



NYFFA Speaks



December 2017

Hey New York FFA!

by Kim Doyle

New York FFA sure knows how to finish out a great year! During the month of December members and State Officers had some amazing opportunities! Chapters from every district wrapped up their fruit and cheese sales and also celebrated the holidays with their annual holiday parties. Members could be found making wreaths and other holiday decorations, drinking hot chocolate, and overall having a great time while bonding with their peers!

The State Officers spent a few days in Albany, New York at the annual Farm Bureau Meeting. They were able to learn about policies within Farm Bureau, meet various supporters and educate attendees about the FFA.

During the middle of December, the State Officers traveled to Trumansburg, NY for their Winter Retreat, where various details about 212/360 and State Convention were discussed. Just a short time after the retreat, we found Ethan, Megan, Lindsey, and KristiAnn attending the Senate Agricultural Hearing to testify in front of Senator Richie.

New York FFA ended 2017 with a bang, and we can't wait to see what is in store for 2018!

For more information about upcoming events visit nysffa.org/events

District Updates

See what's happening in NYFFA's Districts!

State Advisor of the Month

Learn about one of New York's many awesome advisors

Quotes to live by for the month of December!

A Word from the Officers

Hear from the 2017-2018 NYFFA State Officer team!

District One

by Stephanie Vera

As the holidays were getting closer, John Bowne held their holiday event called “Gingerbarn”. At this event, twelve teams competed to build the best gingerbread house. Imagination and teamwork were key throughout this event; the only rules students had to follow was the design had to correlate to this years theme, “Holidays at the Zoo,” and it had to be completed in 45 minutes. We appreciate the teachers that volunteered to be judges, as we wouldn’t have been able to complete the event without your help. Teams immediately began to build their gingerbread houses as soon as time started, everyone was working as a team, they were all excited and very interactive in this activity. After time was called, judges travelled around scoring each team. While judging was taking place students participated in Karaoke. Once the winners were announced teams were able to eat their work. The event was a success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



Member Spotlight

Jaylen McDonald, a senior at the John Bowne FFA Chapter was chosen for this month’s spotlight. Jay was elected as this year’s Vice President. He has been active in FFA since his sophomore year and has been active since. “Being in FFA is a gift to me. Some may not know what they want to pursue in the future or how to meet people from other backgrounds, FFA provided me with that. FFA has helped me develop skills and boost my self esteem. I will always feel welcomed and FFA is a place where I call home” Jay says. His SAE is in the Plant Science and gardening field. During the summer he worked at the Queens Botanical Garden, where he mulched around the gardens and composted plant materials. He even worked on special projects such as; making tea, tinkers, and oils made out of weeds and herbs. Currently, he works at the Forest Park Greenhouse where he takes care around and inside the greenhouse such as; raking leaves, shoveling snow, transplanting plants, watering, weeding, cutting off dying or dead plant material and much more! Jay joined the Sales Team this year and is currently training hard for States. He went to Nationals this year, this was a new experience for him. Jay’s next step in FFA is to earn his Empire Degree and compete at States. His next step in life is to graduate high school and go to Farmingdale College where he wants to continue his studies in Plant Science and earn a degree in Horticulture and Plant Science. In the future he wants to get a career in gardening or forestry. Jay loves to read either Romantic or Fantasy books in his free time. Keep up the great work Jaylen, District I is proud of what you have accomplished this year!

District Two

by Patrick Coombe

Sharon Springs members have been unloading and delivering their fruit/cheese and maple syrup from their major fundraiser. Members are also getting together to make wreaths and decide which contests they will be participating in this year. At their last meeting, visitors from Farm Credit East attended and presented their chapter with a generous donation to put toward various events and activities for their students!



During the month of December, the Pine Plains FFA Chapter organized a canned food drive for their local food pantry, and also hosted a holiday party and gift exchange.

The Greenville FFA chapter had their winter greenery sale where they made and sold 210 wreaths, 94 kissing balls, 40 centerpieces, and 191ft of white pine garland. As this is one of their biggest fundraiser, they are grateful for the community support of the chapter and celebrated their success with an end of year holiday party.

Warwick Valley has finished their annual citrus sale selling over 200 boxes and donating around 10 to our local food pantry. The chapter helped the floral design class host a teacher appreciation luncheon by setting up floral arrangements and serving food. They also worked with the National Honor Society by letting them use the greenhouse for poinsettia sale. Along with assisting the Sr. High Chapter, The Jr. High FFA members made centerpieces and gingerbread men to be judged for a prize. Warwick is planning on doing their Program of Activities on Jan. 3rd for the rest of the year as well.

The Tri-Valley FFA Chapter had a busy month. They started off the month making 46 wreaths as a quick fundraiser before fruit came in. Members sold over 500 cases of citrus, apples, maple, and cheese profiting over \$4000. The chapter also donated 40 gift bags filled with fruit to those in need in the community and donated an additional 20 cases of fruit to the Food Bank of Sullivan County. To add to the spirit of giving, members adopted a family for the holidays to make sure that they got toys and clothes. Tri-Valley rounded out the month by hosting a giant holiday party to give back to its members and welcomed over 100 6-12 graders to celebrate.

Member of the Month

This month's member of the month is Joshua Bivins. Josh is a 9th grader from Sharon Springs FFA chapter and while he does not currently have an SAE he is seeking opportunities in his area. Josh has competed in judging, tree ID, and other CDEs. He loves being in FFA because of how many people he gets to meet and how he is able to be exposed and experience all types of careers. His next FFA dream is to make it to States for the contests and go to Nationals. Josh plans to go to college and become a computer hardware engineer. Outside of FFA, Josh participates in his school's Poster club and Book Club. His hobbies include reading, writing, archery and hopefully soon building his own computers. Keep up the great work Josh, District two is proud of all your accomplishments

District Four

by Justin Rodda

As the new year approaches, District Four chapters are hard at work with holiday sales and helping others in need during this holiday season.

The Afton FFA chapter received a national grant to help families in need by assembling backpacks of food and delivering them to the less fortunate in the Afton area. Thus far, the chapter members have put together over 60 backpacks of food for the local area! Also, after noticing a lack of recycling in their school, the chapter has set out to promote recycling methods by placing recycling bins throughout the school in an effort to reduce waste. Way to go Afton, your efforts to help others and the environment are not unnoticed!



While the Afton FFA is busy helping their local communities, the Unadilla Valley FFA has recently improved their STEAM wing. STEAM, an acronym for science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mechanics, provides a broad range of education, beyond cows, plows, and sows. In the STEAM wing, there are 6 parts, the food science lab, the clean classroom, the technology room, the carpentry shop, the greenhouse, and the welding shop. In the food science room, Students learn everything from performing basic cooking skills needed in life, all the way up to and beyond why you can't microwave a turkey during Thanksgiving. Across the hall from the food science lab lays the technology lab. The technology lab features a multitude of computers for students to learn coding to perform tasks, such as, 3D printing, robotic coding, and other programming tasks. Alongside of programming, students learn to create robots and design them around performing a useful task! Down the hall from the technology room you can find the clean classroom, here you will find students learning everything from how to run a business to agriculture mechanics, Mrs. Devries designates this room for the not so messy projects that come about in an agriculture class. After a swift left out of the clean classroom you will find yourself in the carpentry shop, this is where students learn to assemble projects out of wood, here you will find everything from planers and jointers to a 3D cnc wood etcher! Connected to the carpentry shop is the greenhouse. The Greenhouse features state of the art thermostats that have the capability to keep the room at a steady temperature year round. In the greenhouse, students have the chance to try their hand at not only basic agronomy, but aquaculture and aquaponics. The greenhouse features a tank that will hold bass and is connected to the aquaponics system, using the fish water as a natural fertilizer! When you leave the greenhouse, straight ahead you can find the welding shop. The welding shop features a CNC plasma cutting table, two industrial MIG welders, two stick welders, and two areas for oxy fuel cutting. In the future, the program hopes to expand onto TIG welding. Across from the welding booths is the small engine area where students can learn about how a basic 2 stroke and 4 stroke engine runs and how to diagnose a problem. Behind the small engine area lays the paint room, this paint room allows students to paint the projects they have worked so hard on in the welding shop or anything else that must be painted.

The students at Unadilla Valley are lucky to have such a fantastic lab area for them to learn in, I know your bright District Four students will most certainly take advantage of the opportunities in front of them!

District Five

by Taylor Rollins

This has been the busiest month yet for District Five. Members delivered the all of fruit sold as as fundraisers, for their chapter. Hamilton FFA members made wreaths and donated the profits to their local food cupboard as well as their local humane society. They also put together gifts to give to farmers in their community to thank them for all that they do. HFM Ag PTECH FFA members wrote holiday cards to their troops. Madison, Adirondack, and HFM Ag PTECH students each hosted “Picture Your Pet with Santa” events. VVS FFA hosted their annual PALS breakfast and Austin Nolley from the Stockbridge Valley FFA chapter was selected as a National FFA SAE grant recipient. Keep up the great work District Five!



Member Spotlight

Brenah Curtis from the Madison FFA chapter began her FFA journey as a 7th grader, and the current freshman can not wait to see where this path will take her. Brenah’s passion and continuous “go getter attitude” is what earned her the honor of being this month’s Member Spotlight. She became involved in FFA after attending an annual banquet, which pushed her to become an active member. Brenah has a lot to live up to, coming from a family with generations of FFA members, however she is walking in their foot steps and continues to make them proud.. Since the beginning she has competed in CDE’s and LDE’s such as People in Ag and Quiz Bowl. Throughout the year, she participates in dozens of events, however, her favorite by far is 212/ 360 because it brings so many different FFA members together by having fun and teaching them leadership skills that will last a lifetime. Brenah says, “I have always looked up to Lindsey Nassimos and Megan Lamb because they push everyone to their own personal limits and hold an incredible standard for the organization. Someday Brenah hopes to become a state officer just like the two of them. Brenah loves FFA because it forces her to step outside her comfort zone and strive for greatness in everything she does.



Brenah is a constant example of the “Living to Serve” motto. Keep up the great work!

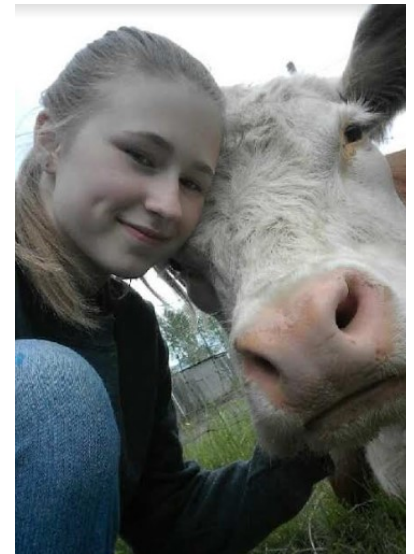
District Six

by Ethan Billman

This month District six was as busy as a bee; Many chapters within our district spent the beginning of the month delivering their delicious fruit orders to their dedicated and supportive customers. Each chapter was working diligently to finish up their first big fundraiser for their chapters. Even though the fundraiser might have gone off without a hitch many members had to work around mother nature dumping almost 6 feet of snow in some places. However, rest assured that each FFA member was able to carefully deliver their fruit to the customers. Meanwhile at the Gouverneur FFA chapter, many of their members worked diligently to prepare for the upcoming annual maple fest held by their chapter, as well as, starting banquet prep for their banquet that will be happening in April. Swinging on over to the Belleville Henderson FFA Chapter, the officers spent the month planning and throwing their advisor, Mrs. Bean, a surprise baby shower. Keep up the good work everyone!

Member Spotlight

Taking the reins to the sleigh of this month's member spotlight is Cheyenne Lilly from the Gouverneur FFA Chapter. Cheyenne is a senior at Gouverneur central school and serves as their 2017-2018 Chapter President. Cheyenne is very involved within her chapter taking any opportunity she can get her hands on to help better herself or her chapter. She has been to National Convention two times and State Convention five times. Cheyenne says her favorite part of this amazing organization is everyone coming together to work on service projects and accomplish a combined goal to help the community or a good cause. Outside of FFA, Cheyenne plays volleyball and participates in track. She also is a volunteer firefighter for her local department. Cheyenne would like to start an SAE in Agriculture education and would like to become a vet after she is done serving in the armed forces. Cheyenne is an inspiration to members all throughout her chapter and District Six is proud to call you one of our own. Keep up the awesome work Cheyenne!



District Seven

by Brett Jillson

District competitions are sooner than we may think, with that being said members have been working really hard to finish them up and make them the best they can be. Districts is Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 at Southern Cayuga CSD. (ADVISORS!... Manuscripts, Resumes, and Cover Letters need to be faxed by Monday, January 22nd to ejillsonb@gmail.com . Each school day late results in -25 pts/day.) Keep up the great work on your LDE's and rock on at Districts!

Member Spotlight

Lately Stephanie Rodman has been showing everyone why FFA is so great. Stephanie is a junior in high school and is the Spencer Van Etten FFA President! Rodman has been breeding, raising, and selling rabbits many years, but just recently turned it into her SAE. On top of that, she holds many demonstrations on how to properly care for rabbits to the public. Her SAE has been a successful project and a help to her community by all the hard work she puts in. Stephanie always goes above and beyond to accomplish various tasks in her chapter. Rodman's co-advisor, Ms. Ackerley, quotes, "(she) is a go getter and self-starter!" This shows through from all of the hard work and dedication she puts into everything and anything. Stephanie brainstorms various fundraiser ideas, and then follows through to make sure the ideas are executed smoothly. When Spencer Van Etten hosted their FFA Movie Night, Rodman contacted teachers and Booster Clubs to borrow rooms and equipment, recruited FFA members to make flyers and tickets, and assisted with running the event the day the movie was shown. Outside of FFA, Rodman is known as a responsible animal sitter and an animal lover. Stephanie owns and cares for many animals including a bird, rabbits, dogs, chickens, and horses. She volunteers at a barn that recruits retired racehorses in exchange for lessons and training. While she is juggling all of this, she still manages to get good grades, be an active Sportsman Club member, and spend time with her family. Keep up the great work Stephanie!

Have you filled out your waiver and emergency contact forms to participate in state events?

Find it here at:

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

District Ten

by Gwen Chase

With the holidays quickly approaching, it is no surprise that everyone is exceptionally busy, District Ten is no different. everyone is busy, especially District Ten! The Sherman FFA Chapter spent the beginning of their month creating wreaths for their fundraiser, along with preparing for the Fruit and Cheese delivery. Members continue to work hard on their CDE's for District Competitions, coming in February. Ten members of the Cuba-Rushford FFA Chapter lended a hand at the Cuba Cultural Center, for three hours, filling 350 holiday boxes. The boxes consisted of canned fruit, potatoes, squash, cheese, and chicken. The Cuba Cultural Center supply's food for families in Allegany County who are less fortunate. The chapters throughout District Ten are so giving during the holiday season, keep up the great work!

Member Spotlight

Megan Vanvalkenburg is a hardworking member of the Sherman FFA. She has been a dedicated member, from the time she started in seventh grade, as she now approaches her senior year. Throughout her active years in FFA, she has come to the conclusion that she loves being in an organization where meeting new friends and people, while learning new things, is a great accomplishment. Megan has participated in the Creed Speaking contest, as well as, acquiring knowledge of beekeeping, through the People in Agriculture competition. Megan works diligently on her very own garden, for her SAE, where she sells her homegrown vegetables at local farmers market's. If Megan isn't weeding her garden, she's probably bowling a 160 with her team! Megan's next step in FFA is competing in Job Interview at the State and even National level. Not only does she want to improve her garden, but also pursue an occupation in the cultivation of plants! Thanks for being an awesome FFA member, Megan, you make it so easy for District Ten to be proud.



State Advisor of the Month

Mrs. Bossard from the Hamilton FFA chapter is one advisor who has made such a deep impact on the lives of her students. You can always count on her chapter to be active at nearly every event that can be offered. The Hamilton FFA chapter is always participating in numerous events, and ex-

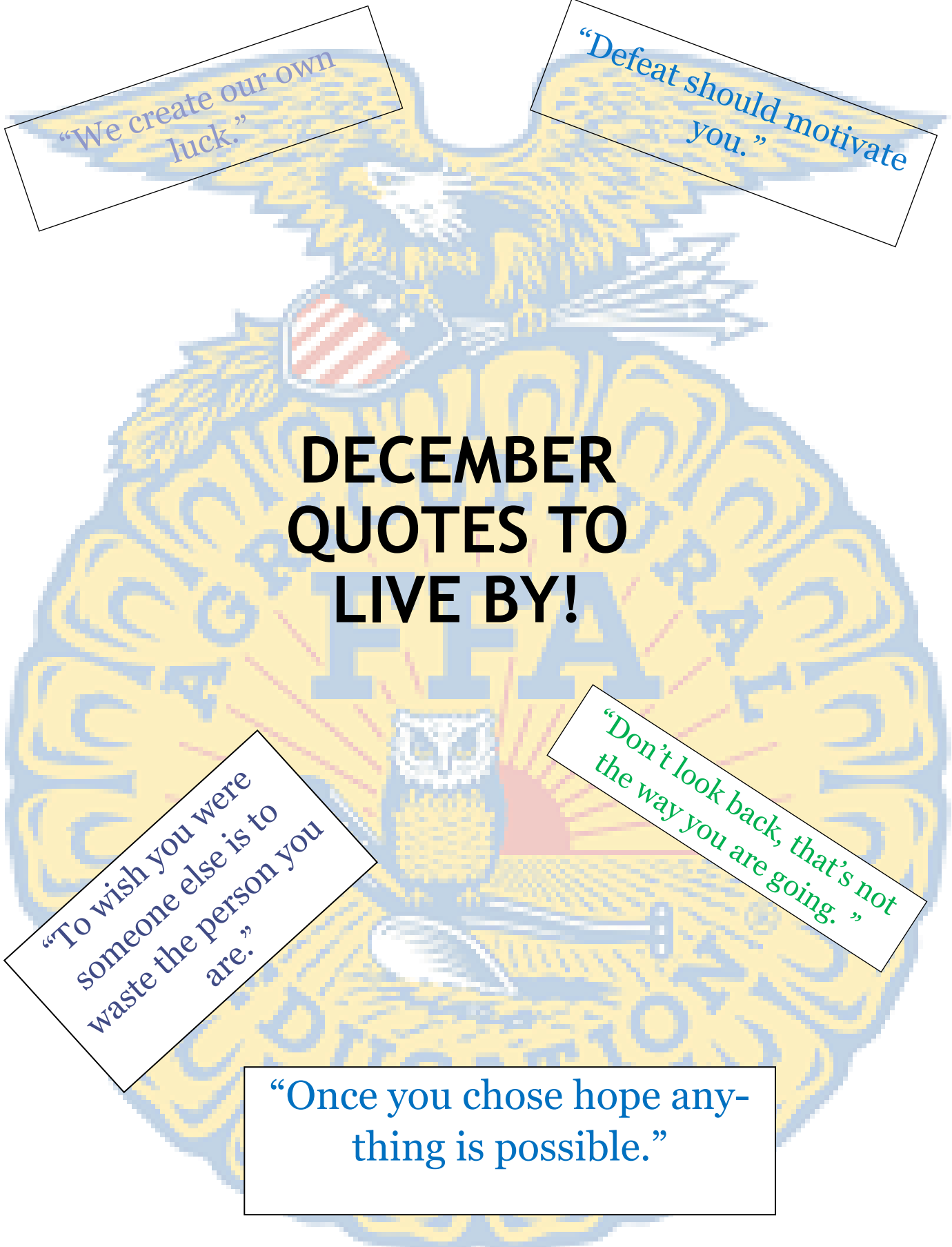


celling in Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events. This past year, Mrs. Bossard has led her students to learn about agriculture through her extremely interactive and hands on classes. She not only provides a great quality education, but she provides so many opportunities for her students to grow as leaders. Some of the activities that her chapter has participated in includes, attending Camp Oswegatchie, competing at the New York State Fair, attending AIM conference, and traveling all the way to Indianapolis to meet thousands of FFA members at the National FFA Convention and Expo. From talking to Mrs. Bossard's students, she is someone we all can look up to. Their Chapter President says, "Mrs. Bossard goes above and beyond in everything she does, and she always does it with a smile. It is an honor to one of her students and see the impact she has on fellow classmates, she is an inspiration to all and I am lucky to be able to call her my teacher. She always makes everyone laugh and brings great energy with her wherever she goes." It is safe to say that Mrs. Bossard is one of the the most dedicated, caring, and overall genuine human beings, who takes pride in the work she does everyday. She sacrifices a lot of time with her family to support her students along



with this organization, and with that we would like to thank her by honoring her with the title of Advisor of the Month. New York FFA is so lucky to have such an amazing advisor like Mrs. Bossard because of all the lives she has positively impacted. Congratulations, Mrs. Bossard, and thank you

again for your commitment to your work!



*“We create our own
luck.”*

*“Defeat should motivate
you.”*

DECEMBER QUOTES TO LIVE BY!

*“To wish you were
someone else is to
waste the person you
are.”*

*“Don’t look back, that’s not
the way you are going.”*

*“Once you chose hope any-
thing is possible.”*

A Word from the Officers

As the new year starts, the State Officers would like to share what they are most excited for in the months to come

Ethan Keller

State President

Sharon Springs FFA

I would have to say that while I am excited for everything that the second half of the year has to offer, I am most excited to for the 2018 State Leaders Experience. I say this for a few reasons, but the biggest reason is because this conference gives students real life experience working with the government and allows us to learn the true value of advocacy. As young leaders in the agricultural industry, one of our responsibilities is to share the story of hardworking agriculturists and break the stigmas and misconceptions that are associated with our industry. When we take the time to learn how to effectively share our stories and the stories of others, we become stronger leaders who have the potential to make a more meaningful impact on the ones around us. This experience is going to prepare New York FFA Members to become the best leaders that they can be, and that is something that really means a lot to me. In addition to that, I am really looking forward to this conference because it is an opportunity for me to also learn and grow because this is my first time attending a conference like this. Despite being so close to the capital, I wasn't ever able to attend any of our state's events in Albany as a member. It is crazy to think that we are already heading into the second half of the year, but I'm sure that we will all make it the best that we possibly can and I cannot wait to see all of our members at our future events throughout New York!



Megan Lamb

State Vice President

Stockbridge Valley FFA

Hello, New York FFA Members! As I reflect on my past six months serving as a State Officer, I couldn't be more excited for the next six months I still have to serve! For the rest of my year, I am very excited about Chapter Visits! District 9 and 10, I hope you're ready for me, because I cannot wait to spend a whole week touring your chapters, and getting to know each and every one of you! Look for me and Jenna Kibbe coming to District 9 and Gwen Chase and I headed through District 10 later this year in March! I can't wait to see you all!



Lindsey Nassimos

State Secretary

Madison FFA

Over the past six months, my teammates and I have had the opportunity to take advantage of many life-changing experiences. From making decisions that not only affect our members here in New York, but every FFA Chapter within the National FFA; to hitting the road for a week and getting to know our unique members on a more personal level, and also being able to meet State Officers from different states, it truly has been a one-of-a-kind experience. However, we are only half way through our year meaning that all of us have some unbelievable experiences in store for us. It is hard to choose which one I am looking forward to the most, but honestly for me this is without a doubt State Convention that will be taking place in about four months. State convention is an opportunity that I have taken advantage of since the very first year that I zipped up my blue jacket, and since then it has always been my favorite. This is for a number of different reasons with just a few of them being that I had the chance to meet so many new people from completely different areas of our state, hear inspirational messages by the state officers, attend workshops that helped me to better myself as an individual, and go on various tours to further my agricultural education.



In addition to all of these advantages, this year my favorite event has a few spins that are being added to make it one to remember. Being in a new location, having new members to recognize and congratulate, and a new message to get across, I mean who couldn't be excited. Not to mention, at this event my team and I will have the opportunity to touch base with all of the amazing members that we have met and formed close relationships with over the course of our year of service. I can't wait to start off the second part of my year of service with each and every one of you!

Jenna Kibbe

State Treasurer

Clymer FFA

I absolutely cannot believe that it is half way through my year as a State Officer. I have met so many incredible members, advisors, and supporters of the FFA. I will definitely cherish all of the memories I have made so far, but looking toward the future, there is still so much excitement to come. I'm looking forward to State Leaders Experience where our members can make a difference in our government. I am also looking forward to doing chapter visits! I love to interact and get to know New York FFA's amazing members and see all of the exciting projects they're involved in. Needless to say, the months to come are going to be jammed packed with excitement at numerous events and I cannot wait to spend the rest of my year with so many amazing people.



Kim Doyle

State Reporter

Tri-Valley FFA

The first half of our year of service has really flown by! We have attended so many different events throughout the first half of our year and the second half looks just as exciting! Although 212/360 and SLE are some of the first events that come to mind when I think of FFA, I have to say that I am most excited for District and Sub-state contests! The first time I ever competed was at the District creed speaking contest and I have been hooked ever since! It is so important that members take advantage of contests in order to make friends, experience some of the coolest things about FFA and overall have fun! I hope to see so many of you at these contests this year!



KristiAnn Frank

State Sentinel

VVS FFA

Wow has the first part of our year of service flown by! From spending time with all of you out in the great outdoors at summer camp, to watching all of you compete at the state fair, to spending time with you at the National FFA convention. It amazes me how much we have done but also how many exciting things we have left to discover. I am most excited for the event coming up at the end of the month, 212/360 leadership conference. This has been an event that I personally have attended every year since I became an FFA member in sixth grade. My favorite thing about this event is the opportunity we are all given to meet so many members from across the state. At every session, I would sit with a new group of people; this allowed me to be able to meet members I have never seen before or connect with members from other chapters that I rarely saw. I am super stoked about this year's conference because as state officers we are able to reconnect with all of you and even meet members that we have yet to make conversation with! Also this year's fun night will be one for the books, as we get to all go to a hockey game together. I can't wait to see all of you soon but I definitely very excited to begin the second part of my year of service with each one of you!



GET READY FOR

State Leaders
Experience

212/360 Conference