



NYFFA Speaks



October 2017

Hey New York FFA!

by Kim Doyle

We have barely touched the surface with some of the things we have coming in New York, but October was such a great month for our students; from State Officer Tour to National Convention, this month was packed with so many activities! We started off the month with State Officer Tour, where the State Officer Team and National Officer Candidate, Maria Martinez, spent a week road tripping across the state. They had the opportunity to tour over ten different agricultural education programs, and even had the pleasure of meeting with Wards Natural Science and Wegmans, both huge supporters of the FFA. We can't forget about seeing the awesome 2018 State Convention Site!

The second half of the month was filled with excitement from the 90th National FFA Convention and Expo. Members from all across New York, travelled to Indianapolis to experience the sea of blue jackets on the National level. Many students competed in contests, toured the expo center, and met members from across this great nation. While at nationals, Mrs. Shari Lighthall received recognition on the national stage for being an Outstanding State Supervisor. Members from across the nation also heard New York's very own, Ashley Willits, as she delivered her amazing retiring address about loving with your best love! For more information on upcoming events and activities visit nysffa.org or ffa.org.

District Updates

See what's happening in NYFFA's Districts!

State Advisor of the month

Hear about one of New York's amazing advisors

Quotes to live by for the month of October!

A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2017-2018 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One

by Stephanie Vera

The John Bowne FFA Chapter has very exciting news, The United States Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, came to visit our school earlier this month. Several of our agricultural students took Secretary Perdue on a tour around our farm plots and facilities. After the tour, 25 students, enjoyed lunch with Secretary Perdue, which allowed us to interact and ask questions on a more intimate level. We got an in depth tour of his job and responsibilities and even heard about some of the crazy adventures he went on. For someone who has been all over the country visiting many Agricultural Programs, we were overjoyed to hear him say John Bowne was the best he has ever seen. One student states, "I was very nervous before he came here, but after talking to him I was excited he was there and hope he is able to stop by again." It was such an honor for us to receive a visit from the United States Secretary and to have to opportunity to spend three and a half hours with him. The visit made students feel validated and honored for all the dedication they put into their work. Keep up the great work, District One, you are truly making New York FFA proud.

Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is Jennifer Chavez, a sophomore at John Bowne High School. Jenny joined FFA her freshmen year and has been active ever since. Jenny showed her passion for FFA right from the start by joining the Floriculture Team her first year. Her team picked up the skills quite quickly and earned themselves first place at State Convention. They recently attended National Convention representing their chapter and the Floriculture Team. Even though they only placed in bronze, the knowledge and skills they took away made them feel like they placed gold. Jenny plans to utilize her experience toward a new CDE next year, with the hope to make it all the way through states and to nationals again. Jenny states, "I love FFA for many reasons and I appreciate all the opportunities FFA has given me so far. I've made great friendships and amazing memories that I will never forget." Jenny's SAE is focused around assisting her agricultural teachers in the shop working on the Pomonok Program. This program allows Jenny to improve her customer relations by answering any questions or attending to their requests. Many times, Jenny will also help out by running the cash register when they are short handed. Jenny's next step in FFA and life is to earn her Empire Degree and graduate high school, where she plans on continuing her education by pursuing agriculture in college. Apart from being a member of her chapter, she also participates in a filmmaking club, which allows her to make various skits with her friends. Great job, Jenny, continue to show District One your dedication!



District Two

by Patrick Coombe

October was a busy month for District Two with nationals and other activities keeping members engaged. Approximately 40 members travelled to Nationals and represented District Two in Indy. Over the course of the week, students attended sessions, shopped in the FFA Mall, and cruised through the Career Expo. Many chapters had students competing in CDE's during Nationals, so let's take a look at the results.



Cobleskill-Richmondville's Ag Mechanics Team placed silver, with one of the members placing gold. Tri-Valley competed in Ag. Issues and Ag. Communications, which both ended up taking home bronze. District Two's, Cheyanne Matulewich also received bronze for her speech in the Prepared Public Speaking contest. The Warwick Valley FFA chapter competed in Environmental and Natural resources and placed silver as a team, with Erin Ackerley and Alex Ronne placing gold individually. The Greenville FFA chapter was represented by, Emily Duncan who placed bronze in the Creed speaking contest. Congratulations to everyone from District Two who competed in CDE's and other events at nationals.

Besides Nationals, District Two went above and beyond on educating the public about FFA during our annual Ag Fair. Chapter members from Cobleskill-Richmondville, created three different lessons all 15 minutes each, which were conducted to educate over 600 elementary students on how to care for and prepare animals for livestock shows. We also had various farm animals on display, thanks to the Pine Plains FFA, along with horse and tractor pull demonstrations.

Sharon Springs FFA was a part of the annual "Doin' it for Dodi" Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle to benefit both ALS and the Liz Handy Travel Fund. Tri-Valley kicked off the start of their annual fruit sale fundraiser and participated at the Sullivan County Farm Bureau meeting. District Two also spotted Warwick Valley parking cars at their biggest fundraiser, Applefest, where over 15,000 community members attend. They also volunteered at a booth to teach kids about FFA at the Pine Island pumpkin festival. We are proud to see the amount of passion we see radiating from everyone of our chapters.

Member Spotlight

Claire Norman was chosen for member of the month, for stepping up and filling in as Chapter President to keep things running efficiently. Claire is from the Pine Plains FFA chapter, where she has been a member since 6th grade. A few years ago, Claire started her SAE on her family's small dairy farm. Her daily duties include anything from caring for the show cows, making milk deliveries, filing papers, and even going to Greenmarkets in NYC. Over her FFA Career, Claire has competed in Chapter Meeting, Jr. and Sr. quiz bowl, and People in Ag. For the past five years, she has been a part of the winning quiz bowl team. Claire loves being in FFA because she is able to use her knowledge to educate people about the importance of agriculture. FFA has allowed her to be more active in her community and make a difference in her small town, by positively influencing a younger generation. Claire is proud to be apart of an organization that provides students with thousands of opportunities and hands on experience. After graduating, Claire is hoping to travel down the path of becoming an Ag Teacher. Besides FFA, she is involved with Field Hockey, ENY Jr Holstein Club, National Honor Society, Math Honor Society and Student Council. Claire is one outstanding FFA member and is always busy, keep of the great work, District Two is so proud of all you have accomplished so far.

District Four
by Justin Rodda

As the holidays approach rapidly, the chapters of District Four are busy doing annual fundraisers. The Oxford FFA chapter is selling handmade wreaths, the Unadilla Valley FFA is selling gift baskets for the holidays, and all the chapters are participating in the annual Florida Farm Bureau fruit sale. Students have great chances to raise money for their chapters this month and they sure are taking advantage of these opportunities in District Four!

Member Spotlight

This month's member Spotlight is Claire Loker from the Walton FFA Chapter. This year, Claire is going into her Junior year and is also serving as Chapter President. In her free time, Claire is involved in numerous community activities, so much that she received her Empire Degree in Community Service! At the state level Claire competes in the Forestry and Vet Science CDE's. It's no surprise to hear that Claire's SAE is focused in the area of Community Service, where she organizes fundraisers and activities at the County Fair. One activity in particular she and other District Four members put together is the VIP FFA Dairy Showman, which allows for the promotion of FFA and agricultural education to State Senators and Representatives. Claire also organized a membership drive for NYAAE called Give A Gallon, where her and other chapter members raised money for milk in local food banks! Claire uses her passion for her community and her chapter to keep driving her to achieve such success. Keep up the fantabulous work Claire, you make District Four proud!



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

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

District Five

by Taylor Rollins

This month members from District 5 were extremely busy! Members from several chapters traveled to Indianapolis to attend the National FFA Convention and Expo, Cazenovia Aggies even had a team to compete in Food Science and ranked Silver in their competition. Great Job guys! Be on the watch, in the next few months FFA members will be selling fruit and some are even hosting "Picture your Pet with Santa" fundraisers.

Member Spotlight

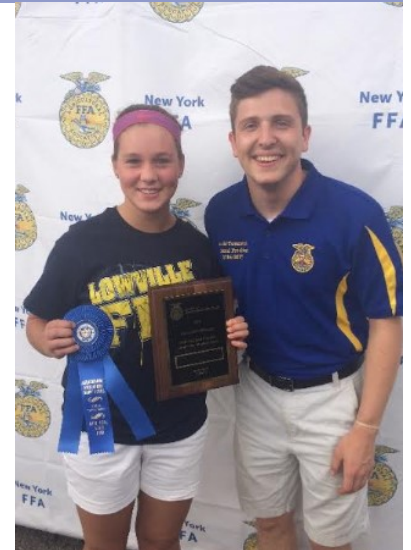
Hundreds of members all throughout New York State and District Five conduct many different and extraordinary things; Gabby Adams from the VVS FFA Chapter is no exception and is the reason she has been selected to be in the Spotlight this month. Gabby just wrapped up her freshman year in school and has been involved in her chapter for nearly two years now. Gabby is very eager to serve as the VVS FFA secretary this upcoming year and have the opportunity to implement some of her new ideas. Her SAE is focused in the area of Dairy Placement, where she works non-stop raising and showing her own dairy cattle. Gabby loves participating in FFA on both the local, state, and even national levels. She has a passion for competing in different CDE's and LDE's and enjoys trying new things. Even though her favorite competitions tend to be aimed at public speaking, she has competed in parliamentary procedure, maple, and talent. Every year, Gabby looks forward to traveling to New York City with her chapter to educate students in several different schools on the maple producing process and industry. She loves being able to hand out free samples of products they have produced and most importantly sharing her passion for maple. "I love being an FFA member because I have made so many new friends and experienced so many new things," says Gabby. Eventually she hopes to serve as her chapter president and even as a state officer so she can give back to an organization that has given so much to her. Besides FFA, Gabby is involved in 4-H Oneida County Teen Council, Junior Holstein Association, and is even an active member of her local Farm Bureau. Gabby continually exemplifies traits of a dedicated FFA member, and is a leader and mentor to others both while wearing her beloved corduroy jacket and in everyday circumstances. Keep up the great work Gabby!



District Six

by Ethan Billman

This month, District six had many adventures to not only prepare for, but also experience as well. Many chapters, Indian River, Carthage, Lowville, and South Lewis, took a trip to Indianapolis for National Convention. Throughout the trip, members constructed new friendships with students from across the nation and got to swap their stories about how they got to be involved in the FFA. Even though there were many highlights throughout the trip, there happened to be one that sparked everyone's attention. Being able to see District Six's very own Ashley Willits the National Eastern Region Vice President's retiring address about "Best Love," was truly inspiring and heartwarming. Ashley spoke to members about how everyone needs to give their best support, attention and care to everything they are doing. At the end of the trip, members went home with their minds set to being the best they can possibly be and getting more involved in their chapter and community.



Member Spotlight

This month taking the October Member Spotlight reigns is Anna Western from the Lowville FFA chapter. Anna is in 9th grade and just recently joined FFA after filling someone's spot last minute for 212/360. Once arriving, Anna almost instantly fell in love with the organization and immediately was trying to figure out how she could become more involved with her chapter. Her advisor helped spark her interest for CDE competitions and is the reason she competed in Jr. Extemporaneous her first year, where she placed 4th in Districts and 3rd in sub-states. Her plan is to continue to work harder so she is able to advance farther in her competitions. On a state level, Anna had the pleasure of competing in Maple and on a national level she participated in Dairy Foods. Anyone that meets Anna would confidently say how enthusiastic and positive she is as member and is someone who wants to go further in the organization to help her chapter and community. Anna is currently working on building an SAE in the area of Livestock Production, working with Poultry, where she plans to buy and raise hens to collect and sell their eggs. Outside of FFA, Anna is very involved with her studies, French Club, and Student Council. Anna's only regret is not getting involved in FFA sooner and has made it her mission that other potential members don't make the same mistake. Her goal this year is to communicate the benefits FFA would give to students who aren't involved to try and spark their interest. Keep up the good work, Anna, District six is proud of you!



District Seven

by Brett Jillson

District Seven has been hard at work with our Leadership Development Events and Supervised Agricultural Experiences. In late October, numerous chapters and members attended the National Convention and Expo, and participated in sessions, workshops, the career expo, and various tours. In a few months, members of our district will be traveling to Camp Oswegatchie for a winter weekend, which will be full of team building and outdoor winter activities. This fun weekend will be held from Thursday, February 22nd to Saturday, February 24th. Stay tuned for more details! Go follow “NYS FFA District 7” on Facebook to see what’s happening in District 7!

Member Spotlight

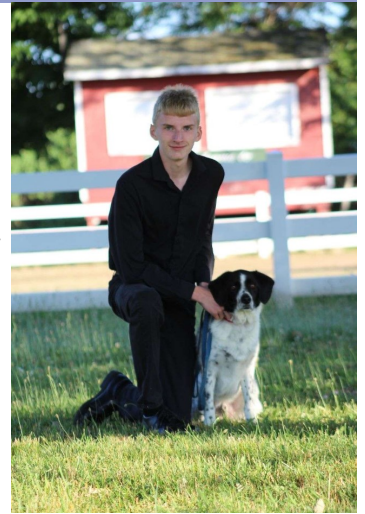
This month, we have had one member in particular stepping up in her chapter and taking on more of a leadership role. This outstanding student is no other than Olivia Nalley from the Moravia FFA Chapter. Olivia has put in a huge effort in her chapter by helping out with whatever needs to be accomplished. More specifically, she helped a lot with the Second Annual Moravia Tractor Pull by collecting donations to offset the pull, along with announcing during the pull. At Moravia’s annual Barnyard Day, Olivia brought in a pony to teach people about proper animal care. In late October, Olivia went to National Convention in Indianapolis, where she spent a majority of her time interacting with members from all over the country. She got to go to two sessions where she learned more about the FFA and got to look at many college options at the Career Expo. Olivia says, “It was jaw dropping to see the sea of blue during Nationals, it literally gave me Goosebumps to see all of those members there representing this amazing organization!” Outside of FFA, Olivia loves to spend her free time riding and training horses at a local barn in her area, helping her mom in an animal shelter, being an active member of 4-H, and running Cross Country and Track. She plans on continuing her hard work for this chapter while keeping herself with a busy schedule. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication, Olivia, District Seven cannot wait to see what else you can accomplish this year!



District Ten

by Gwen Chase

It has been a productive month for District Ten. Sherman and Cassadaga Valley both started off October with their annual Meat, Fruit, and Cheese fundraiser sale. Cassadaga Valley also took part in the CVCS Adventure Mile Race on October 27th where members did ran various water breaks along the course and cheered runners. Cuba-Rushford competed in the Alfred Stockman's Contest and placed first with their team consisting of Kaylee Eddy, Logan Kelley, and Emily Lyman. The same team also had the opportunity to venture to Nationals to compete in the Marketing Plan Team. The Randolph FFA chapter brought 34 members to The Alfred Ag Skills and Vet Contests. The Vet Tech Team, Claire Roosa, Autumn Walters and Sarah Steward, took home fourth place. While the Ag Skills team, Kendalle Booth, Mike Kibbe and Evan Liskow took home seventh place. The Randolph FFA welders took home 1st, 8th, 10th and 12th place at the state welding contest along with 2nd and 4th place teams, with Noah Perssons coming in first over all. The team of Sarah Steward, Autumn Walters, Kendalle Booth and Evan Liskow placed 2nd overall in the Meats Contest. District Ten has really stepped up to the plate this month and showed NYFFA their amazing skills and talents!



Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is known to some as Crash, but most call him Dalton Holthouse. Dalton joined Clymer FFA in 8th grade and has fallen in love with every feature of it. He says, "I love meeting new people and teaching young members how to be the best leaders they can be!" Dalton has competed in numerous CDE's, some of which include Food Science, Prepared Public Speaking and Ag Issues. Each CDE has brought on new challenges, but that hasn't stopped Dalton or his team members from finding their way to states from time to time. Even though Dalton hasn't competed at the National level yet, that hasn't defeated his confidence to someday take take his food science team to the top. At the last State Convention, Dalton and the food science team came in third place! When he's not doing all things FFA, you can find him working on his SAE, which he has been working on since age ten. For years now, Dalton has been raising and showing dogs at local, state and national fairs. Not only is Dalton the president of his chapter, he also participates in 4-H and his school's trap shooting club. Along with his love for shooting trap, Dalton also has a passion for playing the trumpet and landscaping around his community. As Dalton approaches his final high-school year, he has decided to continue onto college and become a Dietician. Dalton is very optimistic about the future and hopes to get his American Degree in the next few years. Keep up the awesome dedication Dalton!



State Advisor of the Month

Someone who doesn't always get their chance in the spotlight for all that she does for New York FFA is our Agricultural Education Outreach Director, Mrs. Shari Lighthall. Mrs. Lighthall has served New York Agricultural Education for over 20 years and just recently, she was recognized for her continuous support and dedication to our organization during the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education Conference. She was honored on stage with a plaque which awarded her the title of, Outstanding State Supervisor. The plaque reads, "As a true leader you have the confidence and courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. Because of the quality of your actions and the integrity of your intent, you have overcome barriers to success that would have caused others to falter or fail. You have been decisive where others have hesitated. You will always be recognized as an outstanding leader in Agricultural Education for your efforts."



The purpose of the award is to acknowledge and encourage superior contributions to the field of supervision in agricultural education. Every year, only one recipient is selected from the nomination applications, which we were overjoyed that one of our very own was chosen to receive this esteemed award. During her time, Mrs. Lighthall has shown her support, care, and heart when it comes not only to New York Agricultural Education but to serving the greater good for our teachers and students on the state and national level. It was truly heartwarming for New York to showcase the amazing individual that represents our organization.

The New York FFA across the state is so proud of you, Mrs. Lighthall! We have gathered some quotes and congratulatory messages from some of the District Presidents and State Officers!

-“I appreciate Mrs. Lighthall because she makes everyone feel important and would do anything to help anyone grow” - Ethan Keller, State President

-“I really appreciate everything that Mrs. Lighthall does and am more than happy that she received this award! It is well deserved!” -Kim Doyle, State Reporter

-“Mrs. Lighthall is a lady who never fails in furthering the New York State FFA Association! She is always there looking for new ideas, cultivating current practices and enriching the lives of NYS FFA Members. Mrs. Lighthall is one of the many people in our association who always makes the dream work!” - KristiAnn Frank, State Sentinel

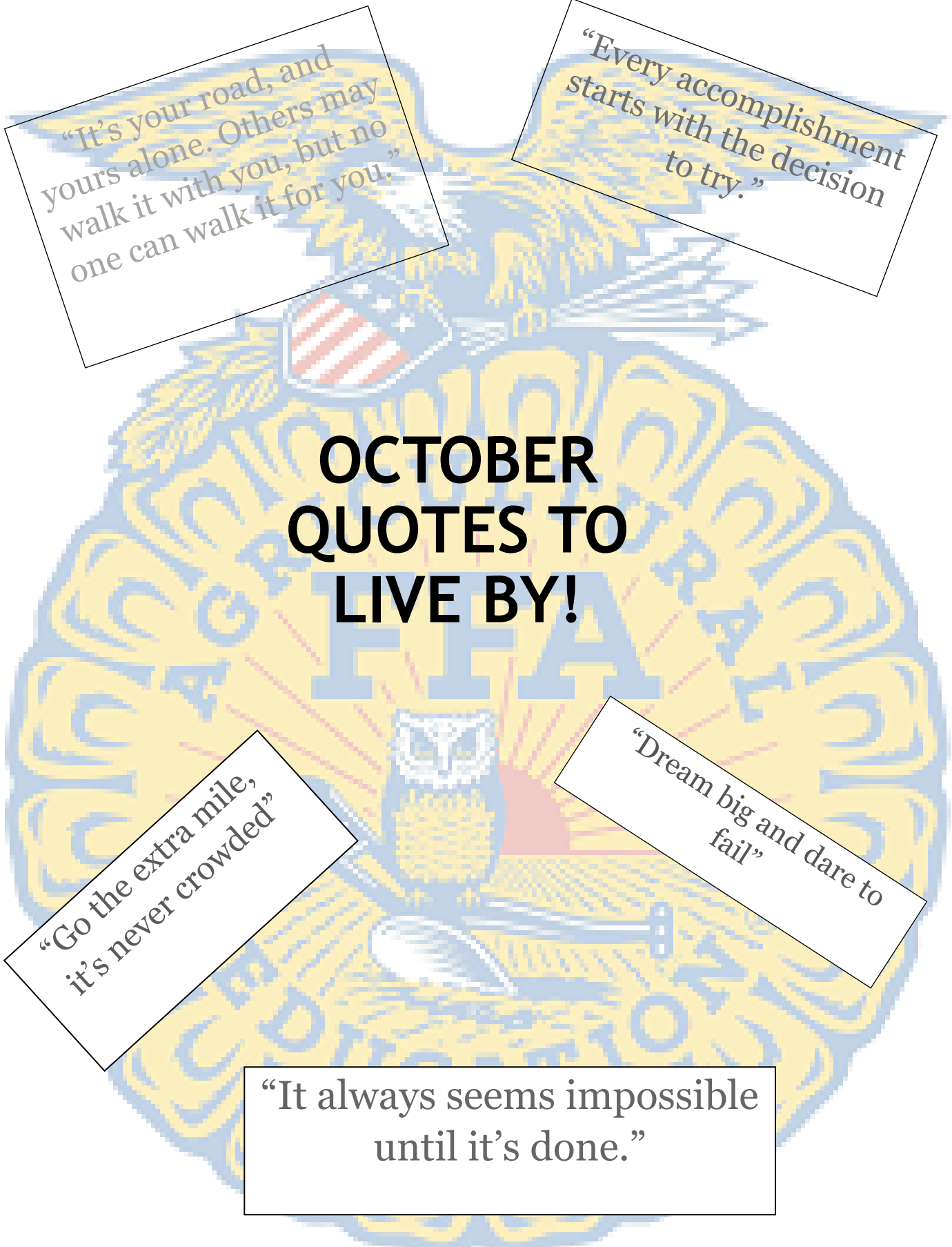
-“I appreciate Mrs. Lighthall for all the hard work she does for us and makes sure that we get our job done.” - Stephanie Vera, District 1 President

-“Thank you for your service to the New York State FFA organization. If it wasn't for your service to our association, our program wouldn't be nearly as strong. Your commitment and dedication doesn't go unnoticed.” -Patrick Coombe, District 2 President

-“I know she does a tremendous amount of work to keep the NY FFA afloat and pushes each one of us to thrive as FFA Members.” -Justin Rodda, District 4 President

-“I appreciate how Mrs. Lighthall is always there for us no matter what to support and push us to do the very best we possibly can. She also takes time to work toward building connections with every member.” -Ethan Billman, District 6 President

-“Mrs. Lighthall - you're a light that shines so bright in NY FFA! Congratulations, all of your hard work does not go unnoticed. I'm so proud of you!” -Maria Martinez, 2017 NY National Officer Candidate



"It's your road, and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you."

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

OCTOBER QUOTES TO LIVE BY!

"Go the extra mile, it's never crowded"

"Dream big and dare to fail"

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

A Word from the Officers

As we near the half way point in our year of service, we would like you to know our reason for being here.

Ethan Keller

State President

Sharon Springs FFA

The FFA has truly changed my life for the better, and for that I am forever grateful. Before joining this organization, I didn't believe that I had what it took to be confident and successful in whatever I choose to do. However, since joining, I have been able to find my passion, develop myself as a strong leader, and have gain courage that I didn't even know I could had. I have genuinely been able to grow in such a positive way because of my membership and I can honestly say that I would be a completely different person had I not joined this organization back in 6th grade. Today, I hope to give back to the FFA by serving as a positive influence for our members and supporters. I firmly believe that every single person has a unique story to tell, and that we should share those stories so that we can grow with one another and work to benefit our organization as a whole. This year as a State Officer, I hope to help as many people as possible share their stories so that we can achieve that goal. I'm here because I want to help other people develop into more confident and strong individuals that will use their voice to make changes for the better!



Megan Lamb

State Vice President

Stockbridge Valley FFA

After reflecting on my week spent in Indianapolis at the National FFA Convention and Expo, I was asked the question "Why Am I Here?" After thinking on my answer for many days, I realized I had many reasons why I am serving New York State FFA as a State Officer. First and foremost, I was chosen by FFA members across the State to serve this year, however I'm also here to show members that any ordinary person can achieve amazing things. I was never someone famous or a superstar within the FFA, but at National Convention I was able to stand on the convention stage as a Proficiency Finalist and sit on the delegate floor enacting change within our organization. I am here to prove to any member that with hard work, they can achieve anything, but most importantly, I am here to truly get to know the members across the state and learn all about their story.



Lindsey Nassimos

State Secretary

Madison FFA

Considering nationally, the average American is four generations removed from a farm, it is no surprise that I do not come from an agricultural background. Knowing this, when it was time for me to step into the agriculture classroom I'm sure that you can all imagine how out of place I felt. I mean almost everyone of my classmates sitting next to me either grew up or worked on a farm and I had nothing even close to that experience. However, thanks to the diversity within this subject as well as the National FFA Organization, I began to feel right at home. I started to feel a connection form between my classmates, my agriculture teacher, and myself. I I started to feel like I was right where I belonged. I know that there are many more students out there that face a similar challenge to the one that I did. With this in mind, I am here to show everyone that we can find a home in the places where we least expect it. I'm here to show students that they are worthy of being a part of this organization. I'm here to show that no matter what your background looks like, you can feel like you belong here.



Jenna Kibbe

State Treasurer

Clymer FFA

One of the deepest questions someone can be asked is why are you here? On a large scale, I was put on the Earth to share my love and faith with others and be a friend to all. But why am I a State Officer? Ever since I joined in 7th grade, I have grown so much as a person. Little 7th grade Jenna was shy, awkward, and not a social person in any way, but ever since I competed in my very first competition, I was changed. I wanted to do more, and challenge myself to be better. If the FFA wouldn't have challenged me step out of my comfort zone, I wouldn't be here. My deep love for this organization is why I am here. I want to be able to share my love with all of our members because I can only imagine how much their lives could be changed for the better just like mine. I want to be a friend and someone anybody can turn to in any situation. Being a State Officer has allowed me to meet so many members and I'm so blessed to be able to serve New York and be able to give back for all that the FFA has given me.



Kim Doyle
State Reporter
Tri-Valley FFA

Not that long ago, I was asked “why I am here.” I have had the opportunity to be apart of this organization for quite a few years and have been able to receive so much from it. I have met so many new people, and have been able to see so many new things. I am here to help members have the same opportunities and experiences that I have been able to have. I have also been influenced by so many people during my time in this organization, and hope to be able to influence others in similar ways. One of my favorite and most valued experiences within this organization was my time at the Washington Leadership Conference. Through this conference I was able to learn so much about myself, and how I can better my home and community. This organization has opened so many doors for me and I hope to be able to open similar doors for others. Everyone in this world has the chance to influence someone, and I am looking forward to being able to influence others this year.



KristiAnn Frank
State Sentinel
VVS FFA

I am here because I want to showcase the FFA organization to every FFA member. Due to the FFA I have been able to experience things I never would have before taking my first steps into a junior high meeting and devoting all my time to this organization. I have been able to travel the state and the country, I flew on an airplane for the first time because of FFA, met with county and state dignitaries, learned about agriculture in a new way, and grew my own personal characteristics. Being involved in FFA has opened my eyes to so many new things and without the FFA I would most definitely not be the young leader I am today. I am so grateful for what this organization has provided me and I couldn't express more that it's all due to the opportunities and experiences I have chosen to dive deeper into. As an FFA member, you have an endless amount of opportunities and experiences laying right in front of you, are you going to take ahold of them?



GET READY FOR

Governmental
Awareness

212/360 Conference