



NYFFA Speaks



July 2017

Hey New York FFA!

by Kim Doyle

The month of July was an exciting time for FFA members across the state! Members from New York along with other states, had the opportunity to spend a week at Camp Oswegatchie for summer camp. While other students spent their summer preparing for competition at their local county fair.

During summer camp, campers took part in a quick trip around the world in the Camp Oswegatchie Amazing Race. This version not only included some physical strength and endurance but also, finding the 5 characteristics that make up a good team! Campers received the opportunity to go horse back riding, participate in high and low ropes, and experience the beauty of Oswegatchie during various hikes and bike rides!

Even with all of the FFA activities taking place students were still finding time to prepare for CDEs in advance of Empire Farm Days and the New York State Fair! Many participated in tractor driving and welding while at Empire Farm Days, and anything from livestock judging to small engine troubleshooting while at the State Fair! During the State Fair, students also had the opportunity to participate in the first ever AIM conference!

This past month was a great one for New York FFA, and there is plenty more to come! For more information on upcoming events head over to nyffa.org.

District Updates

See what's happening in NYFFA's Districts!

National Member Spotlight

Get to know a member from another state!

Quotes to live by for the month of July!

A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2017-2018 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One
by Stephanie Vera

Member Spotlight

Anahi Fernandez, a 17 year old senior at the John Bowne High School Agriculture Program, was just elected as John Bowne FFA Chapter Reporter. She joined FFA in 9th grade and has been involved for the last three years. Ana loves being in FFA because FFA has given her many experiences which she wouldn't have gotten without joining, such as participating in CDE's and attending State and National Convention. As part of her agricultural education, Ana has an SAE, where she works in the Ornithology Lab at her school taking care of seven different birds. She is in charge of changing their food and water every day, and cleaning the bottom of their cages. Ana was apart of the Floriculture Team her sophomore year, which allowed her the opportunity to represent her school at Nationals. She then decided to join Veterinary Science during her junior year. Ana's next step in FFA is receiving her Empire Degree and competing at States again. After graduating high school, she plans to attend college and continue her studies in Animal Science. Apart from being involved in FFA, Ana is apart of ARISTA and National Honor Society, and also enjoys swimming and volleyball. Great Job Anahi!



**Have you filled out
your waiver to partic-
ipate in state events?
Find it Here at:**

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

AGRICULTURE

BY THE NUMBERS

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN FARMERS

97% Of all farms are family owned
The average age of today's farmer: **55.3**

1 IN 3 U.S. farm acres are planted for export

15% of U.S. corn acres are irrigated

2 Times more food is produced by today's farmer than their parents did using less land, energy, water and fewer emissions

9 States have more cattle than people (Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma and Wyoming)

14% of U.S. farms are operated by women

2/3 of all cattle operations have been in the same family for at least two generations

155 people are fed by a single American farmer

90 Loaves of bread can be made from one bushel of wheat

8 tons of carbon dioxide are removed from the air by one acre of corn during a season

40% Of the world's corn, is grown by U.S. Farmers

21 Million American workers produce, process and sell the nation's food and fiber

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a winter weekend
NOW! Make memories
that will last a life-
time!**

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District Two

by Patrick Coombe

District Two has been busy this July with various travel trips! Tri valley had 6 members travel to Camp Oswegatchie to spend a week of fun and learning while meeting other FFA members from around the State. One of their members spent the summer traveling to speak at meetings and conferences. Many students used the summer to improve their SAE projects. The Tri-Valley FFA is looking forward to the fair season too. The Greenville FFA chapter brought 25 members to camp Oswegatchie week 2!!! They also helped out at their county fair, fundraising for their chapter with a milkshake and slushy stand! Many of their members will be showing a variety of animals at the fair! Warwick Valley FFA also made a trip up to Croghan to visit summer camp for a week. They set up an aquaponics display and had several members compete at the State Fair in CDE's. It has definitely been a busy month for District 2!



Member Spotlight

During the month of July, a Greenville FFA member shined through during her week at summer camp. Melody Sprague, a junior FFA member, received the camper of the week award because of her outgoing, inclusive and energetic personality. This award is unique to other awards that campers may get at camp because it provides a camper with a free week to summer camp for the following summer.

Melody has started at a young age working on her SAE, diversified livestock, working with horses, chickens, and rabbits. She has followed her passions for horses by competing in horse judging at state fair, along with competing in 4H horse shows often. She has been in FFA since 6th grade and is 13 years old. Two of her goals in the next couple of years is to become Junior Chapter FFA President and compete on the national level in a CDE. Within the first two years since joining FFA, she has competed in jr extemporaneous speaking and horse judging. One of her favorite things about FFA is competing in contests and meeting new people. Keep up the great work Melody!



District Three

By Aleecia Seymour

Member Spotlight

One member who especially stands out in District 3 is Erin Armitage. She currently attends Greenwich Central School and is going to be a sophomore this coming fall. Erin has proudly represented the Greenwich FFA Chapter for the past 4 years, joining when she was in 7th grade. This year she is serving as her chapter Treasurer.

Her SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) consists of working on a 120 head dairy farm home to Holsteins and Brown Swiss cows. Her area in dairy placement gives her hope that one day she will have her own farm and work as a bovine veterinarian. Over the years, Erin has fallen more in love with the animals and being able to show at local, state and national levels. Erin's main priority is to continue being a positive advocate for agriculture. Within the FFA realm, Erin has come to love two Leadership Development Events or LDEs, Prepared Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure.

This year, Erin hopes to see her FFA career expand by running for District President and State line office. Throughout her FFA career, Erin continuously enjoys attending conventions, competing in CDEs and LDEs, and meeting many new people. Erin and her chapter play a large role in their community by hosting breakfast with Santa and conducting several cemetery clean ups.

Overall Erin is a great student and FFA member, not only is she an active member in her chapter but also participates in other school activities. She enjoys sports including basketball and softball. Thank you, Erin, for being an amazing role model within your school, chapter, community, and District 3! Keep up the great work!



Member Spotlight

Nolan Winton, President of the Unadilla Valley FFA chapter, has truly stood out as an outstanding member in District 4 this month. In his time in FFA, Nolan has attended 4 State Conventions, and 2 National Conventions, and has competed in many state level CDEs. Nolan's SAE project consists of him working on the family maple farm, where him, his father, and his grandfather tap over 4000 maple trees. This allows them to produce over 800 gallons of syrup each year and make maple candies for all to enjoy! Nolan plans to use his SAE to pursue his Empire Degree in maple production in the near future. Keep up the hard work Nolan, You make District 4 FFA proud! Keep tapping away at a bright future!



Get Excited to meet
David Townsend,
National FFA President
at the Great
New York State
Fair!

District Five
by Taylor Rollins

Member Spotlight

In one of the furthest corners of District 5 lives one of the most extraordinary, passionate, and dedicated FFA members around. For the past 4 years Jeb Brundage from the HFM P Tech Chapter of FFA has been pouring his heart and soul into his chapter. Jeb is currently serving as his chapter president, which he considers one of his biggest accomplishments because in the past he has always looked up to his chapter presidents. He is still in the planning stages of his SAE, and we can not wait to see the amazing ideas he can bring to his chapter and community. His favorite CDE is food science because he loves the different challenges of the competition. Jeb says, "I love being an FFA member because I love agriculture and it's a way of life for so many. Being in a program based around it is really incredible." His favorite FFA event is state convention because he loves connecting with other members from across the state. His next goal is to become a District President to represent his chapter and all of District 5 on the state level. HFM P Tech is a project based learning school that focuses on agriculture and Jeb loves every aspect of this. His hobbies include hunting and fishing, and he even wants to pursue a career in the wildlife and forestry field. Keep doing what you love Jeb, you make District 5 proud!



District Six

by Ethan Billman

This month FFA members from district six have been working hard and competing in various CDE's, as well as contests at the annual Lewis and Jefferson County fairs. FFA members were able to try their hand in many contests that ranged from Agronomy to Tree Identification. Some even decided to step out of their comfort zone and participate in Dairy Judging at their local dairy shows. Congratulations to all of the members who competed and remember to keep up the good work!



Member Spotlight

Taking the stage in this month's Member Spotlight is FFA member Olivia Haga from the South Jefferson FFA chapter. Olivia Haga has been a member of her FFA chapter for the past six years, and now is one of the three Vice Presidents of her chapter. Throughout the years, Olivia has attended many events, such as COLT Conference, 212/360, and State Convention. This past year, Olivia attended Nationals for the first time. When asked what Olivia's favorite thing about FFA is she responded, "getting to know each member and what their story is, as well as how they contribute to the organization." Olivia is a very active within her chapter. She spends a great deal of time and effort into not only meeting new members and getting to know them, but also into her SAE. Olivia currently has two SAE's one in Ag Education, and the other is an exploratory SAE. Partnered with Mr. Stowell, Olivia helps prepare lesson plans, carry out labs, and even help teach class! In addition to Ag Education, Olivia tries her hand at various different exploratory SAE's. These include working at a metal shop, volunteering at a woodworking shop to make children's dressers, and even helping take care of horses at a barn that she volunteers at. Olivia is always willing to help and do anything she possibly can for not only her chapter but as well as anyone in need. Keep up the good work Olivia, and remember to always do what makes you the best member you can be!!



District Seven

by Brett Jillson

Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is Junior FFA member, Alex Keeney, from the Southern Cayuga FFA chapter. Alex has only completed one year in FFA, but it sure seems like he has been around a lot longer. Alex is going into eighth grade and has taken on the role of Junior FFA President for this coming school year. When he knew that he wanted to run for President, the whole chapter knew he would get it. Usually elections at Southern Cayuga are really laid back, but Alex brought it to a new level when he was talking to the PALS kids about running for President and wrote a 2-3 minute speech for election evening. Alex has participated in almost every event that his chapter does. Whether it be competitions, farm visits, the annual fruit and cheese sale, or boiling sap until 8pm at night. Alex not only takes advantage of every activity his chapter offers, but he does it all with great enthusiasm. He has been a really active member this summer as he is planning on competing in several competitions at State Fair, interested in attending the new AIM Conference, helping at the local annual Wheat Festival, and attending his first year at Camp Oswegatchie. Even though Alex doesn't have an SAE yet, he will be working on creating one this coming year. Alex's big projects this year in FFA focuses on conducting meetings the right way using Parliamentary Procedure, as well as preparing for the Conduct of Chapter Meeting LDE. He believes this is very important and wants the chapter to start using it again, as meetings can be crazy at times. Outside of FFA Alex plays baseball and swims on the school teams. Congratulations Alex Keeney, we know that you will go very far in life and in FFA!



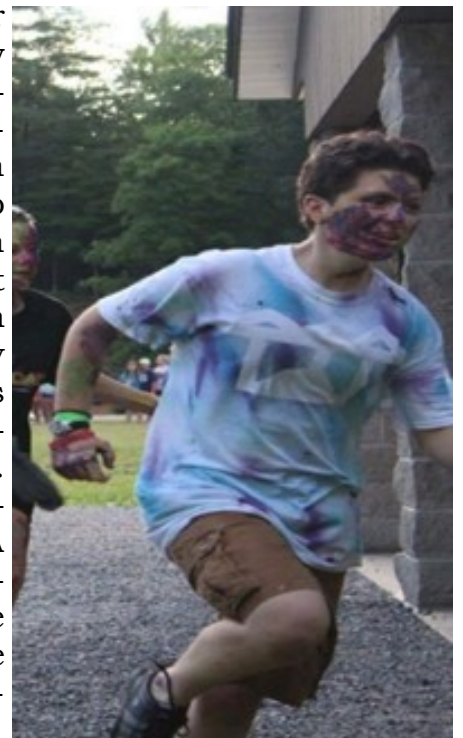
District Ten

by Gwen Chase

WOW, the chapters in district 10 are really putting dedication into our organization! The Sherman FFA chapter held a community wide car wash to support their members. The Clymer FFA chapter participated at the Chautauqua County Fair livestock judging. Bob Nagel placed first followed by Dalton Holthouse in second and Sara Holthouse in third in the event. Team one, Sara Holthouse, Bob Nagel, and Mason Bestine came in first and team two Lynndee Nagel, Jackson Redlecki, and Emma Redlecki came in second. Members from the chapter also participated on Friday the 28th in dairy judging. Clymer also had the opportunity to judge Dairy at the Allegheny Fair on July 18th. The team consisted of Bob Nagel, Mason Bestine, Emma Redlecki, and Jackson Redlecki. The team came in third with Bob Nagel coming in 7th individual and Mason Bestine in 8th individual. Along with the chapter's busy competition schedule, they were still able to manage time to get a week in at Camp Oswegatchie. Many members of the Cassadaga FFA chapter volunteered at the fire hall, library and other community locations throughout the summer. The Chapters members also kept up with the landscaping around the school and prepared new members for their SAE's. Cassadaga will be hosting an agricultural skills and leadership class run by Racheal Lessinger, where members will learn about CDE's and how to properly conduct meetings.

Member Spotlight

Racheal Lessinger has really excelled throughout FFA this year! Racheal is a proud member from the Cassadaga Valley FFA chapter who joined as a 6th grade. Now being in ninth grade and able to experience more the chapter has to offer, Racheal says, "I love getting to experience new things, learn a lot about agriculture, and learn how to express myself through work with animals, plants, and mechanics." Racheal, also known as Rae, has participated in some great CDE's, such as Jr. Extemporaneous for two years in a row and Jr. Prepared for the past year! Through her hard work she was able to earn herself first place at sub-states in Jr. Extemporaneous speaking. Even though Rae hasn't been to nationals, she hopes to speak her way up the ladder through Sr. Extemporaneous Speaking. This year Racheal's SAE will be learning how to run an exploratory class on leadership and agricultural development. Even with her busy schedule she strives to be a great president for her chapter! Racheal is also a member of the GSA and Quest Backpacking. Her hobbies range from from football, and basketball, to music and track and field. As she pushes on through her FFA career, she hopes to become the District 10 President in the next few years! Keep expanding your horizons as you grow in FFA Racheal!



National Chapter Spotlight

Who's ever heard of Watauga right?

The Watauga FFA chapter was started in 1965 when the high schools in the county combined into one large chapter. Watauga is located in the mountains of North Carolina; close to the Tennessee state line. Currently there are close

to 40 members in the chapter, but this has been a huge growth. Not too long ago the chapter had less than 15 active members and didn't really compete in many CDE's.

With the arrival of a new agriculture teacher and new students the chapter began to grow. The chapter started getting more involved in the community, by putting out a garden and donating the harvest to local charities. The chapter President also does the agricultural spotlight on the local radio station with the help of the Watauga Agriculture Extension Office. Watauga is extremely active in supporting local causes, which has included members attending a Great Strides walk to raise awareness for Cystic Fibrosis.

Watauga has not only got its name into the public by "living to serve", but also "learning to do."

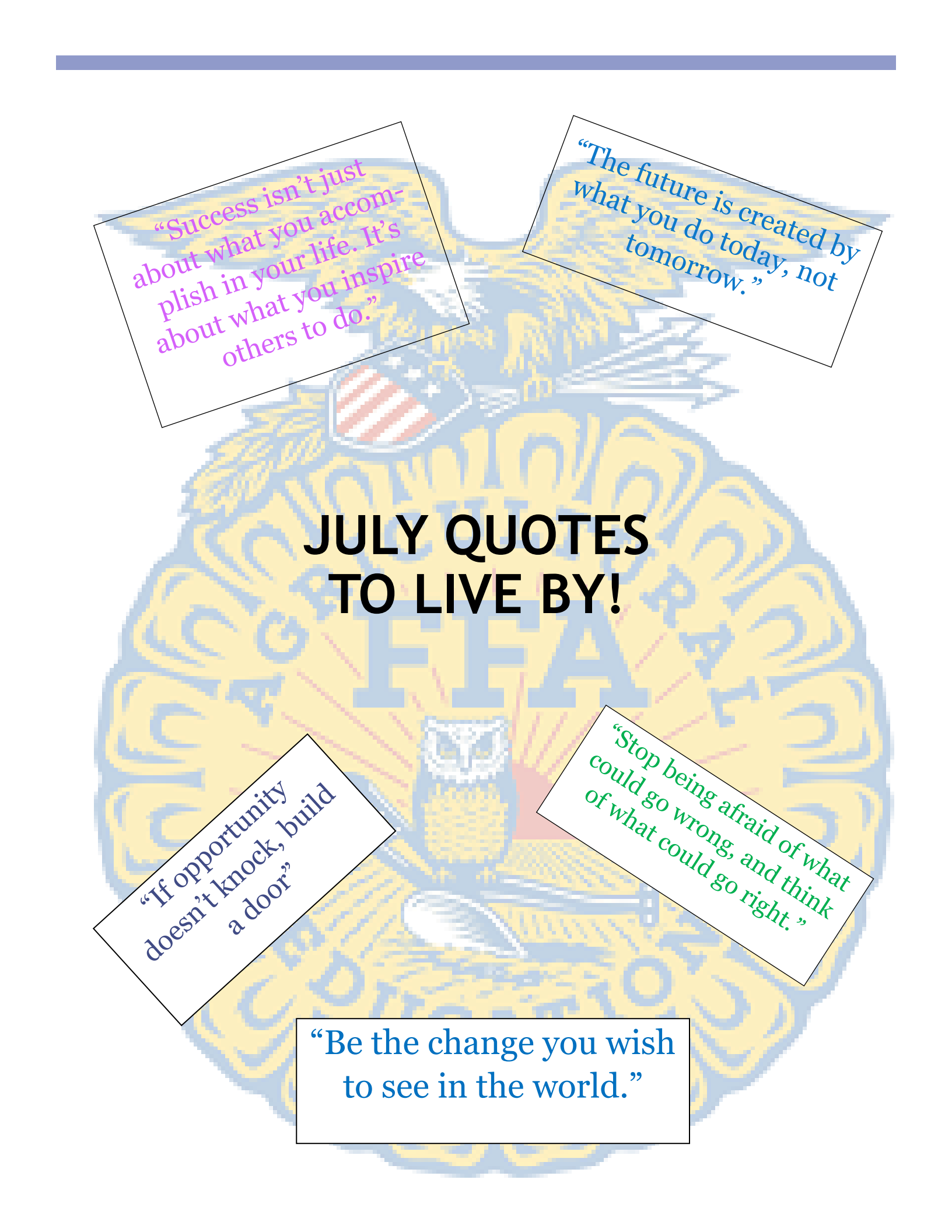
Over the past few years Watauga has participated in over 10 state level career development events, placing in the top 10 for the majority of them. The chapter is proud to claim National Delegate, Max Hagaman, and National Chorus member, Lindsey Fletcher.

Despite all the accomplishments, it has been a long road for the chapter. From dealing with low class sizes to the stereotypes. Watauga strives to defeat the stereotypes and encourages the diversity of students in the program. They focus on student encouragement, public speaking and being a close net community where any member feels welcome. They also strive to advocate for the agriculture industry by developing young and talented agriculturalist.

Watauga keeps the wisdom and lessons from past years but looks forward to the adventures of the future.

If you would like to follow Watauga on their many adventures follow them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat.





“Success isn’t just about what you accomplish in your life. It’s about what you inspire others to do.”

“The future is created by what you do today, not tomorrow.”

JULY QUOTES TO LIVE BY!

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

“Stop being afraid of what could go wrong, and think of what could go right.”

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

A Word from the Officers

As the new year starts, the state officers would like you to know a little bit about ourselves!

Ethan Keller

State President

Sharon Springs FFA

Hello, my name is Ethan Keller and I am so excited to be serving as your 2017-2018 New York State FFA President! I am a proud member of the Sharon Springs FFA Chapter in District 2, and I plan to study Agricultural Business at Morrisville State College starting in the Fall of 2017. For my Supervised Agricultural Experience, I work in a concession stand at the Cooperstown Dreams Park where I work to plan and facilitate different educational experiences for students and community members in my area. Outside of FFA, I am passionate about musical theatre and involved in many clubs at my school. I cannot wait to see what this year has in store for all of us, and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you very soon!



Megan Lamb

State Vice President

Stockbridge Valley FFA

Hello, my name is Megan Lamb and I look forward to serving as the 2017-2018 State Vice President. I am 17 years old and attend Stockbridge Valley High School where I am working towards my Advanced Regents Diploma. I enjoy my Agriculture Mechanics Class as well as my Agriculture Production class which deals with the production of our Maple Syrup and field crops. I have competed in multiple CDE's but my favorites include Dairy Handling, Floriculture and Prepared Public Speaking. My SAE is not your typical SAE. My SAE falls into the area of Diversified Horticulture and Specialty Crop in which I plant, grow, show, sell, and hybridize Gladiolus. I also sell vegetables along with other cut flowers, including our Gladiolus at our local farmers market. During the off season of growing and showing Glads I create Christmas Wreaths with my family and sell them at our school's Christmas Bazaar. My SAE is definitely unique but something I enjoy doing everyday. Outside of FFA, I enjoy volleyball, singing, our school's Drama Club and watching "I Love Lucy". Once again, I am very excited to be serving as your 2017-2018 State Vice-President this coming year!



Lindsey Nassimos

State Secretary

Madison FFA

Hello New York FFA! My name is Lindsey Nassimos and I am a proud member of the Madison FFA Chapter which is located in District V! It was in the year of 2010 when I finally decided to become involved in the National FFA Organization and can honestly say that it was one of the best decisions of my life. I am now a senior at Madison Central School and because of all of my experiences in the FFA that I have been able to grow into the person I am today and find where my true passions lie. After I graduate, I plan to attend college and pursue a career in biomedical engineering. Outside of my time spent in school I am active in a number of different varsity sports, including soccer, basketball, cheerleading, softball, and even golf. I am a member of National Honor Society, am employed at a local frozen yogurt shop, and take part in many other clubs offered at my school. My Supervised Agricultural Experience, began when I volunteered at the Waterville Area Food Pantry. After seeing all of the people that were in need I knew I wanted to answer their calls for help. So, I have taken over a part of the greenhouse at my school and planted a number of different vegetables that when ready to harvest will be given to the food pantry to help feed those who are in need. I am so incredibly honored to be able to serve as your 2017-2018 New York State FFA Secretary, and I cannot wait to see the path that we will travel together this year!



Jenna Kibbe

State Treasurer

Clymer FFA

Hello my name is Jenna Kibbe. I'm from the small town of Findley Lake and attend Clymer Central School. Being a senior, I have involved myself in numerous activities, which include playing basketball for 4 years, running track for 3 years and being an active FFA member for 5 years. Having discovered my passion for the FFA, I am able to always immerse myself in anything and everything agricultural related. I love working around the house landscaping, working in food plots and bettering the environment. This love has helped me better my SAEs and grow as a person. I have tremendous support from my parents Ray and Debbie Kibbe as well as my sister Jessie. I love to try new things and to challenge myself by stepping out of my comfort zone and the FFA organization has definitely allowed me to do just that. FFA has helped me become the leader that I am today, because it has opened so many doors for me. I can't wait to give back to this incredible organization by serving as New York's FFA 2017-2018 State Treasurer.



Kim Doyle
State Reporter
Tri-Valley FFA

Hello New York FFA! My name is Kim Doyle and I am so excited to serve as your 2017-2018 New York State Reporter! I derive from the Tri-Valley FFA chapter located in Grahamsville, New York, and have been an active participant for 6 years. By starting my FFA career in sixth grade, I have had the opportunity to participate in a vast amount of competitions, conventions, and conferences. Outside of FFA I participate in my school's drama club. I work on stage as an actor and back stage on the crew. I plan to study early childhood education in the fall, in hopes to become an agricultural educator! I am so excited to serve you for the next year!



KristiAnn Frank
State Sentinel
VVS FFA

Hello my name is KristiAnn Frank! I have been a part of the FFA organization since 2010 and began my career with the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill FFA Chapter. I am currently enrolled as senior at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, and I play varsity volleyball and softball. One word to describe me would most definitely be—crazy. This word represents me because of my crazy collection of crocs, my crazy ambition to try anything that comes before me, and my crazy drive to serve the New York State FFA organization and its members! My favorite place to spend my time is on the top of a mountain. I love the placid feeling, the beautiful views, and the adventures that come with climbing a mountain. The FFA event that I've enjoyed most has been spending every summer at Camp Oswegatchie. I have made so many friendships throughout my time spent at camp and experienced numerous adventures that pushed me out of my comfort zone multiple times! I can't wait for this upcoming year filled with crazy adventures and lasting memories with all of you!



GET READY FOR

