Meeting. She placed 1st at districts and 2nd at sub states in People in Agriculture, 6th in Creed at sub-states, and 2nd in Prepared Public

Speaking at districts. Over the years she has competed at the district, sub state and state level in a wide variety of competitions. Adding to the list of competitions, Gwen has competed at the Alfred Ag Days at Alfred State College in the agriculture skills competition. Because of FFA, Gwen has now decided that she wants to attend Morrisville State for Equine Science and Management. After college, she hopes to start her own horse farm and teach people about horses. With her outstanding SAE and all of the conferences, conventions and activities she has participated in, there is no doubt that Gwen will succeed in her future plans and goals. Gwen Chase has done a great job representing FFA these past four years. Keep up the great work in your community and FFA chapter and never stop trying and accomplishing new things!



National Member Spotlight

This month's national member spotlight showcases Lisandra Mejia, a sophomore at Watauga High School in Boone, North Carolina. She is an active member of Watauga FFA and has a passion for the organization like no other, even though she was forced into membership! When Lisandra was younger, someone told her that she shouldn't join FFA. She resisted for a while, but her advisor finally encouraged

her to join and it was the best decision she could have made! Even though she has only been a member for a short time, she has already achieved so much! She

has competed in four different Career and Leadership Development



events and currently serves as chapter reporter. Lisandra also serves as vice president for Everything Agriculture, a blog that works to advocate for the industry and spread knowledge and appreciation for agriculture. She writes about FFA and agriculture, encouraging others to support those in the agricultural field and learn more about the industry. She also works in her school's greenhouse, watering and caring for the plants. You don't need to talk to Lisandra for long before realizing what an impact FFA has had on her life. "FFA has developed me into a leader. I've developed

public speaking skills, become more knowledgeable about agriculture and the business world in general, and discovered my passion for agriculture," says Lisandra. "I joined other clubs at high school but none of them have meant to me what FFA has meant to me. I love it and wouldn't change my experience for the



world." Lisandra's favorite FFA event is national convention because it gives her the opportunity to connect with other FFA members from all over the country. Making these connections is extremely important to Lisandra, who has over 60 penpals in FFA from all across the country! When discussing her fellow FFA members, Lisandra comments, "I've seen what they can do and it makes me see the brightness in what can sometimes be such a dark world." In the future, Lisandra hopes to attend North Carolina State University for Agricultural Education and become an ag teacher and FFA advisor. Good luck and keep up the great work, Lisandra! New York FFA sends our best wishes to you in your future endeavors!

February Horoscope



Aquarius (Jan 20- Feb 18)

This month will bring you great joy if you let go of your skeptical attitude. Stop questioning everything around you and try to relax.

Quote: “Peace is the result of retraining your mind to process life as it is, rather than as you think it should be.”



Pisces (Feb 19- March 20)

You will soon have to work harder than you ever imagined, but the reward will be even greater. Continue to work diligently and you will be pleased with the results.

Quote: “Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don’t recognize them.”



Aries (March 21- April 19)

Sometimes your nerves get the best of you and prevent you from being successful. Take everything one step at a time and keep pushing through!

Quote: “A river cuts through a rock not because of its power, but because of its persistence.”



Taurus (April 20- May 20)

I see good luck for taurus in the near future! Keep your eye out for rabbits feet and four leaf clovers!

Quote: “We know what we are but not what we may be.”



Gemini (May 21- June 20)

You will soon come across a situation where your morals will be tested. Remember to always stay true to what you believe in and never lose sight of yourself!

Quote: “Be a voice, not an echo.”



Cancer (June 21- July 22)

It’s important to work hard, but make sure to take some time for yourself. Get your work done and spend time with family and friends!

Quote: “The only way to do great work is to love what you do.”



Leo (July 23- Aug 22)

A key factor to being successful is the ability to plan. Make a list of goals you have for yourself and decide how you plan to achieve them. Having a plan to refer to will help keep you on track and reach your goals!

Quote: “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.”



Virgo (Aug 23- Sept 22)

It's always fun to be in the limelight, but make sure you're giving others the chance to shine, too. Help out younger FFA members and encourage them to take on more responsibilities and leadership roles.

Quote: "Being humble means recognizing that we are not on earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others."



Libra (Sept 23- Oct 22)

You seem to be rushing through life, Libra. Take some time this month to stop and smell the roses. Instead of worrying about what may happen years from now, take time to appreciate what's happening in the moment.

Quote: "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."



Scorpio (Oct 23- Nov 21)

You have a lot on your plate, but all of your duties can be fulfilled if you use your time wisely. Don't be afraid to ask for help and delegate responsibilities if you're feeling overwhelmed.

Quote: "Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible. Suddenly, you are doing the impossible."



Sagittarius (Nov 22- Dec 21)

This is a month of change for sagittarius. Instead of running in the opposite direction, learn to embrace change and adjust to new situations. Don't be afraid to face change head on by trying something you've never tried before or picking up a new skill.

Quote: "We must let go of the life we have planned so as to accept the one that is waiting for us."



Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 19)

If you're not happy with a certain aspect of your life, focus on improving. Identify why it is you are unsatisfied and alter the way you go about performing tasks or communicating with others.

Quote: "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

A Word from the Officers

As we get ready for Convention, this year's team wants to share with members what we think it means to be "legendary!"



Camille Ledoux **State President** **Beaver River FFA**

We all grow up hearing about people who are legends. They are the leaders in their fields, the ones we turn to when things go wrong or when we need new solutions. FFA members are put in a prime position to become legendary because of our knowledge of agriculture and leadership experiences. Whether that looks like becoming a state officer and being a legend to your chapter or pursuing a career and getting to the top of your game, FFA sets you up for legendary success. To me a legend is someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty, who prepares ahead of time to make sure they don't let anyone down, and is willing to jump into any situation they come across. Legends help people who they will never meet and never know through their influence, and I am proud to be part of a team that leads students who will eventually become those legends. From our hometowns to colleges to states or nations away, we all have the opportunity to be legends if we decide to reach out and take it.



Seth Browe **State Vice President** **Granville FFA**

To be legendary means living life to the fullest, being able to enjoy life, and being successful. I believe that to be legendary it is important to stand firm, be strong and be courageous. You won't get anywhere if you cannot defend your ideas or if you are too scared to tell others what's going on in that noggin of yours. We all have legendary people in our lives. The beauty of the whole thing is that they don't even realize that they are legendary. To be legendary you also have to be modest. The second you become overcome by ego is the same second you lose everything that is legendary about you. Lastly, to be legendary you have to be able to sit back and relax. You must be able to appreciate the things that mean the most to you and not get distracted by objects or money that are such a little part in the plan of life. Stand strong, stay courageous, be modest, relax, and be legendary.



Katherine Killenbeck
State Secretary
South Jefferson FFA

To me, legendary means being remembered, despite time and negativity. It means having such an impact on someone, whether it's one person or thousands, that you can never be forgotten. Being legendary means inspiring others to be themselves and follow their dreams by being your genuine, authentic self. When someone is legendary, they step up, they stand out, and they are always in people's memories. A legend doesn't always know that they are a legend, either. They are humble, caring, and will always strive to make others happy and make a positive difference in their world. Being legendary doesn't always mean having your stories told for generations; sometimes it just means putting a smile on someone's face when they're having a bad day or sitting with someone who is eating alone. Being legendary is being honest, genuine, and kind.



Jacob Ax
State Treasurer
Stockbridge Valley FFA

Legendary can mean many things depending on whom you ask. When you ask some people they say it's a phrase from How I Met Your Mother. To others it may be a basketball star that they have looked up to since they were kids. To me, legendary is not just a word with a definition. It is a feeling that you have inside; it helps to drive your passions and inspirations. Legendary can be a goal that is reached after years of tireless effort, but it can also be a hilarious memory of time spent with family and friends that you will never forget. Being legendary is following in the footsteps of those before you. At the same time, you can find ways to better yourself no matter what situation you're put in. Everyone is legendary in his or her own way do not forget that!



Taylor McNamara
State Reporter
Madison FFA

When I hear the word "legendary," it is hard to describe what comes to mind. Just like the way that legends are passed down from generation to generation, the possibilities are endless. There isn't one path that a person needs to take in order to become legendary. There's no book called "Being Legendary for Dummies" and it's not something you can learn by watching a YouTube video. Being legendary is using your passions to make a difference in another life and leaving a lasting impact. You might not make it into the history books or on the big screen, but fame and glory doesn't define a legend. Anyone can be legendary if they pursue their passions with other people's interests in mind. If you want to be a legend, follow your heart and always look for ways to help those around you.



Matthew Currie
State Sentinel
Tully FFA

Legendary... it means so many different things. One of the main things that legendary means to me is being a part of something bigger than oneself. Most legends are legendary because of their dedication to a cause that will positively impact others. Those who are legendary don't focus on how they can further themselves in life to make the most money; they focus on how they can help others and be a positive influence. True legends don't care about whether they are known for what they did. They do things not because it's in the best interest of themselves but for the benefit of others. Legendary means being humble, having patience, being dedicated, and making decisions to help others.



GET READY FOR



Sub State
Competitions!!!