



## Hey New York FFA!

by Kim Doyle

September was jam packed for New York FFA with the start of the new school year. Chapters were also conducting many events and activities including chapter meetings, officer elections, Big E, and COLT Conference.

The Big “E” or the Eastern States Exposition is the next level for contestants that place second at the state level. New York FFA was lucky enough to have two teams place first at the Big “E”, Pioneer FFA in the Farm Business Management contest and our New York Dairy Handling Team comprised of four girls from all over the state. We are so proud of the accomplishments from all of our New York Teams who competed.

One day is a short amount of time, but COLT conference is paramount to a successful year ahead for chapter leaders. COLT conference is packed full of workshops facilitated by Cornell’s Collegiate FFA and State FFA Officers, which help lay the groundwork for a successful year as a chapter. Teamwork, fundraising, and building relationships are just a few of the topics that are addressed with these leaders during the conference.

These are just a few of the awesome things that FFA members get to do and experience throughout the year! Make sure to check out all of the upcoming events at [nysffa.org](http://nysffa.org).

District Updates  
See what’s happen-  
ing in NYFFA’s Dis-  
tricts

State Advisor of the  
Month!

Learn a little bit  
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awesome Advisors  
our state is home to!

Quotes to live by for  
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Hear from the 2017-  
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Officer team!

District One  
*by* Stephanie Vera

Extra, extra, read all about it, John Bowne has some important news that you just can't refuse. Since tragedy struck September 11, 2001, John Bowne has been growing and maintaining survivor ornamental pear trees with the help from the Aggie students. This summer, the Bartlett Tree Company came to John Bowne and took the trees to Long Island. Throughout the event, trees were trimmed, staked, and loaded on to trucks for Fire Departments and Police Stations to distribute to various 9/11 memorials. Several professionals from the 9/11 Memorial Museum stopped by and paid their respects to our event. Personally, being able to dedicate my time allows me to show my support for this country. John Bowne was also busy this month with their annual, "Welcome Back Picnic," where chapter officers were able to introduce the CDE Teams and discuss future events with the chapter. Also, the 2017-2018 Officer Team was revealed and presented!



## Member Spotlight

Ambar Robalino is a junior at the John Bowne High School and was recently elected as this year's Sentinel! Ambar joined FFA freshmen year and has been active ever since. Ambar states, "I love being in FFA because FFA has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and develop myself into the person I am today. FFA shows me that there is progress to be made no matter what." During her freshman year, she showed her passion right from the start by running and serving as the chapters Student Advisor. Even though Ambar has not gone to Nationals yet, her goal is to attend this year with hopes to acquire new leadership skills she can bring back and implement in her chapter along with her community. Her SAE is focused in the area of herpetology by caring for animals in John Bowne's reptile room. Her work is mainly focused around snake handling, such as ball pythons, corn snakes, milk snakes, and various hybrids. The highlight of her SAE is handling a 60-pound short python named Emma. Ambar's next step in FFA is to earn her Empire Degree and run for State Office, while her next step in life is to attend LaGuardia Community College to pursue



being a Veterinary Technician so she can achieve her goal of working with large exotic animals, preferably at the Bronx Zoo. While being an active member of her chapter, she also volunteers at the Queens Zoo working as a discovery guide for the Wildlife Conservation Society. Ambar also enjoys doing special effects for cosplay and experimenting with different cosmetics. Keep up the great work Ambar!



## District Two

by Patrick Coombe

District 2 has been occupied with a new school year commencing and chapters organizing activities to obtain new members. The Pine Plains FFA chapter has been working hard on promoting their local Ag Fair - high school members teach elementary kids how to care for and show dairy cattle and horses. They also, attended Cobleskill Ag Day where they competed in Agricultural Contests.

The Greenville FFA competed in the Environmental and Natural Resources, Nursery landscape, Dairy cattle handlers, and Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management CDE's at the State Fair. They even had one of their members compete at the Eastern States Exposition in Prepared Public Speaking.

The Cobleskill Richmondville FFA Chapter volunteered at the NYS Fair at the Dairy Cow Birthing Center. Seven members educated the public on different aspects of dairy cattle, cleaned newborn calf pens, and even witnessed three births! At their first chapter meeting they discussed AG Fair, Homecoming Hall Decorating and Cider Sale, National FFA Convention, and Fundraising. They determined they would be conducting dog training, food preservation, and tick and Lyme disease prevention activities at the Ag Fair. They also had a bake sale which raised \$270 for their chapter members who will be attending National Convention.

Sharon Springs Central School FFA had many students place in individual and team events. They are incredibly proud of all the hard work their students put into getting ready for competition.

September wrapped up State Fair for the Tri-Valley FFA, displays taken down, projects collected, and awards claimed. The chapter horse judging team and State Star in Agriculture Placement, Patrick Coombe, attended Big E. Congratulations to Emily Carey for placing fifth individually in horse judging. Tri-Valley also had its first two chapter meeting during September, including our Tagged to Teach Ag pizza party.

Warwick Valley FFA have been busy preparing for Nationals with their Environmental Science Team and also getting ready for annual Applefest.

## Member Spotlight

This month, Erin Ackerly from the Warwick Valley FFA Chapter has been selected as member spotlight based upon her hard work and dedication through years of service to her chapter and community. Erin has competed in Parliamentary Procedure, Extemporaneous Speaking, Nursery Landscape, Dairy handling, and Environmental Science; man has she been busy, am I right? She has attended nationals once for Nursery landscape and is excited for this year's convention where she will be competing in Environmental Science. Her SAE tends to be very labor intensive, not only does she harvest and sell fruits and vegetables at a Farmer's market every Sunday, but she also works on her brother's dairy farm showing and milking Jersey Cows. Some of her other responsibilities on the farm consist of helping feed cows and unloading hay. Erin joined Warwick Valley FFA when she was in 8th grade and has been active for the last five years. After graduating high school, Erin plans on continuing her education in the agricultural industry by studying Agricultural business in college. Erin is also active in National Honors Society and playing the violin in her schools orchestra. Keep up the hard work Erin!



## District Three

By Aleecia Seymour

# Member Spotlight

Cheyenne Tompkins, member of the Granville FFA Chapter, has been selected as Septembers Member Spotlight for District Three. Her dedication, hard work, and passion is truly what makes her stand out. Cheyenne has been greatly involved with the Granville FFA Chapter for the past five years, joining when she was in 7th grade.

After seeing how long Cheyenne has been actively participating in her chapter, you can bet she has an SAE, which is focused in the area of Entrepreneurship. She raises and sells an array of different animals, such as pigs, goats, chickens, ducks, pheasants, quail, pigeons, rabbits, and even hedgehogs and chinchillas. Cheyenne feels that due to her SAE, the animals have become a big part of her life. She loves to provide for them and in return they provide for her. Within the classroom, Cheyenne has come to love several Leadership Development Events or LDEs, these include Creed, Ag Issues, and Farm Business Management. She hopes to see her FFA career expand as she wants to get more involved in competing with the rest of the members in new contests. She also holds the goal for herself of obtaining a higher leadership position and increasing involvement in annual events. Within Cheyenne's Community, she helps with trash clean-up during Granville's Community Service Day and obtaining Christmas gifts for families in need. As you can see, Cheyenne is very dedicated to giving back to her community and chapter as much as she possibly can. Overall, Cheyenne is a great student and FFA member. Not only is she apart of her chapter but also participates in other school activities, such as track, volleyball, and the hiking club. Thank you Cheyenne for being an amazing role model within your school, chapter, community, and District 3!

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

**Find it Here at:**

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



## District Four *by Justin Rodda*

On September 29th the Oxford FFA held their annual FFA fair, which hosted fourteen vendors and over a dozen animals for kids, students, and community members to come learn about. The head count for the FFA fair was over 780 people! Not only is this a great opportunity for the Oxford FFA to educate the public about their program, but also what agriculture is all about. Congratulations on the great turnout Oxford!



## Member Spotlight

Spencer Meade, a junior at Unadilla Valley and his chapter's reporter, has an impressive amount of leadership and agricultural experience under his belt, which is why he has been selected as this month's Member Spotlight. Throughout Spencer's seven years of FFA, he has demonstrated a large repertoire of leadership abilities. For instance, Spencer has partaken in many community service events such as the day of service at State Convention. Spencer also spends time competing in the ag sales CDE, and many other LDEs. Spencer has attended the National Convention for two years now and is planning on attending one last time for his senior year. Even though Spencer sounds busy with his community and chapter activities, he still finds time outside to work on the family dairy farm. Spencer hopes to receive a star award this year at the State Convention! Good luck pursuing your star award and thanks for being such a great role model for FFA members of all ages, you make District 4 proud Spencer!



## District Five

by Taylor Rollins

With school starting many of the chapters in District 5 have been extremely busy with all sorts of different activities. The VVS chapter went to the annual Remsen Barn Fest and sold some of their maple products and even held a meeting about taking foods from local farms and incorporating it into different school lunch programs. Stockbridge Valley Alumni held their annual auction to support FFA members attending National Convention this October. Adirondack FFA members just finished up their intensive landscape project at their school and started selling cheese curds made by a local dairy farm. Madison FFA went on a field trip to SUNY Morrisville to spawn fish. Members from Madison, Hamilton and Stockbridge are working together to plan Ag. Day for elementary students coming up in October. HFM Ag. PTECH students volunteered at Sundae at the Farm. Dozens of FFA members from various chapters competed at Cobleskill for High School Days. It's safe to say District Five has been extremely active this past month.



## Member Spotlight

With summer coming to a close that could only mean one thing, time for State Fair. Hundreds of FFA members traveled from all over the state to compete in the many different CDE's offered. In particular, Abby Smith, 7th grader from the Stockbridge Valley FFA Chapter, has been looking forward to competing in any and all activities available. Her dedication to becoming the best possible FFA member is the reason she has been selected to be honored as District Five's Member Spotlight. Some of her favorite CDE's consist of Veggie Crop Identification, Horticulture and Tree I.D. "This year was my first year helping out and competing at the fair, which turned out to be a blast. I can't wait to go again next year with my chapter," Abby said. This year she is serving as her chapter sentinel, even though she only joined FFA this past winter. Her first event was Duck Days and she has been "hooked" ever since. In the future Abby wants to be more involved in her FFA Chapter and do as much as possible. We can't wait to see what amazing things she will do in the future, Abby. Keep up the great work!

## District Six

by Ethan Billman

District 6 has been bustling with activity this month! Many chapters have been busy preparing for State Officer Tour. This year District Six had their first ever district wide FFA trivia night held October 3rd at Carthage FFA chapter. Thank you to all the members who came out and participated, it was a huge success. In addition to the district event, chapters were also working to get ready for COLT Conference, where officers would attend and obtain new ideas to help better themselves as leaders along with their chapters.



## Member Spotlight

This month coming onto the Member Spotlight Stage is Hope Barney from the Belleville Henderson FFA Chapter. Hope has been in FFA for 3 years and is currently a Junior. This year, Hope will be able to say she has attended COLT Conference and Nationals for the first time. She also looks forward to attending State Convention for the second time. Hope's favorite thing about FFA are all of the workshops and different trips she gets to experience. Over the past three years, Hope has developed a passion for making her chapter better as well as advocating to her peers the lessons she has been taught during these workshops.

This year, Hope is looking to take her FFA career to the next level by running to serve as next year's District Six President. One really awesome thing about Hope is she doesn't have just one SAE but two, focused in the areas of Equine Science and Dairy Production. Hope owns four horses, two of which she helped a friend in rescuing from a kill lot in Oklahoma. She plans to increase her involvement with the organization to help save more horses from kill lots all across the United States. Keep up the good work Hope, District Six is extremely proud of you!



## District Seven

by Brett Jillson

This past month, District 7 has been full of hard working and fun students! Some members went to National Convention in Indy, while others are starting to pick their Leadership Development Events (LDE's). Stay tuned for more details on our District wide winter weekend at Camp Oswegatchie for this coming February!



## Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is from the Southern Cayuga FFA Chapter, Catherine Kopp. Since fifth grade, Catherine has been actively involved in FFA and is serving as her Chapter President. Her peers describe her as a great communicator and everyone feels welcomed and involved when ever she is around. Catherine, or Catie, has put in so much work into the FFA and participates in almost every event Southern Cayuga does.

Usually she competes in Prepared Public Speaking and does quite a good job at it, but this past year she decided to try out Agricultural Issues Forum with five other people in the chapter. Even though it was her and her teams first time competing in Ag Issues, they did exceptionally well and took home fourth place. All of the long nights and hard work truly paid off for Catie and the team. Catie has developed a booming SAE, which is the School to Community Garden. This project consisted



of her raising money to build raised beds for the school, where various crops are grown for the school's cafeteria along with the King Ferry Food Pantry.

Outside of FFA, Catie plays soccer, basketball, tennis, and golf. She is also involved in other school clubs, as well as volunteering her time for community service. Along with all of her extracurricular activities, Catie is still able to keep her grades in the high 90's! Great job Catie, Keep up the good work!



# District Ten

by Gwen Chase

This month has got everyone kicked back into gear for FFA! The Sherman FFA chapter held their first annual breakfast meeting on Tuesday the 19th. At the meeting, students discussed fundraisers and events such as Colt Conference taking place on the 30th. The Clymer FFA chapter had their election of officers. On Friday the 15th, the Cassadaga FFA chapter started off their back to school year with a meeting, where members devised a plan to obtain new members. They also finalized their plan for their Ag Skills and Leadership course led by Racheal Lessinger for her SAE. The Cuba Rushford chapter came in third place of Dairy judging at state fair. They also elected their new officer team and had many students competing in Marketing Plan at Big E. The Pine valley FFA chapter planned a fruit sale fundraiser that I'm sure will be tasty! District Ten continues to sprout new and fun ideas to make our district unique!

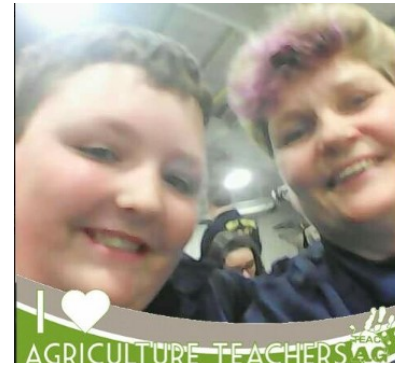
## Member Spotlight

District 10 has so many outstanding members, but in particular, Heidi Moss from Pine Valley FFA Chapter, has really worked hard to get where she's at in FFA! Heidi is a senior in high school and after joining FFA in 7th grade, she has fallen in love with every aspect. Heidi says, "I love meeting new people and making friends." She also loves to experience the different areas of agriculture while traveling to various places, and making connections with ag teachers and professionals. Heidi, also known as the "Mighty Hoss," has participated in CDE's consisting of Prepared Public Speaking and Creed Speaking. Even though Heidi hasn't been to nationals, her ultimate goal is competing her way there this year. However, no matter what happens, win or lose, she will make the most out of her experience at National Convention. If you can't find Heidi in the classroom, then you can find her working on her family farm for her SAE. Through her work, she has bred her own cows, which has led to the growth of her Brown Swiss and Ayrshire herd. She is heavily involved with her farm, especially with her new robotic milker's, where she helps analyze information to determine the best care decisions for her cows. Besides FFA, she is involved in the National Honor Society and swim club and loves to cook, play piano, and garden. As Heidi approaches the end of her high school career, she is applying to colleges to study Dairy Science with hopes of joining collegiate FFA. Keep up the hard work and enthusiasm Heidi!



# State Advisor of The Month

New York State FFA is blessed with such amazing advisors. However, one advisor in particular has stood out due to her dedication to this organization. Mrs. Davidson, advisor of Southern Cayuga, has put her heart into developing her chapter along with providing her students with new opportunities every day. Since most of these opportunities take place outside of school time, it shows just how devoted Mrs. Davidson is to her students. National Convention, 212/360, State Convention, Camp Oswegatchie, State Fair and AIM Conference are just a few of the many events the chapter attends throughout the year. Southern Cayuga has made it to the state level for various competitions and even placed 3rd in Parliamentary Procedure last year.



Mrs. Davidson has worked hard over the years to become active not only at a state level, but also on a community basis. Some of these community based activities include a fundraiser selling fruit and cheese and another selling ducks to raise money for the annual duck race at Camp Oswegatchie. A major highlight for Mrs. Davidson and her students was winning first place at State Fair for their Honey Bees booth. Seeing the amount of joy and pride Mrs. Davidson had in her eyes knowing that all of the hard work from her students finally paid off was truly inspiring. She said, “I am very excited to see what these students can do in the future from the inspiration of winning this past year.”

Mrs. Davidson is such a bright, bubbly person and can make anyone feel welcome and happy. Her personality, hard work, and generosity have inspired her chapter and every student she has in a positive and beneficial way. New York wants to thank her for all that she has done and for always being such a great inspiration and role model to us all. Thank you Mrs. Davidson for being the best you and we can't wait to see what you and your chapter accomplish this year!





“Go the extra  
mile, its never  
Crowded”

“Dream big and  
dare to fail.”

## SEPTEMBER QUOTES TO LIVE BY!

“Stay positive, word  
hard, and make it  
happen.”

“Be the reason some-  
one smiles today. “

“Don’t wait for oppor-  
tunity. Create it.”

## A Word from the Officers

This month, the State Officers would like to share a quote that they live by.

**Ethan Keller**

**State President**

**Sharon Springs FFA**

One quote that I really like, as cliché as it is, would have to be: “Everything happens for a reason.” I believe that everyone has a purpose in life, so it only feels right to me that I would believe in everything having a reason. I know that I have personally experienced quite a few different times where something didn’t necessarily work out for me at first, but then turned around and became even better in the long run. For example, I was able to attend a special college internship during my senior year of high school and even travel to London last January, but that wouldn’t have been possible if I didn’t get turned away from a New Visions program that I also applied for. There’s always a good side to everything that happens, and that is why I believe everything happens for a reason.



**Megan Lamb**

**State Vice President**

**Stockbridge Valley FFA**

A quote that I live by goes something like this, “Never judge someone by the way he looks or a book by the way it’s covered, for inside those tattered pages there’s a lot to be discovered.” This is a quote that I hold very close to my heart because last year I had the chance to become friends with someone who many people previously judged because of his appearance. Many people would say that this student is a distraction in classes, his grades are not the quality they used to be and he’s rude to others. But where many people go wrong is, judging him before he has the chance to explain his story. Last year I learned that Dylan’s mother had passed away and on top of it, his parents had divorced when he was very young. After knowing that, someone may have a different view of Dylan and accept him for the way he is. It’s so easy for people these days to judge someone because of the way they act, or dress, and as a result, we stereotype them before we even know that person's true story.



I challenge all of you to never judge or stereotype someone until you know their true story.

## **Lindsey Nassimos**

### **State Secretary**

#### **Madison FFA**

A few words that I live by every single day is the quote, “It’s your road and yours alone; Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.” After hearing this quote, I thought about it and realized that all of our lives are just like roads. Some have lots of twists and turns while other may be more straightforward – they are all unique, just like we are all unique. In life we are going to have to make some hard choices. We have to decide if we will just follow the traffic as we all travel down the same road or will we veer off in a different direction. I revisit this quote on a daily basis and it is the main reason that I continuously choose my road and mine alone.



## **Jenna Kibbe**

### **State Treasurer**

#### **Clymer FFA**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5

This is something I was taught when I was very young. In everything you do, trust in the Lord and not just jump to conclusions. Whenever I was younger and was scared, my mom would always say trust in the Lord and everything would be fine. When things don't go the way I had anticipated or I just had a bad day, I was always reminded the God had a reason for it and I need to trust Him that something good was going to come out of it. As hard as life can be, knowing that God is always with me and has a plan for my life is always comforting. This verse is so inspiring to me and I try to live it out everyday.



**Kim Doyle**  
**State Reporter**  
**Tri-Valley FFA**

“In the end it’s not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in those years.”

This quote is my personal mantra and is what helped me to realize how important it is that I am truly living in each and every moment. I don’t want to let a single opportunity slip through my fingers because I am just going through the motions instead of challenging myself. Life is what you make it, and my goal is to make it the best that it can be. Will you?



**KristiAnn Frank**  
**State Sentinel**  
**VVS FFA**

“Mistakes are proof that you are trying”

In life everything won't go perfectly as planned and you will be faced with many roadblocks. It's all about how you handle those bumps in the road. If you try your best at succeeding, then you are doing all that you can. Every mistake is an opportunity to learn and grow. Never stop trying and continue to make mistakes!



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GET READY FOR

State Officer Tour

The 90th National FFA  
Convention and Expo