

Hey New York FFA!

by Kim Doyle

New York FFA has had such an amazing month! While November wasn't as jam packed as other months, what we participated in was just as great as it usually is! Chapters from all over the state have started their annual fruit and cheese sales and are preparing for the holidays- FFA style!

Our State President, Ethan Keller, has completed his first week of chapter visits in District VII! His travels included stops at Spencer-Van Etten, Newark Valley, TST BOCES, George Junior, Tully, Moravia, and Southern Cayuga. Ethan also visited a couple of schools that are interested in starting an agricultural education program and a FFA Chapter! These stops included, McEvoy Career and Tech Center and Nottingham. Focused, authentic, courageous, and engaged were the characteristics that Ethan and District Seven President, Brett Jillson, demonstrated in their workshop, Becoming a Great Leader.

The State Officers also had the opportunity to attend the GALA Conference, where they educated members of the Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca association about the FFA. To see what is in store for December, check out the events section of the New York State FFA webpage at www.nysffa.org/events.

District Updates

See what's happening in NYFFA's Districts!

National Member of the Month

Learn a little bit about an awesome member from the state of Minnesota!

Quotes to live by for the month of November!

A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2017-2018 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One

by Stephanie Vera

November was a busy month for District 1. The John Bowne FFA Officer Team held an Autumn Fest dance on November 16. This dance was to raise funds and food for areas that have been hit by disasters. We had other JBHS clubs help us out including; ARISTA, Chinese Club, and GSA. The dance was a huge success! We raised \$230 and 15 pounds of canned goods to be donated to Puerto Rico FFA. We appreciate all the support we got. It was great seeing our school community come and work together. "I wish this dance can happen all over again, I had so much fun" said one of the students. Everyone had fun, including teachers. The Ag Teachers were dancing like crazy!



Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is Eileen Siavichay, a junior at John Bowne High School Agriculture Program. She was elected as the Student Advisor of the John Bowne FFA Chapter. Eileen has been active in the FFA since her freshman year and has been active since. "I love being in FFA because FFA helped me improve to become the person I am today! FFA provides many opportunities and brings new experiences for me" she says. For her



SAE, Eileen went to an organic dairy farm this past summer. She had a huge experience working with dairy cows, she cleaned and maintained them. She even showed cows at the Altamont Fair! She joined the Sales Team her sophomore year and trained really hard for States. She went to Nationals this year and it was a whole new experience for her. What Eileen hopes for her next step in FFA is to run for District President and earn her Empire Degree. Her next step in life is to graduate high school, she plans go to college to continue her studies in Animal Science. Apart from being involved in FFA she participates in a Youth Group and joined Chorus her freshman year. **Eileen loves to read all kinds of books and sings to any kind of music.** Keep up the great work Eileen, District 1 is proud of what you have accomplished so far!

District Two

by Patrick Coombe

As the holiday's are around the corner the chapters in District II are gearing up to make a difference. This month the Pine Plains FFA Chapter has been setting up and preparing for their town's annual Parade Of Lights for the upcoming holidays. This has included planting and staking trees around the town, lighting them, and making decorations. The chapter is also organizing a school wide food drive for their local pantry. They are also participating in a local Thanksgiving Meal Packing and Adopt a Family. Meanwhile members of Sharon Springs FFA have been busy selling fruit, cheese and local maple syrup for their main fundraiser! They have also met to get members excited about CDE's and LDE's and will start prepping soon! FFA members are excited about attending our District 2 Winter Weekend in January!



This month Greenville has sold Citrus and has been preparing for their winter open house in December. Each year they sell wreaths, kissing balls, and centerpieces to our community for the holidays. The Tri-Valley FFA just wrapped up it's annual fruit sale. During their chapter meeting, members and officers discussed their holiday party, future trips (212/360 and Winter Weekend) and also created different committees. The officer team chose the 'Members of the Month' for the month of October, Jacob Lucak and Dylan Poley. These two members worked hard to make a trunk for Tri-Valley's annual Trunk-or-Treat. Four members completed and submitted applications for grants to support their SAE's. Members harvested the community garden and the food was donated to a food bank in their community. The FFA also did a holiday food drive and collected turkeys for Thanksgiving. Warwick valley FFA has started their annual fruit sale and nut sale. The chapter also did a community service project where they hung wreaths on parking meters to show free parking for the Holiday's.

Member spotlight

Lucy Meehan of the Cobleskill-Richmondville FFA chapter was chosen as the member of the month. Her hard work and dedication to her Chapter and SAE set her apart. Lucy is in 12th grade and has been an active member since 10th grade. Her SAE consists of two scientific research projects at SUNY Cobleskill, the prevalence of Lyme disease in the tick population of Schoharie county and E. coli on the Hudson river. Since the summer of her junior year, Lucy has learned how to plate samples of bacteria, pipette precise amounts of chemicals, and how to flag for ticks. The study on water quality will likely be completed by the end of this school year. These projects will culminate with a published paper that will contain the results of Lucy's research.

She loves being in FFA because being in this organization has given her the opportunity to take on leadership positions, travel the country, and learn about one of the fastest growing job markets in the country. Being able to compete in a wide arrange of events, and learning new skills keeps Lucy motivated. She has competed in Senior Creed, Agricultural Issues Forum, Food Science and Technolgy. Giving back to the local community through volunteering, is something important that Lucy has learned from FFA. Lucy plans to study a field in agriculture and has been accepted to SUNY Canton along with the University of Arizona. She hopes to continue her FFA career in college. District II is very proud of you and what you have accomplished in FFA!

District Four
by Justin Rodda

The Unadilla Valley FFA chapter will soon be unveiling their new agriculture facility. This facility will allow students to learn skills in science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mechanics. The Oxford FFA chapter is currently selling wreaths that are handmade by students! The District Four chapters are all participating in the annual fruit sale through Florida Farm Bureau, the chapters have the opportunity to sell everything from naval oranges to Del Monte Pineapples!

Member Spotlight

Joseph Roodenburg has shined as an FFA member and a community leader. As a member of the Otselic Valley FFA chapter, Joe has proven himself as a leader amongst his peers. During his time in FFA Joe has strived for success, as any time he has the opportunity to learn he jumps on it. One example of Joe's enthusiasm for learning is his restoration project of a 1955 Allis-Chalmers WD45 tractor for a close friend. From this project, Joe has learned many things such as; adjusting wheel spacing on a tractor and how to adjust the two clutches the tractor has. Joe plans to take the skills he learned from his newfound hobby and restore more tractors. This has become Joe's Supervised Agricultural Experience which will help him earn his Empire Degree. Aside from the restoration of tractors, Joe also has a 600 pound Chester White pig named Debbie, although she is just a pet, Joe uses Debbie to expand his knowledge of raising animals. At the state level, Joe competes in multiple agronomy CDEs and agricultural mechanics CDEs. Joe always puts his best efforts into learning something new from these competitions and events. Congratulations Joe, you have been an outstanding member of District IV FFA and you are setting a great example for other members not only in our district but across the state.

Have you filled out your waiver to participate in state events? Find it here at:

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



District Five

by Taylor Rollins

Field trips, fundraisers, and banquets oh my! This month District 5 has been as busy as ever. To start the month off Madison FFA traveled to Camp Oswegatchie to attend the Environmental Leadership Program. On November 9th, Madison FFA also held their annual banquet, which showcased their members accomplishments. The VVS FFA chapter attended the Cooperstown Maple Presentation, and helped at the Vernon Veteran's Memorial. Adirondack started their wreath fundraiser, and presented to their school about their experience in Indianapolis at the National FFA Convention. The HFM Ag PTECH chapter attended the annual Agri-Mark Meeting and held a chicken barbeque. Hamilton FFA members have been busy taking care of their poinsettias so they are ready for the holiday season. FFA chapters all over District 5 have begun their annual fruit and cheese sales.

Member Spotlight

Her hard work, passion, and love for the FFA have made Erin Curtis an extraordinary member to highlight this month, and she truly deserves it. Erin is a member of the Cazenovia Aggies FFA Chapter, and this year she is serving as chapter reporter. In FFA you can always find Erin making new friends, sharing her passion with other members, and grasping onto every opportunity presented to her. Although she has competed in multiple different CDE's and LDE's earning her way to nationals for Food Science; her favorite competition by far is Dairy Judging. Showing cows is one of Erin's favorite activities. Erin's beloved cow is named Cedarcut Burdette Clove Colata. Colata and Erin have been a dynamic duo since she was a calf; Erin even has major insurance on her! For the past 3 years Colata has been the Grand Champion of the International Junior Ayrshire class at the World Dairy Expo, and holds the titles of Supreme Champion at the All American Dairy Show and at the New York State Fair. Erin's passion and determination are qualities everyone should admire. Keep up the fantastic work!



District Six

by Ethan Billman

This month District VI was bustling with activity and enthusiasm. From food to festivities District VI had it all. This month the Beaver River FFA chapter hosted the annual land judging banquet which was facilitated by the Lowville FFA Chapter. At the banquet, members were recognized for their hard work in the land judging competition held earlier in the year. Congratulations to all of the members and their achievements. Also this month the Belleville Henderson and South Jefferson FFA Alumni Chapters held their annual Farmers challenge event. The community was invited for dinner and teams of four to five individuals competed in trivia, competitions, and other fun activities. With turkey day rolling around also came the South Lewis FFA Chapters Thanksgiving dinner. Chapter's members enjoyed a nice turkey dinner with community members and swapped stories about what they were thankful for. Even their chapter's retired advisor Mr. Rohr was able to attend which was a treat for everyone.

Member Spotlight

This month the deserving member showing off her skills is Elizabeth McGuire, or Libby as she is referred to by friends, from the South Lewis FFA Chapter. Libby is a junior this year in high school and has been in FFA for three years now. She says that her favorite thing about FFA, is getting to see how people from different backgrounds and interests all come together for the same passion, agriculture and FFA. Libby is an active member taking part in as many activities as possible not only in her chapter but also at many other events that the state organization holds. She has been to COLT conference three times, 360 twice and National and State Convention three times. As you can tell Libby is very involved and takes part in helping any way she can. She is currently serving as her chapter's president and leads by example for all of the members in her chapter to follow. Outside of FFA, Libby is just as involved, one example for instance is she is part of a group called "Falcon Friends." In this group, Libby gets to spend an entire day with a younger student in elementary school who may be going through a rough time or have a harder life than most other students their age. Anyone who meets Libby can confidently say that she is a role model to most and a great representation of the FFA. Keep up the good work Libby all of District VI is proud of you!



District Seven

by Brett Jillson

A few weeks ago, Brett Jillson and Ethan Keller traveled most of District VII and met many amazing members. During their trip they saw so many things going on in the District. From the amazing campus and agriculture building at George Jr., to seeing the whole class take care of animals at TST BOCES, District VII is the place to be! District VII has planned a Winter Weekend at Camp "O" this February! Talk to your advisor for more information! We hope to see many of our chapters attend!

Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is shining on a member from the Tully FFA chapter, Meghan Weaver. While taking Animal Science last year, she was exposed to FFA and has showed interest in joining. So, Meghan decided to attend meetings and she got involved very quickly. She started joining and helping committees such as the banquet and annual plant sale committees, as she was a big part in making these events happen. But that wasn't enough for Meghan, she wanted to do more in FFA, so she bought her own FFA jacket and signed up for Dairy and Livestock judging CDE's at State Fair last August. Along with the rest of her team, they set up times to practice this past summer and prepare to do their best. She also helped with Tully's Annual Youth Development Conference, as part of her role in preparing for this event she worked on the invitations and delivered 240 of them to the elementary school. Meghan also designed the t-shirts for the annual conference. All her peers say that "Meghan is an excellent student in class, she's always attentive, and she works well with others." Meghan is involved in the dairy industry, before and after school she milks 150 cows on the dairy farm that she works at. Meghan does such a good job, her boss has started giving her other tasks to do around the farm. Meghan also enjoys kicking things up by doing Karate as one of her hobbies. When she grows up she wants to be a Veterinary Technician, she has been volunteering at the Veterinary Hospital in Tully. Congratulations Meghan Weaver and keep up the amazing work!



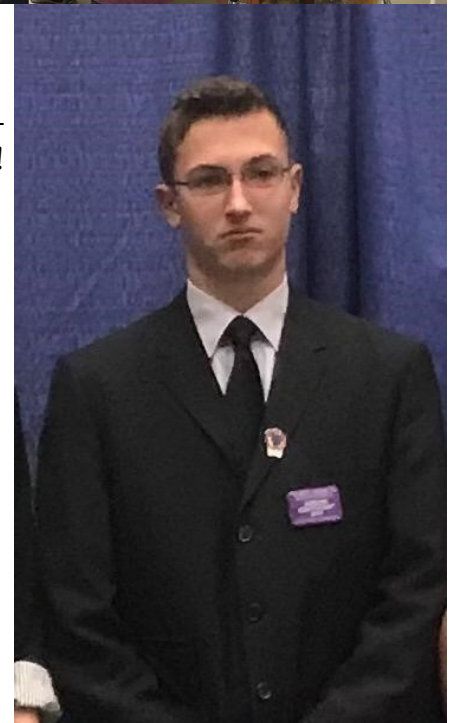
District Ten

by Gwen Chase

As the school year drives on, District X, continues to aim high and has had many achievements. The Sherman FFA chapter had a meeting on November 17th, where Sr. members helped to prepare Jr. members for LDE competitions at Districts this winter. Chapter members are also helping to discreetly distribute food packages to community members in need. The Sherman and Clymer FFA chapters finished off their month with the closing of the annual fruit and cheese sales. Members can hardly wait for the next step, making the wreaths, which were also included in the fundraiser! The Cassadaga Valley Chapter has been getting excited for the 212/360 leadership conference, where 4 members were selected to attend! The Pine Valley FFA chapter is planning a meeting to learn proper Parliamentary Procedure. On Monday the 27th, the Cuba Rushford FFA chapter officers will be involved in a video, promoting New York Agricultural Programs, while focusing on Community Service. Members from every chapter in the district have been busy working on their SAE projects, but also preparing to earn Discovery and Greenhand degrees. Keep striving this year to accomplish your goals District Ten!

Member Spotlight

Cole Armison is a devoted member of the Fillmore FFA Chapter, where he began his FFA Journey in 7th grade. Cole is now in 9th grade, and says he joined FFA because he lives and works on a farm, and found that he could relate to the growing agricultural organization. He also feels FFA has made strong connections with his work on his family Dairy Farm. Cole worked hard to participate in Livestock Judging at the national level. In addition to working on the farm, Cole shows, raises, and sells, rabbits through his local 4-H program, where he also gives captivating presentations about one of his favorite animals, the cow! When Cole can find some free time away from the farm, you may see him snowboarding with his ski club, or riding his dirt bike! Cole plans to continue his FFA career until he graduates. From there he hopes to join the Army and have an occupation in the Dairy Industry. Cole is a hard worker, who uses his knowledge of the dairy industry to inform those about the importance of agriculture! Don't stop applying your knowledge to make a difference in agriculture Cole!



National Member Spotlight

Emma DeGroat is from the Foley FFA Chapter located in Foley, Minnesota and has been a FFA member since her freshman year in 2014. Emma has two outstanding SAEs in the areas of small animal production and care and vegetable crop production that she is very proud of and would like the members of New York to know about! “Three years ago, I bought two Californian rabbits to raise. A year and a half ago, I down sized to having just one rabbit. As part of this SAE, I use the rabbit to educate the public about rabbits and agriculture at the Benton County Fair and at the family night petting zoo at Foley Fun Days. It gets interesting when people who know nothing about the ag industry come over and ask what it is that you’re holding! I’ve heard chicks be called ducks and llamas being called horses! You never know what is going to be said next, you just have to know how to educate them nicely.



My first SAE didn’t do as well as I thought it would at the State level, so I was back at the drawing board. We eat a lot of vegetables and it was a fairly inexpensive project. I applied for a \$250 grant from my FFA chapter and won. I used that money to buy seeds for 2 years and things needed to freeze the vegetables like freezer bags. It also went to buying rabbit food for my rabbit. I planted mostly sweet corn and string beans, but had a variety of vegetables as well. I have found that growing your own food tastes a lot better and has more flavor than store bought!”



Emma has held chapter office the last 3 years. During her Sophomore year she was Historian, during her Junior year she was President and ran for Region IV office but was not selected. This year, she is her chapter Secretary and hopes to be a Region officer for the coming year! She has competed in the Horse Evaluation CDE all 4 years of high school, making it to States twice! The years she did not make it to States, she competed in one CDE per month. She has attended National FFA Convention the past 2 years and has met some amazing people on the 13 hour bus ride down. “It was a long time to sit, I can tell you that!” Some of her hobbies include, raising pigs, being outdoors, photography, crocheting, cooking, anything hands on, and everything to do with the agriculture industry! Emma plans to go to the University of Wisconsin- River Falls for Agriculture Education with a minor in Equine Science. “My advisor wants to retire soon so I hope to come back to Foley and teach. I have always known I wanted something to do with agriculture but didn’t know exactly what until I joined FFA. Agriculture is very diverse and an ag teacher gets to see all sides of it.” She would like to have a hobby farm where she can grow all of her food, both vegetable and livestock, and not have to rely on commercial production as much. One question that is always on my mind is how are we going to feed 9 billion by 2050 if there are people already starving? Emma is an outstanding member in the state of Minnesota with a heart full of service! Good luck with your future, Emma!





“You may win and you may lose but you will never be defeated.”

“Be the reason someone smiles today.”

NOVEMBER QUOTES TO LIVE BY!

“Life is so much brighter when we focus on what truly matters.”

“It is always the simple that produces the marvelous”

“Learn to let things go that you cannot control.”

A Word from the Officers

As we get closer to the holiday season, the State Officers would like to share what our favorite holidays are!

Ethan Keller
State President
Sharon Springs FFA

My favorite holiday would have to be Thanksgiving. I really enjoy Thanksgiving because it allows me to spend time surrounded by my family and friends, eating a great meal, while also celebrating and recognizing what we're thankful for. My family is always on the go between my brother's sports practices or games, my FFA events, or whatever club meetings we had that week. As crazy as our schedule was, we wouldn't want it any other way because those activities are so important to us. However, we were always so thankful for the opportunity to take a break and just spend quality quiet time together. In fact, some of my fondest memories with my family include sitting on the couch watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade run its course in front of us on the television. We would always watch the parade while dinner was cooking, and just enjoy our time together. Thanksgiving was so special to me because it was one of those times where we could just relax and spend time with each other and take time to focus on our family and what we're thankful for. To top it all off, you get to eat some great food and that just makes the whole day even better.



Megan Lamb
State Vice President
Stockbridge Valley FFA

My favorite holiday by far is Christmas. Although all of the presents are amazing, the reasons why Christmas is my favorite is far from the presents wrapped beneath the tree. My family has created many lasting Christmas traditions that I will always cherish. First and foremost, it would not be a normal Christmas if the whole entire Lamb family did not go to a Christmas Tree Farm and pick out all of our trees together. After picking out our tree, my entire family travels back to my grandmothers house and spends the rest of the day decorating her Christmas Tree and her house. Another reason why Christmas is my favorite holiday is because on Black Friday, instead of going out and ransacking the stores for the best deals, my family stays home and decorates our house for Christmas. Baking Christmas cookies, decorating our house the day after Thanksgiving and helping my grandmother pick out her Christmas tree are only a few of the many reasons why Christmas is hands down my favorite holiday of the year.



Lindsey Nassimos
State Secretary
Madison FFA

For me there is no scene more perfect than snow falling onto the ground and leaving behind a light and absolutely beautiful layer of white powder covering the trees and bushes. This view is then amplified by having Christmas lights wrapped into the snow, lighting it up, so someone would think that my favorite holiday is Christmas because it is at this time of the year when this sight is seen. But in actuality, my favorite holiday is without a doubt Thanksgiving. This is because in the beginning of December both sets of my grandparents go to states down south to escape the New York winter. Knowing this, the last bit of time that I get to spend with all of my family is Thanksgiving, and this is exactly what we do. We usually have Thanksgiving at my house and all of my family travel the five minute drive or takes the walk to meet the other members of our family at our tightly packed dining table. Here we share a five course meal and endless memories and laughs that we always remember. After this we all sit together in the living room and watch some of our favorite holiday movies. But I think my favorite part of this whole day is being able to sit down with all of my family and share what I am most thankful for.



Jenna Kibbe
State Treasurer
Clymer FFA

Out of all of the holidays to choose from, my favorite would have to be Easter. Growing up as a little girl, I can always remember waking up that Sunday morning and being filled with great excitement. My older sister Jessie and I would rush to the living room to find our parents and see if we could look for our baskets. After we found them and ate breakfast, we would put on our best dresses and head to church. At church we would always learn about the crucifixion of Jesus and the true meaning of why we celebrate Easter. Now being older, it's cool to really understand all that Jesus went through to save everyone's sins which makes me appreciate the things I love the most even more. After church, my family always goes to my grandparents' house where we feast on some of the best food in the world prepared by my grandma. After that, my grandma always had some sort of game planed for my cousins and I, and that was something to look forward to. Then after their house we would meet with the other half of my family and have another delicious meal and more games to play. At the end of every Easter, I am always reminded how much my family means to me. I am reminded how much God loves all of us and because of these things, I always end the day with a smile on my face and a lot of love in my heart. Because of the feelings I get on Easter, this is why it is my favorite holiday where I can be with my family and celebrate God.



Kim Doyle
State Reporter
Tri-Valley FFA

Having a large family, it makes it very hard to chose a favorite holiday because whenever my whole family gets together, it makes for a great time! That being said, my favorite holiday has to be Thanksgiving! Not only does my entire family get together , we also enjoy a meal that we all prepare together. We each also share what we are thankful for and celebrate a great year! I love the memories that Thanksgiving always brings and the fun that is in store!



KristiAnn Frank
State Sentinel
VVS FFA

My favorite holiday would most definitely be Christmas! Christmas time brings the best weather and the most beautiful decorations. I love being able to look outside my window and see the snow falling, bringing so much joy when we sled down an enormous hill. My family and I get ready for the holiday season by getting every Christmas decoration out the weekend after thanksgiving and we set out on our journey of picking the best looking Christmas tree to cut down together. Christmas allows for happiness, caring and joy to illuminate across the world! Another tradition my family and I do is take a drive to Onondaga Lake to go through and see all the displays of lights on the lake, it is definitely a memory every year that does not go unforgotten. Christmas brings my whole family together for intense games of spoons and saran wrap ball exchange, laughter when reminiscing about moments by the fire, and the ever so loved snowball fights and sled races.



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