

Hey New York FFA!

by Kim Doyle

If you were to sum up the month of January for New York FFA, what one word would you use?

For me, it would have to be Growth.

New York FFA has continued to grow and the month of January was full of it! Not only did we gain a few more chapters, but we also had over 600 students growing and learning at our 212/360 conferences! Members had the opportunity to learn about how they can become the best leaders possible by attending workshops run by the National FFA Organization.

The members that attended 212/360 also had the opportunity to be with the State Officers when they revealed our State Convention theme —Trademark!

The State Officers presented reflections based around the theme and then aired a video which finally presented the one word that we had all been waiting to hear! Both the theme release video and the reflections can be found on the New York FFA Association Facebook page and website!

We can't wait to see what February has in store for us, it's sure to be great! Stay up to date about our upcoming events by visiting nysffa.org!

District Updates

See what's happening in NYFFA's Districts!

State Advisor of the Month

Learn about one of New York's many awesome advisors

Quotes to live by for the month of January!

A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2017-2018 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One

By Stephanie Vera

This month the John Bowne FFA Chapter held a Greenhand and Chapter Degree Ceremony on January 18th. 38 students received their Greenhand Degree and 26 students received their Chapter degree, many parents of these students attended the ceremony. Stephanie ran the ceremony and felt honored to present each student receiving their Greenhand Degrees their certificates. She was delighted to see each of them receive their degree because they all worked hard for it. All officers worked together to make this ceremony a success! Many parents were happy to see the students receive their degrees because they all worked hard to earn them.



Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is shining on a member from the John Bowne FFA Chapter, Emily Ramprashad, a senior at John Bowne. Emily served as Sentinel her sophomore year and as Reporter her junior year. She has been active in the FFA her freshman year and has been active since. For her SAE, she started in husbandry of avian species her freshman year by working in the exotic avian laboratory, and then working her way up to becoming the manager. Emily is the captain of the Equine and Marketing Plan Evaluation teams, and is currently in the Aquaculture team, she has been a member of the Aquaculture team since her sophomore year. She represented the John Bowne FFA Chapter for the first time at Nationals in year 2016 in the Marketing Plan Evaluation team. Emily's next step in FFA is to hopefully compete in the Agriscience and Aquaculture at State Convention. Then compete at Nationals after qualifying for the Agriscience competition. She hopes that her research will positively impact many people in the third world countries that are lacking in the agricultural field. Her next step in life is to be accepted into Cornell or Delaware Valley University and pursue her career path of an Avian Veterinarian.



District Two

By Patrick Coombe

Tri-Valley FFA was very active and successful during January. We also had members chosen to attend the State Leaders Experience. Six members were chosen to attend, as well as four others to work a display, giving floral presentations. Members are also going to the 212/360 Conference. They plan to start preparing for contests and applications soon. One member, Emily Carey, also won a \$1000 grant to continue her SAE.

Cobleskill Richmondville started planning for Substate competitions that we will be hosting in March. This month they started a Vet-Science Club to study for the VET CDE, and a AG Mechanics team. Great turnout has occurred with both clubs.

January was a great month for District Two. This month I hosted our winter weekend up at Camp Oswegatchie. Students seemed to enjoy the activities such as winter survival, snowshoeing, and workshops. One of the key part of this event is the connections made from playing games and I would like to thank all 78 advisors and students for coming and supporting our district's event.

Member of the Month

This month's member of the month is Dylan Poley of the Tri-Valley FFA chapter and has pushed himself to go to new events to meet new people. Dylan is a 7th grader and joined FFA in 6th grade and has made an impact in his chapter. His ambition to be an active member of the FFA has brought him to Camp Oswegatchie for summer camp and back up for winter weekend, 212/360 , COLT conference, State Fair, and State Convention. He loves being in FFA because of the opportunities that it gives its members to seek growth and improvement in our passion for agriculture. Dylan's goals for FFA is to find a SAE that fits him, Compete all the way to nationals, get his empire and American degree, and he would like to go to west point and then later in life become a beef farmer. When he is not spending time with his FFA family he spends his time in Boy Scouts, watching sports, and helping anyone in need.



District Four

By Justin Rodda

Member Spotlight

In her four years time spent in FFA, Madalynn Howe, a freshman member of the Oxford Academy chapter, has invested large amounts of time into her SAE where she maintains and care for bee hives. Maddy started with two hives in the beginning of last summer but lost a hive which took a major hit out of her SAE as they cost around \$200 a piece. Honeybees are high maintenance and you always have to keep an eye on what's happening in the hive.

Although Maddy lost one of her hives, she says she would not take a single moment back because she learned so much from it. Maddy is a prime example of perseverance and shows that no matter what gets thrown at you in trying to build up something you're passionate about, dedication will take you far in the development of your SAE.

Currently Maddy is working on obtaining another hive which she can then split and make into two hives. Maddy loves her SAE because it's out of the ordinary and although it's not an easy thing to pursue, she uses beekeeping as a fantastic learning experience and she says no matter how things work out she will always be determined to achieve greatness in her SAE.

Maddy also competes in the Ag Issues LDE and hopes to make it to the state level this year. She also has hopes to soon become chapter president and hopes to positively influence other FFA members lives. Your positivity and determination are exactly why you would do a fantastic job at doing that and you have done a great job showing that although things may not always go as planned, great things can always come out of them.

Great job Maddy, you make District four proud!



District Five

By Taylor Rollins

This month District 5 has been as busy as ever! Over one hundred members traveled to



Syracuse to attend the annual 212- 360 conference where they met FFA members from all over the state, and gained experiences that they can each take back to their individual chapters. The VVS FFA chapter held the Annual Maple Conference, and even inducted new maple ambassadors. Multiple chapters traveled up to Camp Oswegatchie to spend time at Winter Weekend. Students are all getting ready to compete at Districts next month! We can't wait to see what you accomplish!

Member Spotlight

Ayla Genei, a member of the VVS FFA chapter is constantly exuding her passion and love for this organization. Ayla is a sophomore this year, and is also serving as one of her chapter's historians. She loves to take pictures of her friends and teammates and highlight all of their incredible accomplishments. Ayla is not only a dedicated FFA member, she is also dances and is involved with her school's drama club. Throughout the past year Ayla has participated in dozens of events including Intense, State Convention, Camp Oswegatchie, and the 212- 360 Conference. One of Ayla's favorite events is the pancake breakfast her chapter hosts during their annual maple weekend. You can find Ayla there wearing her pancake hat, flipping pancakes, and sharing her love for the FFA with every community member she meets.



Keep up the great work!

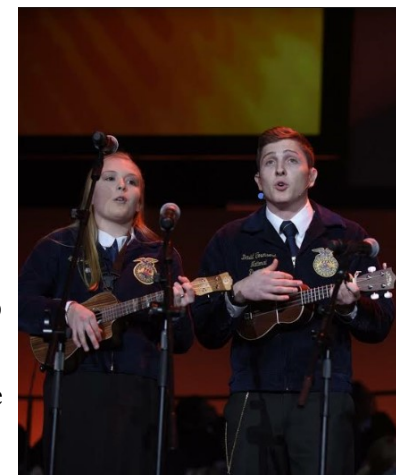
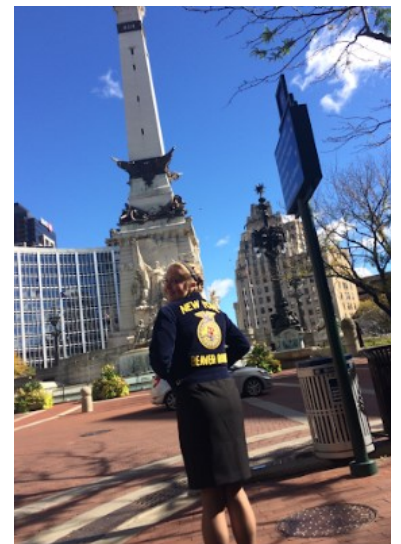
District Six

By Ethan Billman

This month everyone was very busy as we prepare to head into February. Whether it was getting ready for 212/360 or filling out their FFA scholarship, members were as busy as can be. Many chapters however were gearing up for 212/360 preparing their members for the awesome leadership conference. At the conference members were able to further their leadership abilities as well as find out the convention theme while enjoying a hockey game. As well as gearing up for the conference many chapters as well as members were applying to attend State Leaders Experience which will be happening as we roll into February. This awesome new experience will be held February fifth and sixth. Many chapters as well as members from district six will be attending where they get to experience the capitol while meeting with senators and developing their leadership skills. Keep up the hard work everyone!

Member Spotlight

Unthawing from the frost of winter and taking the member spotlight is Emily Lighthall. Emily is a senior from the Beaver River FFA chapter where she has been apart of FFA for the past 7 years. Emily has been very active within FFA throughout the years, she has attended 212/360 for 6 years, National convention for 2 years where she even competed in the talent competition, and played ukulele with David Townsend in his retiring address! Emily is a member that a lot of others look up to. She is not only involved with FFA but also very involved in her community. In the middle of this past month Emily and her friend Jessie decided to host a hunger banquet for their community. They partnered with the Croghan Lions Club to help them out. The pair's thought was to bring awareness to the community about the amount of hunger that not only goes on in the world but also right in their own backyards. The two had no intention of ever collecting any money but did accept donations. They were able to raise enough money to donate 300 dollars to the Beaver River and Lowville Backpack Programs. These programs help students who don't have the means to access healthy food outside of school. Emily not only goes above and beyond with everything she does she also manages to participate in band as well as run cross country and track. In her future Emily plans to attend Ithaca College and obtain an occupational therapist degree helping farmers who have been injured in farming accidents. Keep up everything you do Emily, District 6 is proud of you!



District Seven

By Brett Jillson

District 7 has already had their district competitions. We are glad to say that all, but five members are moving on to Sub-States. Congratulations!

Member Spotlight

Brittney Meade from the Southern Cayuga FFA Chapter does all that is possible for her chapter. Meade, a senior, joined in her junior year. Her first ever FFA event was National Convention. At National Convention she watched the Ag Issues Forum, and was ready to try and make it happen at Southern Cayuga. When she got back to Central New York, she gathered members to form a team. Throughout the year that team worked very hard and took first at districts, first at Sub-States, and fourth at States. Besides Ag Issues, she sold Fruit and Cheese at their annual Sale, as she was one of the top sellers. When it came time for districts, which Southern Cayuga hosted, she put hours into helping set up and making sure everything was set for the day. The day of she competed in Ag Issues, for the second straight year, and Employment Skills. She moved on in both events. Brittney Meade is always willing to stay after school or meetings to work on extra things, which saves time for the advisors. Outside of FFA Brittney does dance, volleyball, and softball.



Have you filled out your waiver to participate in state events?

Find it here at:

<http://www.nysffa.org/student-waiver>

District Ten

By Gwen Chase

As the suspense begins for District Competition, members are preparing for their leadership development event. Racheal Lessinger from the Cassadaga Valley chapter and Josie Allen from the Sherman FFA Chapter plan to run for District 10 President this year. The Sherman FFA Chapter continues to provide a care package for less fortunate students. Packing nights are Thursdays, generously supported by 5 and 2 ministry. Members from the Cassadaga Valley FFA Chapter are looked forward to attending 212/360 conference, taking place January 27th and 28th in Syracuse. This month District 10 stops to honor Doc. Hanby, a loved Agriculture teacher, who sadly passed away in November. Mrs. Maleski, Mr. Hanby's niece wrote the following, "Mr. Hanby served as the Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Cassadaga Central School until he retired in 1995.

Mr. Hanby's love of agriculture formed as a young child. He and his 4 siblings were raised on a dairy farm in Knox, PA.

Mr. Hanby often said that he knew what he needed to do on his farm and used that experience to prepare his students for their future. His focus was on building trades, animal science, crop science, and to problem solve issues on the farm. He and his family took students to Camp Oswegatchie each summer for about 20 years. "Doc" Hanby is fondly remembered by his students because of the usefulness of the education they received and that he made learning fun."

Member Spotlight

Vince Pascarella is an enthusiastic Dairymen from Cattaragus Little Valley. Vince Joined FFA in 7th grade! His first competition at districts was Junior People in Agriculture, and this year he prepares to compete at districts again. As Vince continues on, he can see what FFA has to offer, and hopes to become a more involved member in the future. He works each day on his family farm, raising and selling calves for his SAE in Dairy Placement. Vince breaks his cows for the show ring, so they can grow to their strongest potential, and compete successfully at the Cattaragus County Fair. Besides dedicating his time to FFA and the farm, Vince is active in school sports including wrestling and football. Currently a 10th grader, Vince ambitiously waits to graduate high school and take over his father's family farm.



State Advisor of the Month

Ms. McCaffrey is an agricultural teacher and FFA Advisor at Stockbridge Valley Central School. Ms. McCaffrey also serves on the FFA Board of Trustees as President. She has been teaching agriculture at SVCS for 13 years now and has loved every moment of it. Up until her senior year of high school she never believed that she would have dove into a career as a teacher, specifically an agricultural teacher.. Ms. McCaffrey would not be in position she is today if it wasn't for her agricultural teacher, Mr. Marbot, the Schoharie FFA Advisor. Ms. McCaffrey was one of those students that hated Math, English and didn't really like school, but liked Ag. And she now wants to teach to allow those same students that don't enjoy school, some classes that can make their day just a little bit better. Ms. McCaffrey attended 2 Years at Morrisville State College for an Associates degree in Ag. Business then attended Iowa State for her Bachelor's and Master's degree. Ms. McCaffrey's favorite class to teach to her students is anything that has to do with Animal Science. So far during her years an agricultural teacher where there has been a huge impact left on her students, she quotes "I don't know if there's ever one particular incident. I think it's cumulative of everything. When students do something in my class and then succeed in FFA or in another class because of the things I taught, it makes me feel like I made an impact. Hearing the little things, "Like I learned more in here during Horticulture than in Living Environment last year". The most rewarding part of being an agricultural teacher for Ms. McCaffrey is "seeing a kid who graduated from our program and attained a CTE Certification that now owns and operates a family agriculture business and seeing him succeed is the best thing about my job. He told me that he wishes he paid attention to all his classes in high school because he never realized that the things he learned in High School would have such a big impact in his job and everyday life. He also admitted that if it wasn't for Ms. McCaffrey, he probably wouldn't have graduated." Just like an ag teacher, Ms. McCaffrey has left more than a handful of impacts on the students that she teaches.

"Venture outside your comfort zone. The rewards are worth it"

"All it takes is faith and

JANUARY QUOTES TO LIVE BY!

"If you focus on what you left behind, you will never be able to see what lies ahead."

"Even miracles take a little time."

"A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference."

A Word from the Officers

Learn a little bit about the State Officers plans for the future!

Ethan Keller

State President

Sharon Springs FFA

When I think about my future, I think about how I hope to be an agricultural educator and FFA Advisor. In ten years, I would like to see myself graduated from college and settled down at a steady job doing what I love. As for college, I am looking at completing my bachelors degree in state and then completing my masters degree at an out of state university. However, I would like to come back to New York and have my career closer to home. Ultimately, I think that I would like to be teaching agriculture in a more urban setting. I have always loved New York City, and think it would be such an amazing and unique experience if I were to help develop and urban agriculture program. I believe that the opportunity to explore the different cultures that are present in a setting such as New York City would bring such a special quality to any classroom, and I would be really interested in seeing how that could be incorporated into an agricultural program especially. While I may not know exactly what my future holds, I do know that these are some things that I would like to see as part of it. I cannot wait to see what the future holds, and am excited about the chance for new adventures and opportunities!



Megan Lamb

State Vice President

Stockbridge Valley FFA

Within the next few years of my life, I plan to attend Morrisville State College and dual major in Agriculture Business and Horticulture. After I receive my Associates Degrees from Morrisville State College, I intend to transfer to Cornell University where I will complete the requirements necessary to become an Agriculture Educator. Being an Agriculture Teacher and inspiring other people to find success in the FFA is truly my ultimate goal in life. An alternate plan that I have seriously considered is owning my own floral shop. A favorite hobby of mine is designing and arranging flowers for weddings, baby showers and other special occasions. No matter what I choose for my future, I will still be strongly connected to agriculture.



Lindsey Nassimos

State Secretary

Madison FFA

For the next stage of my life I plan to attend college with a major in Bio-medical Engineering, with a minor in Spanish. After receiving my degree, I plan to find a job that allows me to work in a lab where I will study different diseases and their effects on both animals and humans. With this information, I hope to develop cures for these illnesses to increase the quality of life as well as life expectancy for both of these groups. Even though this is the idea that I currently have in mind, you never know what the future holds and I believe that these are some components that I would like to see as part of it. I cannot wait to see what my future will look like, and am excited about the new opportunities that will come my way!



Jenna Kibbe

State Treasurer

Clymer FFA

I have gained so much from FFA and agriculture I want to be able to give back to help others the way it has helped me. As an Agriculture teacher, I will be able to engage students in agriculture but also help them grow as leaders and prepare for the future. My main goal in my career is to be an effective teacher who can provide a great quality education and get my student excited about what they are learning. I have had the opportunity to help teach seventh grade agriculture. This experience I'm gaining right now is helping me achieve my main, long term goal as a teacher. I look forward to take advantage of internships throughout my college career and be able to get hands on practice, just like I have right now in my senior year. Because I have a deep passion for agriculture, I know that being an agriculture educator is right for me and I cannot wait for my hard work to pay off when I will be able to share my love and knowledge for agriculture.



Kim Doyle
State Reporter
Tri-Valley FFA

While it took me quite some time to decide on what career I wished to pursue, I couldn't be more happy with my choice. I have hopes to become an elementary agricultural education teacher. I believe that all education is extremely important and that we should start as young as possible when it comes to teaching about agriculture. My home school, Tri-Valley is lucky enough to have classes for our elementary students to learn about agriculture. I am very excited to see where this career path takes me!



KristiAnn Frank
State Sentinel
VVS FFA

The career goals I have start with my anticipated graduation from Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School in June 2018. From there I plan to attend SUNY Cobleskill for my bachelors degree as dual agricultural business and agricultural education major. Then I plan to attend either SUNY Oswego or Cornell University for my Masters degree in agricultural education. During my time at college I hope to expand my knowledge of and experience in New York Agriculture. At college, I hope for the chance to study abroad so I can discover the different sides of agriculture across our world. After graduation of college, I would like to work for New York Farm Bureau as a regional director so that I can work alongside New York farmers and become an advocate for all of New York agriculture. After working for Farm Bureau I plan to become an agricultural educator in a high school in New York. During my year of service as a State Officer, I have found a true passion for teaching students and leaving an impact on them. As an agriculture teacher I also plan to work with the New York State FFA to develop more opportunities for youth in agriculture. I want to continue the passion I have for the agricultural industry through my future career.



GET READY FOR

State Deadlines

District Contests