



NYFFA Speaks

January
2017

Hey New York FFA!

by Taylor McNamara

The past month was pretty LEGENDARY for FFA members! The New York State FFA Convention theme has officially been released! Check out our Facebook page to view the release video! Aside from preparing for convention, the State Officers have been busy getting ready to get WILD at 212/360! We are so excited to hang out with all of New York's incredible FFA members. The State Officers attended New York Ag Society meeting in Liverpool where they met with agriculturists all over the state, heard from the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets,

Richard Ball, and presented Tri-Valley FFA with the title of 2017 New York Ag Society Chapter of the Year. Matt Currie and Taylor McNamara visited Groton Central School's Career Fair to introduce the students of Groton to the FFA organization. The students had fun playing games and learning all about the opportunities offered to FFA members. Now is the time to begin preparing for State Convention! Applications for the Jacket Award, Honorary Empire Degree, leadership opportunities, and many more are now open! Visit nysffa.org to download applications and check due dates!

District Updates

See what's happening in NYFFA's Districts!

Chapter of the Year

Read all about Tri-Valley FFA!

National Member Spotlight

Get to know a member from another state!

Monthly Horoscope

Use astrology to predict the future and receive advice

A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2016-2017 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One

by Kim Doyle

John Bowne had the opportunity to tour the University of Connecticut and Penn State, learning all about their scholarships, courses, and incredible opportunities the colleges have to offer. They visited the horse barns where they learned all about the clubs and teams that students can join and then moved onto their dairy facilities. Between UCONN and Penn State, the group stopped at Reptile Land, where they attended a reptile show; the students were even allowed to pet some of the reptiles after the show was over. These tours were an incredible opportunity for the students. This year's winter craft fair was a huge success for the chapter, as they raised hundreds of dollars! They also made a difference in helping fight hunger by donating one canned good for each person that attended this event. This year's Gingerbarn was also loads of fun! The event was centered around the theme of holidays in New York. They had over 100 members attend and had tons of fun building

amazing designs that each incorporated a special tool. What's the tool you might ask? Raw spaghetti! At the end, three teams were selected to receive prizes. After the contest was over, everyone got to eat whatever they made. They marked this event as a success as they stuffed their faces and had a great time!

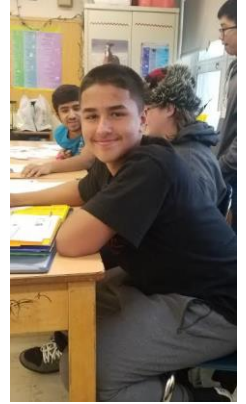
Member Spotlight

District One has been very busy this month, but within that there has been one outstanding member! Ethan Medina lives for veterinary science! As an eleventh grader at John Bowne High School, Ethan has gained the position of team captain of their Veterinary Science team!



While competing and making strides on the chapters vet sci team, Ethan has also made sure to compete in the Creed Speaking contest! Ethan hopes to place first at the

New York State Convention this spring in order to compete at the National FFA Convention this fall in Veterinary Science. He also hopes to attend vet school in the future! Ethan made sure to



make time this past summer for his SAE. Ethan worked on Risse Farm; a hay farm in Schoharie county. He helped with mowing and bailing as well as taking care of some of the livestock. Ethan and his friend David were part of the Farm Cadet program, where they lived and worked on a farm in upstate New York for two months. Ethan loves being in FFA because it has taught him how to be a better public speaker and to become more open-minded. FFA has helped him make many new friends and learn important skills which will be very useful now and in the future. While Ethan lives a life filled with agriculture, he makes sure to have time for hobbies like basketball and boxing. Congratulations Ethan! Continue to make District One proud!

District Two

by Kim Doyle

District Two has had a very busy month this past month! Tri-Valley FFA members helped pack backpacks with food for needy families bi-weekly. They also purchased and helped wrap Christmas presents for children in need. Tri-Valley also planned a Holiday Party for December 23rd. The officers set up 4 sections that had different leadership activities for members to enjoy. The Tri-Valley FFA officer team also planned a field trip for mid-January for junior and senior members at a skating rink. Greenville had their winter open house on December 10, 2016. They made wreaths and centerpieces for the community. They made a huge profit that will go back into buying supplies for their chapter! They have about 20 members that are very excited to attend the 212/360 conference at the



end of January. The Pine Plains FFA chapter participated in their holiday party, Housatonic FFA's wreath making event, and the parade of lights. The Cobleskill-Richmondville FFA chapter has had multiple chapter meetings both in and out of school, participated in their local breakfast with Santa on the 4th, made fruit baskets to sell at one of their local farmers markets, held a raffle to raise money for donating jackets to new members, and had a Christmas party after school where they had pizza, played games, and decorated cookies. Sharon Springs members finished their annual fruit sale and delivered quite a bit of fruit to their community! In addition to that, they kept up with the holiday spirit by making wreaths for their friends and families!

Member Spotlight

Alex Ronne from the Warwick Valley FFA chapter really stood

out this month! As an FFA member that joined in the 6th grade and has been active for 4 years he has made sure to stay busy! He has competed in the Nursery Landscape CDE, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, and Environmental Science. His SAE includes working on the family dairy farm where he helps with everything and anything that needs to be done. He loves being in FFA because of all the people he has the opportunity to meet. He has been to nationals twice, the first time to support their Senior Nursery Landscape team and the second to compete in Nursery landscape himself, receiving a gold ranking. His next step in FFA is to run for a position on state line. Outside of FFA he hopes to become a mechanical engineer. He also participates in indoor & outdoor Track & Field, plays basketball in a recreational league and loves to find a solution to every problem. Congratulations Alex!



District Three

by Grace Harrigan

Are you ready for District Three's 2017 Leadership Competitions? Mark your calendar and start preparing because on March 3rd, 2017 the Chateaugay FFA will be hosting districts! On December 6th the Granville FFA hosted their annual Battle of the Bands. Local students were able to show off their talent and publicize FFA. The night was filled with laughs and smiles.



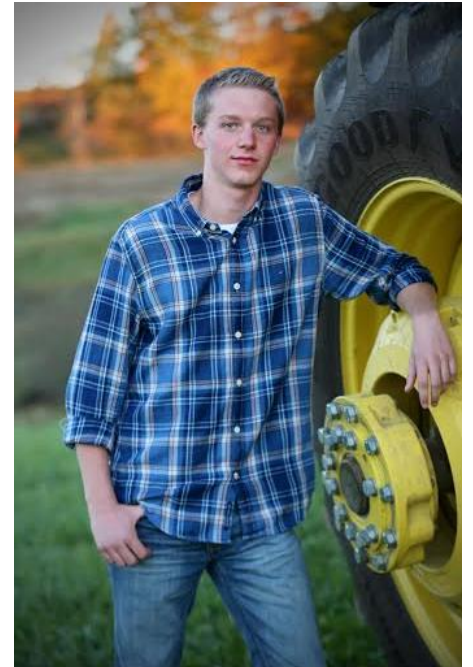
Enjoy these pictures!



Member Spotlight

January's Member Spotlight features Winston Getty of the Hartford FFA Chapter. Winston is a senior at Hartford Central School. He has attended State Convention for the past four years and National Convention for the past three years. Last year Winston was a part of Hartford's Parliamentary Procedure team that made it all the way to the state level. He and his team are busy preparing for this year's district three competition and hoping for success. Winston lives on a 185 cow dairy where they farm nearly 400 acres. He is very active on his family's farm as an employee both before and after school. As a Supervised Agricultural Experience, Winston has purchased and shown heifers at the Washington County Fair. He has bred these heifers in the hopes of expanding his string of show cattle in his family's herd. Winston is also a member of Cornell University's Junior

Dairy Leaders program. Outside of agriculture, Winston loves sports and is an active member of his town's church. After high school he plans on attending Morrisville State College for a two-year dairy science program or returning to the family farm right after graduation. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments and keep up the hard work Winston!



District Four

by Megan Peila

Member Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight is from Walton, New York. She is dedicated to the school, her FFA chapter, and her many agricultural jobs that take place outside of school. Gretchen Decker is an eleventh grader at Walton High School and is an active member of Walton FFA. She has had many diverse experiences in agriculture and a passion for all aspects of the industry. She enjoys riding her horses and showing dairy cattle at her local fairs. Gretchen's favorite part of being in FFA is going to State



Convention. She loves to hang out with all of her friends across the state and compete in the Forestry Career Development Event and the Vet Science Career Development Event with students from her chapter. Gretchen works diligently with her FFA chapter during their annual fruit sale, which has become one of Walton's most successful fundraisers thanks to Gretchen and other members like her. Gretchen is her FFA chapter's Secretary. This role has helped her learn how to keep accurate records on what goes on in meetings and activities. I had the privilege to meet Gretchen a couple years ago at a district competition, and her motivation to succeed in agriculture was inspiring. Gretchen works hard at anything she does.

Working with Gretchen is always a blast because of her sense of humor. Keep making District Four proud Gretchen!

grow
LEADERSHIP. GROWTH. SUCCESS.
FFA Week - February 16-23, 2013

FFA BEGAN IN 1928
WHEN 33 YOUNG FARM BOYS FROM
18 DIFFERENT STATES MET IN KANSAS
CITY AND FOUNDED THE FUTURE
FARMERS OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL COLORS ARE
NATIONAL BLUE
& **CORN GOLD**
FOR THE BLUE FIELD OF
OUR NATION'S FLAG
& FOR THE GOLDEN FIELDS
OF RIPENED CORN

MORE THAN 1,500
AG. EDUCATION STUDENTS
RECEIVED FFA SCHOLARSHIPS
IN 2011-2012

IN 2012, CORPORATE SPONSORS &
INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED MORE THAN
\$16,000,000
IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FFA.

DRIVE
IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE
NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

District Five

by Megan Lamb

During the holiday season, the VVS Chapter prepares food and helps serve senior citizens in their community through a pancake breakfast. Zackary Sherman, the President of the Madison FFA Chapter, explained how the Senior High Officer team made a difference by donating hams to their local church to use for food baskets in their local holiday basket drive! These chapters truly fulfilled the FFA motto when they lived to serve their community during the holiday season! Great job to all chapters and keep up the great work!

Member Spotlight

Congratulations Madison Dunbar, on being selected as the District Five Member of the Month! Madison Dunbar is a sophomore and a dedicated FFA member. Her FFA story is very unique and shows her passion for agriculture. Madison used to attend the Fort Plain Central School up until the 2016-2017 school year. The Fort

Plain Central School District had an FFA Chapter for the 2015-2016 school year, but then decided not to continue the program when school commenced again last September. Madison, during the one year of having an FFA program in her school, fell in love with FFA and the agricultural program and was very disappointed when the school decided not to continue the program for which she was so passionate. This upset however, didn't stop Madison from pursuing her passion for Agriculture; she now



attends the Oppenheim Ephratah St. Johnsville school district where she is an active member in the Mohawk Valley FFA Chapter and currently serves as chapter Reporter. Her advisor, Mr. Smith says he is very proud of Madison for following her passion in Agriculture. Madison's father and grandparents own farms and she enjoys her time spent helping

them with chores. While at Fort Plain, Madison competed in Prepared Public Speaking at the local level and then competed in Quiz Bowl at State Convention where her team made it to the semi-final round! This outstanding FFA member enjoys competing in many other Career Development Events as well. Madison's favorite FFA memories are attending the InTENse Conference and the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. These memories are ones that Madison will have for a lifetime. When her advisor was asked to describe Madison using one word, he replied, "Motivated." Madison's advisor, Mr. Smith, explains why he chose this word "If there is something to be done, or Madison wants to do something, she will find a way to make sure that happens," he explains. Congratulations Madison on being selected as the January Member of the Month! Your passion and motivation for Agriculture certainly will lead you in the right direction in your future! Once again Congratulations to Madison Dunbar!

District Six

by Lesley Aucter

The past month District Six members have been enjoying celebrating the holidays! They are now looking forward to attending the 212/360 conference, where they can improve their leadership and have a great time with friends. Members are also spending their days preparing for the upcoming Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events! Good luck to all participants, I can't wait to see everyone there!

Member Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight finds Dadrian Wheeler in its center. Dadrian is a senior from



the Belleville Henderson FFA chapter and school district. She has been a member for four years and has accomplished so much! In 9th grade she earned her way to state convention competing in the People In Agriculture contest. In 10th grade she competed in the Prepared Speaking Contest and went to sub-states with her speech! Dadrian has also served her chapter as Vice President and is currently the chapter's President! She has attended three State Conventions and the Governmental Awareness conference last year. Dadrian has also attended three National Conventions. She says her favorite memories stem from

making new friends which she wouldn't have done without attending nationals. Dadrian also works really hard on her SAE. She takes care of two horses, six rabbits, and seven goats. Plus she helps her parents with their business, D&D spray service. All of her hard work helped her to earn her empire degree at last year's state convention! Dadrian demonstrates dedication and passion in everything she does in and out of the blue jacket. Congratulations Dadrian and keep up the great work!



District Seven

by Sequoia Dixon

This month district Seven will be visited by the State President Camille Ledoux for chapter visits. Many students will also be preparing for the District 7 CDE's.

Member Spotlight

This month the District 7 Member of the Month is Tristin Brown from the Homer FFA chapter. Tristin has been a key member of his chapter for four and a half years. He is currently the chapter's president but has also served as the treasurer. Tristin competed in Job Interview and Creed and



plans to participate in Job Interview once again this year. Tristin enjoys



showing cows; he halter breaks a different Black Angus each year and takes them to show. He says his favorite time was before the showmanship shows when he had to work extra hard to make the cows look excellent. His favorite memory was during State Convention two years ago. His advisor Mrs. Pratt brought the group to a small shop and when Tristin got done packing up their groceries in the back of the van and shut the door, his advisor took off! "At first he thought it was a joke," Tristin recalls. "Until I saw her pull out of the parking lot! Eventually she came back, after the other students realized he was gone." We all have

funny FFA memories that we will always remember. Tristin says that FFA gives him the chance to learn to be a leader while making new friends and visiting old ones. Tristin plans to attend Alfred State for electrical construction and maintenance. Tristin represents all the characteristics that an FFA member should possess, which is why he is the Member of the Month. Keep up the great work Tristin!



District Ten

by Jenna Kibbe



During the month of December, members in District 10 have been very busy. The Sherman FFA chapter built and sold Christmas wreaths to the community as one of their biggest fundraisers of the year. The Cuba Rushford FFA chapter really reached out to their communities by volunteering at their local culture center. Many members took time to help set up and serve members in their community that need a little extra help during the holiday season. Their bright smiles and helping hands made a huge difference to the people they were able to help. As they handed out food they greeted everyone with a warm welcome. All of these FFA members across District 10 worked

very hard this past month and made a huge impact in their communities.

Member Spotlight

Emily Lyman is one extraordinary FFA member. Older FFA members as well as her advisor, Mrs. Ploetz, encouraged her to join when she was younger. Throughout her six years of membership, she has made a huge imprint on everyone around her. One way Emily has gone above and beyond is her leadership. She has been a chapter officer for three years serving as the Reporter for two and currently serving as the Vice President. As she leads younger members, Emily encourages them to attend as many activities as possible. Emily served food to her community for two years and attends the 212/360 conference as well as COLT conference. You would think all of these activities would occupy all of her time, but Emily has also competed in a fair amount of CDEs and LDEs. She competed in Parliamentary Procedure,

Ag. Issues, Marketing Plan, Creed, Dairy Judging and Agronomy. She has not only competed at the state level, but also at the National level. This past National Convention, Emily competed with the rest of her team in Agronomy. "My favorite FFA memory was definitely competing at the National Convention," Emily shares. In her free time, you can find Emily working on her dairy farm gaining hours for her SAE in dairy entrepreneurship. After high school she plans to attend college to become a veterinary technician. "FFA has helped me overcome some of my fears like talking in front of people. It has helped me become a better public speaker and overall a better person," says Emily. "FFA has given me many opportunities I would have never had otherwise." Emily is a great leader, role model, and representative of the FFA organization. Great job Emily and keep it up!



Tri-Valley FFA Named Chapter of the Year

The Tri-Valley Central School FFA Chapter in Grahamsville, New York is an excellent example of premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Tri-Valley's 150 plus members demonstrate a deep passion for agriculture and FFA. Advisors Ms. Tara Berescik and Mr. Robert Hayes ensure that students receive the skills necessary to be exemplary role models not only within their chapter, but in their school and hometown as well. These exceptional students have competed in CDEs and LDEs on the local, state, and national level every year for the past 17 years. This past spring, many of Tri-Valley's FFA members received state proficiency awards



that received a gold ranking at the National FFA Convention this past fall. Three exceptional members were even awarded with one of the 146 grants given by the National FFA for Youth Entrepreneurship. Aside from awards and competitions, Tri Valley FFA members are creative, inventive, and have huge hearts. The idea of service is not something that is abstract to these students. The ag program at Tri-Valley Central School has a very impressive community garden built and run by FFA members. Everything that is grown is sent to the local food bank. As if that isn't amazing enough, the chapter has also helped to establish a backpack for kids anti-hunger program, where 34 backpacks are filled with food and sent home to children in need every other week.



Additionally, the officer team created the "6 for 16 drive," where six outstanding members are chosen to receive their own FFA jackets and ties as well as free member dues, banquet tickets, and registration to State Convention. The Tri-Valley



FFA chapter excels in premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. The New York FFA Association is extremely proud of this chapter, its advisors, and each and every one of its incredible members. Tri-Valley FFA chapter is more than deserving of the title of 2017 New York State Agriculture Society Chapter of the Year.

National Member Spotlight

The National FFA Chat, created by Zach Chenier from the Cobleskill Richmondville FFA Chapter, has given members from other states the opportunity to stay connected through Facebook. As a result, NYFFA Speaks

has created a new segment called “National Member Spotlight” to recognize members in other states. This month’s National Spotlight features Gillian Umphenour from Atascadero, California. Gillian has been a member of the Atascadero FFA Chapter since her Freshman year and is currently a Senior. She has participated in multiple events including Creed, Job



Interview, and Livestock Judging. Gillian says she loves that FFA has something to offer anyone. As a student who loved music but did not

fit in at her school’s music department, Gillian wanted a way to continue that passion in FFA. Her advisor told her she should audition for the National FFA Choir and she was accepted! This experience changed her perspective and



helped her gain confidence. “FFA is an organization that introduces

passions, sparks interest, and creates friendships,” Gillian shares. “Through FFA, I learned that I can do anything when I put my mind to it.” Gillian has been an active 4H member since 2008 and always wanted to get involved with showing cattle, so when she joined FFA as a freshman she began her Supervised Agricultural Experience working at a cattle ranch nearby. When asked about the agriculture in her state, Gillian shared, “California is more than just Hollywood and the beach. 95% of the world’s iceberg lettuce is produced in California.” She went on to explain that the agriculture is very diversified

throughout the state. In the future, Gillian hopes to pursue a career in agriculture education in order to educate the younger generation about agriculture and share her love and passion for the industry and FFA. She explains that she believes in the future of agriculture because it is not only supplying the world with food and clothing, it is also helping others and giving them a chance to come together. “Agriculture is innovation and making the world a better place.” Gillian spends most of her time preparing to run for State Office. She is excited to continue her journey in FFA by taking a new leadership role at the state level. Good luck Gillian, NYFFA believes in you! “Never give up and never be afraid to try,” Gillian said when asked to give some advice to younger members. “If you never try, you will never know if you could have succeeded, and you will miss out on the opportunity to gain personal growth.” That’s awesome advice, Gillian! Keep up the great work!



January Horoscope



Aquarius (Jan 20- Feb 18)

The month of February will be one of new experiences. Take advantage of all opportunities that come your way!

Quote: “The quality of an individual is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.”



Pisces (Feb 19- March 20)

You will soon be torn between two opportunities and you must make a decision. When you come across this instance, be sure to weigh your options and follow your heart.

Quote: “Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.”



Aries (March 21- April 19)

You may find that things are about to get very busy for you. Make a to do list every day and try your best to complete everything on the list. At the end of the week, reward yourself for all your hard work!

Quote: “Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs.”



Taurus (April 20- May 20)

Don't let fear of the unknown stop you from trying new things! If you are nervous about a new opportunity, try bringing a friend along with you for support!

Quote: “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”



Gemini (May 21- June 20)

Leadership opportunities will come your way. Be brave and step up to the challenge, but remain caring and modest.

Quote: “Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.”



Cancer (June 21- July 22)

People may try to influence you with negativity, but remain true to yourself and continue to view the world with a positive perspective.

Quote: “The high destiny of the individual is to serve rather than to rule.”



Leo (July 23- Aug 22)

Put time aside this month for some self reflection. Think about your strengths and weaknesses. Use your strengths to serve others and ask mentors to help you improve upon your weaknesses.

Quote: “All our dreams can come true-if we have the courage to pursue them.”



Virgo (Aug 23- Sept 22)

Even FFA members make mistakes! Don't be too proud to apologize if you slip up. The other people involved will think highly of you for admitting fault and taking responsibility for your actions.

Quote: "Without courage, all other virtues lose their meaning."



Libra (Sept 23- Oct 22)

Stand up for what you believe in, even when faced with opposition and ridicule from others. Do your research in order to intelligently advocate for your cause, but remember to always be respectful toward the beliefs of others.

Quote: "Any fact facing us is not as important as our attitude toward it, for that determines our success or failure."



Scorpio (Oct 23- Nov 21)

With great power comes great responsibility. You may be presented with an opportunity to be in control, but remember to fulfill your duties wisely. Keep your head on straight and lead with modesty.

Quote: "Let us never negotiate out of fear but let us never fear to negotiate."



Sagittarius (Nov 22- Dec 21)

Having goals are important, but having plans leads to success. When you set goals for yourself, you must have realistic ways to achieve them. Create SMART goals and reward yourself when you reach them. After all, a goal without a plan is simply a dream.

Quote: "The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining."



Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 19)

Don't let your past mistakes limit your potential for success. Ask for forgiveness and allow yourself to let go of your guilt and regret. Move forward with confidence and positivity.

Quote: "Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear."

A Word from the Officers

Read all about how agriculture education has changed the lives of the officers and why we're so excited for Ag Education Day in February!



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

My favorite Ag class was veterinary science/animal science because it gave me a deeper understanding of animals' anatomy and behavior. As a farm girl who plans on pursuing veterinary medicine, agriculture classes were a cool way for me to start taking more classes that were relevant to my future career. Agriculture education is so important because it teaches students through all types of learning styles and helps them balance class time with real life application. I am really excited to celebrate Ag Education Day in February because it has affected so many students' lives for the better. I believe that bringing more awareness to Albany about what we do in agriculture classes and the FFA is extremely beneficial and will help us continue doing what we do and improving in the long run. I can't wait to hear your stories about how agriculture classes have affected you and I can't wait to meet New York Chapter Presidents at this event!



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

I took my first ag class when I was in 9th grade. Ag education has had a huge impact on my life, as it introduced me to FFA. It has also given me more of an appreciation for agriculture which is why I continue to be an active member in the agricultural community. My favorite ag class is the Independent Ag Policy class I am taking this year. I have been able to research and do projects based on state and federal ag policy. This is one of the reasons I am so excited for Ag Education Day in February! After researching all the great policy that comes out of Albany, I am looking forward to participating in a whole event to celebrate it! I look forward to the all the opportunities that will be offered at the event.



Katherine Killenbeck

State Secretary

South Jefferson FFA

Ag education has really brought me out of my shell and introduced me to my passions! It exposed me to the different leadership contests and opportunities which have opened my eyes to my own potential. It has also given me a love for teaching and the impact that I can have on other people's lives. By far, my favorite ag class was animal science! I LOVED doing the different labs, performing different "surgeries" on organs and learning about animals! It even pulls me toward wanting to be a vet! I am super excited for Ag Education Day not only to learn even more about our state's governmental processes, but also to see some of our chapter presidents get exposed to government officials and see how everything works! Albany is a beautiful city, and I had a blast last year at governmental awareness!!



Jacob Ax

State Treasurer

Stockbridge Valley FFA

Agricultural Education... many believe it is all about cows, sows and plows, but really we are working with beakers and being speakers, on our way to becoming job seekers. Agriculture education helped me personally from a young age. I always wanted to use my hands to learn how something worked and never did a great job with textbook based learning. My agricultural education career began in 7th grade tech class by building and racing CO2 cars and expanded into Greenhouse Management, Agricultural Mechanics and Agriculture Production and Science. These classes have helped to teach me new skills along the way and open up parts of the agriculture field that have not been explored yet. By far my FAVORITE agriculture class was all of them! Each taught me a new life skill and I always felt like the skill I learned would help me down the road. From grafting plants together to welding projects and tapping maple trees, every skill learned has a purpose outside the classroom. To celebrate our love for agriculture education, we have created a day for chapter presidents to meet in Albany and discuss current topics in agriculture. I cannot wait to see all the people out and about to show support for Agriculture Education at Ag Education Day in February.



Taylor McNamara

State Reporter

Madison FFA

My love for agriculture education began in sixth grade when my ag teacher introduced me to the many different aspects of agriculture. I was amazed with the diversity of the industry and the importance of the work of agriculturists. Agriculture education has given me something to stand for; I love educating consumers about where their food comes from and how important it is for people to support the work of agriculturists. The ag class has become my second home, because there is no better feeling than being surrounded by people who share the same passions. My favorite ag class was most definitely conservation and natural resources. It is important to be educated on how to protect and preserve our environment while being safe and sustainable. In the future, I hope to put my passion into practice by educating my own students about agriculture in my very own classroom. I am beyond excited to be traveling to Albany in February along with tons of chapter Presidents to celebrate the Smith-Hughes Act during Ag Education Day! This will be an incredible opportunity for students to get involved with the government aspect of agriculture and discuss ag policy with professionals! I can't wait to learn alongside FFA members and encourage every chapter President to take advantage of this incredible opportunity!



Matthew Currie

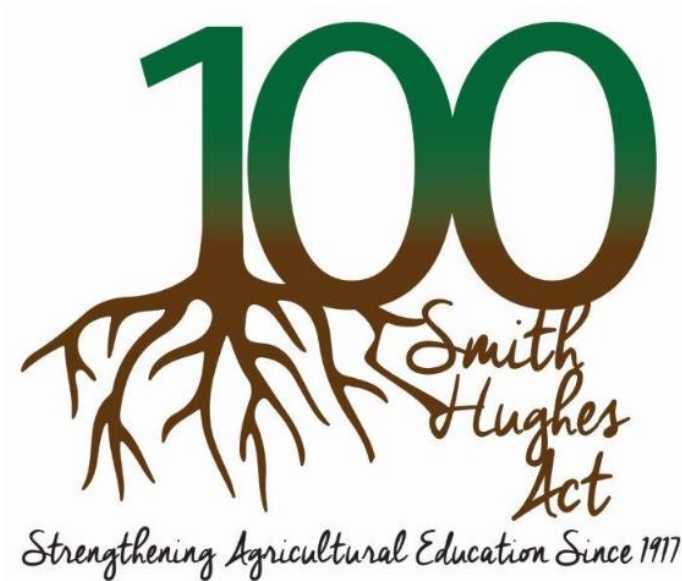
State Sentinel

Tully FFA

Agriculture education has had a huge impact on my life, teaching me some of the most important life lessons, exposing me to new opportunities, and showing me how to seek out different perspectives. Classroom ag education and agricultural field trips through school have brought me to places that I would have never seen or noticed otherwise. One of my favorite agriculture classes was horticulture because before taking that class I had no knowledge in that agricultural field; it gave me a much greater appreciation and insight to a different aspect of agriculture. I am super excited for Ag Education Day because I can't wait to attend the event with some of our brightest and most enthusiastic FFA members. I am mostly excited that we will all be able to see a different aspect of agriculture through the work of our politicians in the state capitol, gaining new perspectives along the way!



GET READY FOR



Ag Education Day!

February 6-7, 2017

Details in the link:

<http://www.nysffa.org/agriculture-education-day>