



Hey, New York FFA!

by Kim Doyle

This past month has been quite busy to say the least, not only did members compete at State Fair, but many students attended the InTENse and AIM conferences and spent a week at Oswegathcie too.

InTENse was exactly what its name is-intense. FFA and 4-H members from across the state traveling to five different agricultural colleges. The conference started at SUNY Cobleskill and ended at Alfred State. Students experienced different agricultural majors and classes offered at each school and got a chance to look at their perspective colleges. Some members were able to find their dream college and fill out their entire application! Good luck, New York FFA is routing for your acceptance.

The New York State Fair presented FFA members various opportunities, such as competing in many CDE's ranging from Agronomy to Tree Identification, creating a display representing their FFA chapter and participating in the first ever AIM Conference. This conference was focused around chapter development and ways to showcase chapters to the public. Students also had the opportunity to meet David Townsend, the National FFA President!

New York FFA has had such an amazing month and there is so much more in store! Find out about upcoming events and activities at nysffa.org.

NYFFA Speaks



August 2017

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 August!

A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2017-2018 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One

by Stephanie Vera

The John Bowne FFA Chapter recently completed and distributed Chapter and Greenhand Degrees during their annual Summer Land Lab Picnic. During the picnic, parents and guardians were updated on student progress with their land lab plots, along with various crops that chapter has become dedicated to growing. Attendees to the picnic were able to visit the farm stand and multiple animal buildings. The Chapter Officers have been very busy with their leadership training! So far they have participated in leadership and team building activities which developed them into a close knit team able to work together more efficiently. Throughout the activities, many ideas and thoughts about improved leadership and future activities were tossed around and discussed. After their training, Chapter Vice President Jaylen McDonald stated, “ I couldn’t have asked for a better team, we all got to know each other better and we will work hard everyday to best represent our chapter and serve its members.” Great Job John Bowne, keep up the hard work and dedication for FFA.

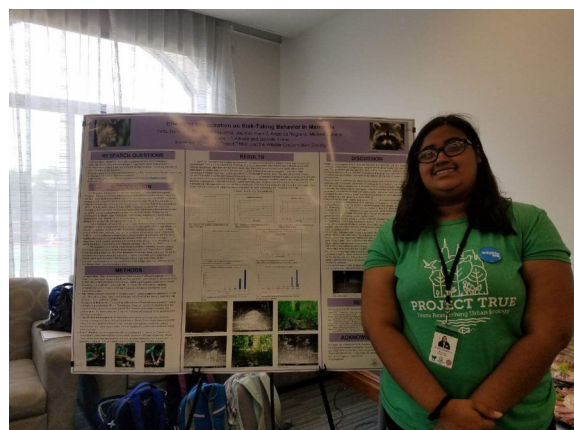


Member Spotlight

This month we have Angelica Noguena, Senior at John Bowne High School, as our August member spotlight. Angi has been chosen by her chapter to serve as Chapter President for this upcoming school year due to her passion and love for FFA. She joined FFA her freshman year and has been a member ever since. “I love being in FFA because FFA has taught me leadership and working skills that I will be able to apply in the future, along with given me new experiences which have shaped me into who I am today,” Angi says. Veterinary Science and Job Interview are two of the LDE’s Angi has competed in over her time in FFA with hopes of competing at Nationals for Vet Science this year. Her SAE involves working with the Bronx Zoo and Fordham University on a Urban Ecology research project called “Project True.” This project is focused around mammal behavior, so Angi spends her time observing animals and recording data. Her next step in life is to graduate high school and attend Cornell University to pursue a career in Landscape Architecture. While being an active member of her chapter, she also participates in ARISTA; the school’s honors society and enjoys reading, writing, and photography. Keep up the awesome work Angi!

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

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



District Two

by Patrick Coombe

With August coming to a close we have some busy FFA chapters preparing for State Fair and the start of the new School year. Schoharie Valley partook in showing dairy cows at their county fair and had many students qualify to show and participate at State Fair. Tri-Valley FFA members sold ice cream and announced results for many cattle and horse shows at the Grahamsville Fair. During this month, we also found many Greenville students practicing CDE's in anticipation for State Fair. To take their mind off all of the State Fair preparation, they hosted a Horse Show at their school which allowed students and community members to participate. Congratulations to District Two for a great month!



Member Spotlight

Jacob Lucak is an active 7th grader at Tri-Valley FFA and has been chosen as August's Member Spotlight. Jacob has worked tirelessly to make a difference in his community along with his chapter. He is not one to just sit around and wait for opportunities to come his way, he is one to go out and participate in as many as he can. You can always find Jacob being the most upbeat and cheerful student during many FFA trips, especially during summer camp. Even at a young age, Jacob has always found himself trying to selfishly give back by volunteering his time scooping ice cream, as well as, landscape for State Fair. Even though Jake doesn't have a SAE at the moment, he has been excitedly pushing his family to start a chicken and sheep operation. Besides FFA, Jacob spends a good portion of his time working with the Boy scouts. One of his goals this year, is to attend national and state convention, along with competing in a CDE for the first time at State Fair. Jacob is a member who loves FFA because of the opportunities it can present to him by meeting new people, making friends and learning about agriculture. Great job Jacob and keep up the hard work!



District Three

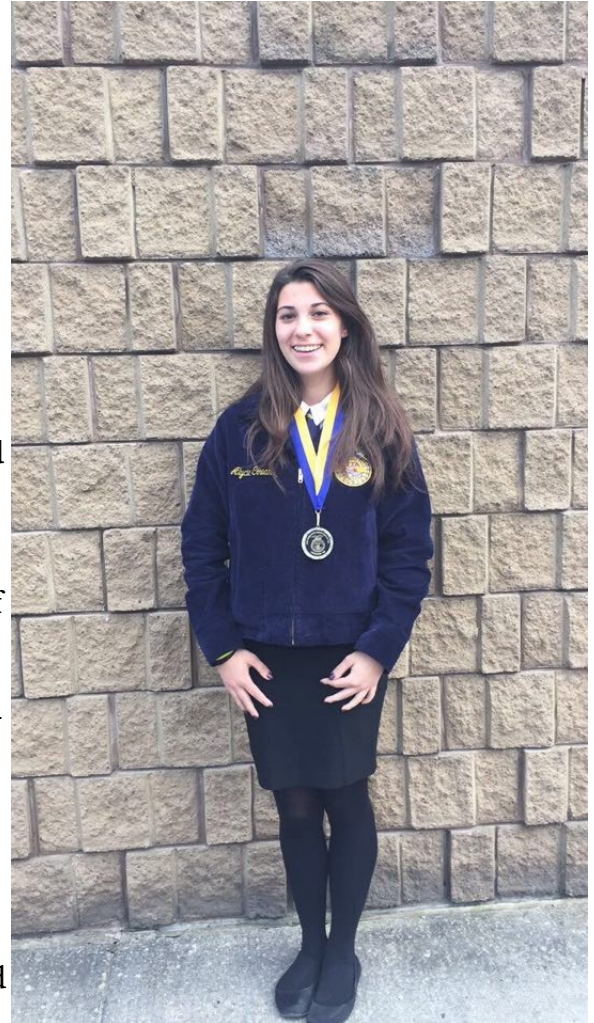
By Aleecia Seymour

Member Spotlight

This is Alycia Cowan and she has been selected as this month's member spotlight. For the past five years, Alycia has proudly represented the Chateauguy FFA Chapter. Since joining in 7th grade, she has taken advantage of as many opportunities the state and her chapter have presented.

A few years ago, Alycia caught interest in gardening and lawn care, which led her to making the decision to develop her SAE around that area. She assists her mother with their garden and also mows her neighborhood lawns. Inside the classroom, Alycia's has fallen in love with two Leadership Development Events or LDE's, Prepared Public Speaking and Job Interview. One of her favorite things about FFA is the chance to meet and communicate with others, which is why every year Alycia looks forward to the annual chapter pancake breakfast, the District 3 meeting, and State Convention. In 2018, Alycia has decided to run for District President and is excited to bring some new ideas and events to her district.

Overall Alycia is a very well rounded student and FFA member, not only is she active in her chapter but also participates in a variety of other school and community volunteer events. Some of these include soccer, basketball, and softball. She is in national honor society, stage band, senior chorus, senior band and is also a substitute teacher at her local bible school. Thank you Alycia for being an amazing role model within your school, chapter, community, and District 3!



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District Four
by Justin Rodda

Member Spotlight

This month, District Four is pleased to announce that Justin Graham has been selected for August's Member Spotlight. Justin joined FFA a few years ago because it thought it would be a great way to get involved with agriculture and interact more with his community. Throughout Justin Graham's FFA career, he has taken on the responsibility as serving as chapter sentinel, where he was in charge of figuring out creative ways to get more students in his school involved in FFA. Not only do we see Justin getting involved in his chapter, but we have seen him competing in various CDE's and LDE's at the district, sub-state and state level. For an SAE you can find Justin on his farm taking care of his beef cattle, swine, meat goats, dairy goats, and sheep! Justin sure has an impressive amount and variety of animals, but what's really impressive is his passion for raising livestock. Justin Graham is the epitome of the variation of agriculture District 4 has to offer, keep up the great work Justin, we are so proud to call you one of our own!



District Five
by Taylor Rollins

Member Spotlight

Determined, altruistic, and extremely well rounded, these are all words to describe one Mohawk Valley FFA member and your August Member Spotlight. Madison Dunbar is a fantastic example of what FFA members from around the nation strive to be like. Madison is 16 years old, and this year she is the Mohawk Valley FFA secretary. Her SAE is focused in the area of beef production which goes hand in hand with her family's beef farm in Fort Plain, New York. They have a 200 head cattle ranch operation where local community members have the opportunity to buy farm fresh meat. She says "My favorite part of my SAE is getting to work with the animals. I just love them so much, although they are hard to hug and cuddle sometimes". Even though her SAE is extremely successful she hopes in the future to start another in Agriculture Education. Madison's favorite FFA event is 212/360. In spite of the fact that the event is filled with a fun night consisting of many games and activities, she says that her favorite part is getting to know others who want to take away information to better themselves as well as their chapter. Madison's favorite chapter event is their Christmas Party. "We have a gingerbread house making contest and it's really fun to see everyone's creative side come out," she says. During the winter, Madison enjoys ringing the bell for the salvation army to raise money for people in need during the holiday season. She loves seeing the expressions of happiness and compassion others show while putting the small amounts of pocket change into the big red bucket. Madison Dunbar is a true example of "Living to Serve". Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication, keep up the great work!



District Six

by Ethan Billman

District Six has been a hopping place to be this month. Over the past 30 days, many members from all of the chapters have been actively participating and attending various FFA activities. These activities include participating in in-TENse and spending time at Camp Oswegatchie having the best week they could possibly make it. I myself attended week four and met so many awesome members and non-members, as well as, getting to hangout with all of my friends from our district. Great job everyone and keep up doing everything that makes our district unique!



Member Spotlight

This month we have a very talented member taking the spotlight, and will be rooty toot tooting it all the way to nationals, Lesley Aucter!!! Lesley has been a part of FFA For the past 7 years. Just this month Lesley was informed that she was specially selected out of all of the nation for national band and we couldn't be anything less then proud and excited to see someone from New York representing us up on stage. Lesley's favorite thing about FFA is the networking opportunities that she is presented with between members, Agriculture leaders and government officials. Lesley plays an active role in her chapters activities as well as going to COLT and 212/360 for the last 3 years. Not only has she served her chapter, but just last year she was able to serve our district by being 2016-2017 District 6 President. Outside of FFA Lesley plays volleyball as well as tennis. This past year, she also started choreographing the school dance. You have been an amazing role model and friend to all, keep doing everything that makes you shine Lesley and good luck at nationals!



District Seven

by Brett Jillson

School is now in session and many things will be happening throughout our district! Many members participated in CDE's at State Fair and placed nicely! Chapter meetings will start up again and some chapters will be electing officers for the upcoming year. Can't wait to see what happens throughout the next couple of months!

Member Spotlight

This month's spotlight is coming from the Marathon FFA Chapter, Sonya Helms. Even though will be only be completing her second year in FFA, she has already immersed herself in leadership positions. Just last year, she held the treasurer position for her chapter, and she did an amazing job to say the least. Also during her first year in FFA she competed in Prepared Public Speaking and moved on to Sub-states in March. Being an active member allowed her to attend 212°/360°, State Convention, and help at her school fair. From the leadership skills she has learned in conferences, she has used them in her own chapter to make a stronger bond between the students/members and agriculture. Helms said "I am most proud of the organization that promotes such a large industry such as agriculture, it is an industry that everyone relies on." She is very true about this statement on how everyone relies on agriculture! Outside of FFA she is the Cortland County Dairy Princess and the area 4-H president. Sonya also shows dairy cattle and works on a farm. Besides all this great agricultural activities, she skies and rides snowmobiles. Thank you Sonya for all you do for FFA and the agricultural industry, you are truly an inspiration!



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. There, 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 the members decided on a creative plan to get new students involved. Cassadaga also plans to set up an Ag Skills and Leadership course led by Racheal Lessinger. The Cuba Rushford chapter came in third place for Dairy judging at state fair. They also choose their officers for the coming year and took several students to the Big E to compete. The Pine valley FFA chapter planned a fruit sale fundraiser that I'm sure will be tasty! District Ten has been busy this month sprouting new and fun ideas that will continue to make our district stand out from the rest

Member Spotlight

District 10 has so many outstanding members! Heidi Moss, from the Pine Valley FFA chapter has really worked hard to get where she's at in FFA, which is the reason she has been chosen as this months Member Spotlight! Heidi joined FFA in 7th grade and has stuck with it ever since. She says, "I love meeting new people, networking with local community members, and giving back to this amazing organization." She also loves to experience the different aspects of agriculture while traveling to different places, and making connections with ag teachers and professionals. Heidi, also known as the "Mighty Hoss," has participated in some awesome CDE's! She has competed in prepared public speaking for 3 years and creed speaking for 1 year. Even though Heidi hasn't been to nationals, her ultimate goal is working her way there this year. Even if she doesn't make it to Nationals for her CDE, she will still take advantage of all the opportunities. For Heidi's SAE she works hard on her family farm in Conewango Valley. She has bred her own cows in order to grow her herd of Brown Swiss and Ayrshire cows. Over the past few years, she has become more heavily involved with the farm, especially since the installation of the new robotic milkers. She helps analyze information from the robots to make management decisions about the cows. She also is apart of her schools National Honor Society, swim club, and is even serving as FFA Chapter President this year! Besides her involvement with organizations, Heidi has a love for cooking, playing piano, and gardening. As Heidi approaches the end of her high school career, she is applying to colleges to study dairy science and hopes to become an active member in the collegiate FFA program. Keep up the hard work and enthusiasm Heidi!



State Member Spotlight

My name is Cassidy Smith. I attend Delaware Academy Central School where I will be entering the 10th grade. I have been a part of the Delaware Academy FFA since the sixth grade. Over the past couple years, I have

helped with our maple production program, fruit sales, and the planning of our school's 9/11 memorial where the FFA chapter plants 3,000 daffodil flower bulbs. I have also participated in FFA woodworking and am currently serving as the 2017-2018 Delaware Academy FFA Reporter. I play two sports; volleyball and softball. I have enjoyed playing so much that I now help coach little league catchers for baseball and softball. While being an active FFA member, I have also been a 4-H member for the past 5 years. I have sold duck race tickets, learned to sew, presented at International Night, and sold quilt raffle tickets at our county fair.

The most interesting thing about me is my animals! I have bred, raised, and shown rabbits, swine, and guinea pigs since 2012. Since then I have shown with the ARBA (American Rabbits Breeders Association) and have won numerous best and reserve of breed titles with my Harlequin, Mini Lop, English Spot, and New Zealand rabbits. In 2016, I won best and best opposite of breed at the Harlequin Rabbit National Show. At the Delaware County fair, I won Best in Show (2016) and a Reserve in Show (2017) with my Mini Lops. I won Reserve Grand Champion Showman two times (2015, 2016), and this year I won Grand Champion Showman. I have won senior youth leader of the rabbit and cavy barn three times (2014, 2015, 2017). My born and raised Junior American Guinea Pig, won the best of breed at this year's fair. I own purebred registered Hereford hogs and with them, I won two Champion Boar awards (2015, 2016), and the best breed and owned purebred registered gilt (2016). At the fair this year I was able to take a break from the show barn and hoe to clip sheep wool from a local sheep breeder.

I also have the opportunity to assist in the vet checks of every rabbit and guinea pig that comes into the county fair for the past 3 years. This year, I decided to donate three of my Harlequin rabbits to my school's agricultural science class. Our school's new agricultural teacher and FFA advisor, Tina Miner-James, encouraged me to participate in FFA dairy cow showmanship and step out of my comfort zone, I loved it! I enjoy everything I get do- from my being involved in my chapter, to sports, and all the way home to my animals. FFA has helped me open new doors and meet so many amazing people. I don't know what I would do without it!





“Learn to let go of the things go you cannot control”

“Take your dreams seriously”

AUGUST QUOTES TO LIVE BY!

“It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.”

“If you can't stop thinking about it, don't stop working for it.”

“You're the driver of your own life, don't let anyone steal your seat.”

A Word from the Officers

This month, the state officers would like to let you know why they joined the FFA!

Ethan Keller

State President

Sharon Springs FFA

I actually joined the FFA because I wanted to go to Camp Oswegatchie and ride the giant swing. I didn't even know that there was more to FFA than going to summer camp when I first joined, but luckily my advisor pulled me in further and introduced me to what else FFA had in store for me. After competing in my first CDE, I started to do even more and attend conferences and conventions all over New York and the country! It was during my first session at my first ever state convention when I came to the realization that FFA was the perfect place for me and I wanted to continue being apart of this program. Going there and being in that sea of blue jackets filled me with a lot of pride for our organization and showed me that I definitely made the right choice by joining the FFA!



Megan Lamb

State Vice President

Stockbridge Valley FFA

I joined FFA because I have always grown up exposed to the organization. Both of my parents are former Agriculture Teachers and continue to be supporters of the FFA. It was also very natural for me to find my place within this organization as I am the third generation on both sides of my family to be an FFA member. However, if family encouragement wasn't enough, my first agriculture class in 8th Grade was what truly solidified my membership to this organization. During the agriculture class we used hydroponic growing systems in my school greenhouse to grow house plants that we then could bring home to our family, and since I loved plants, it was no surprise I was hooked on this organization right away. Above all, I know I belong in an organization such as this as I have been fortunate enough to meet members from all across the state and county. My FFA family reaches from the west coast to Maine and everywhere in between! Meeting such accepting and genuine people really was the reason I decided to stay involved in the FFA Organization.



Lindsey Nassimos

State Secretary

Madison FFA

My older brother and I were always the best of friends. Even though he was three years older than me, I still looked up to him and wanted to be just like him and his friends. When his group was finally old enough to choose some of their extracurricular activities, almost all of them found themselves spending their time in the agriculture classroom and traveling to many different FFA events. After seeing first hand how much fun they were having, and hearing about all of the amazing things they were doing because of this organization, there was no doubt in my mind that I was going to join as well. As time went on, I began to have my own experiences and make my own memories in the blue jacket. Six years later, I am so proud to have joined the National FFA Organization and am so excited that I get a chance to serve the organization that means so much to me!



Jenna Kibbe

State Treasurer

Clymer FFA

Years ago, my own father was a member of the FFA organization. When I was a little girl, he brought out his jacket and I admired his name stitched into the right side and from that day on, I knew I was going to be a member of this organization some day. I joined in 7th grade and attended activities, meetings and competitions, but it wasn't until my 9th grade year where my passion was sparked. I was the chapter secretary that year which allowed me to become much more active. I then decided to keep challenging myself and run for District President and to my surprise, I was elected. Throughout my involvement my love for agriculture has grown and I'm truly blessed to be able to now serve as a state officer. Thank you dad, for introducing me to the FFA which has forever changed my life.



Kim Doyle
State Reporter
Tri-Valley FFA

I joined the FFA because of tradition. My experience as an FFA member started the first time I put an FFA jacket on at 6 months old. From that point on I was constantly going with my parents to my oldest sisters FFA events. As the years went on, I was able to watch each one of my four older sisters experience what this organization had to offer and when it came time for me to become an official member I, was already hooked. I knew from that point that I would be doing everything I possible could in order to experiance the same things my sisters did, and more! FFA became a tradition that I was more than happy to take part in and I couldn't be more happy about my decision to join.



KristiAnn Frank
State Sentinel
VVS FFA

I joined the FFA because it has been a lifelong tradition of my family to be apart of this organization and I just fell in love with agriculture as a young girl. It felt like I always had a place in the FFA because everyone was so welcoming and it was the only club that literally has continuously pushed me to my full potential. When I was little, I always wanted to help my dad with his farm work. My cousin and I would tend to find ourselves following around our grandfather as he completed daily farm chores to ensure the family farm was running smoothly. Due to my father and grandfather I had agriculture running through my blood and I was so passionate about seeing the industry thrive. FFA has shaped me into the young leader I am today and I couldn't be any more grateful for that.



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