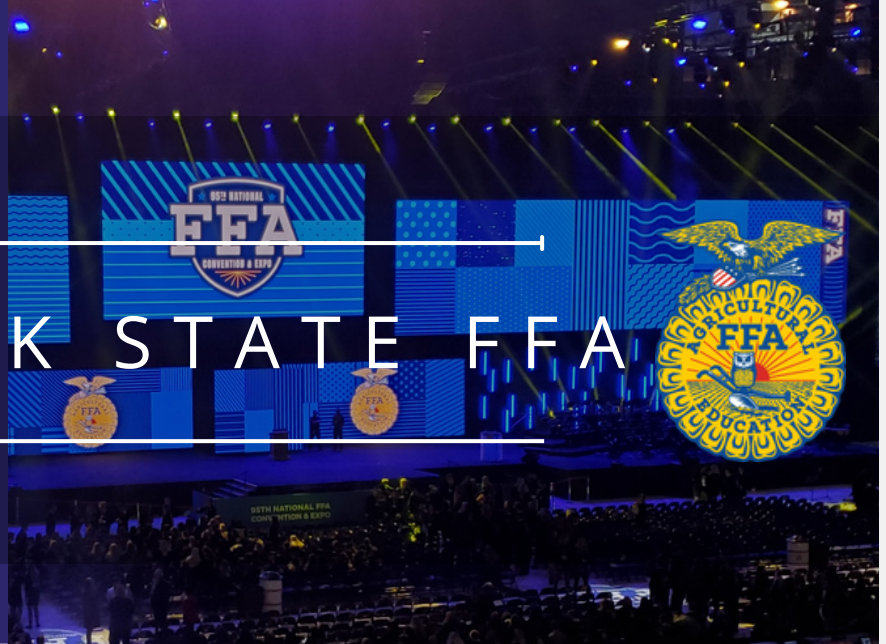


# NEW YORK STATE FFA

November 2022 Edition

Cristian Gilces, New York State FFA Reporter



## Thankful for our FFA-mily!

November was filled with lots of abundance across FFA chapters across the state, whether that was through the harvest of crops, funds raised in fruit sales, or through another successful chapter event. Let us remember to exhibit gratitude to our advisors, teachers, faculty//staff, chapter officers, and one another for all playing a part in the abundance experienced this month. Let us extend this gratitude throughout the year. The FFA Creed states "achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturalists". With gratitude we can continue the success that our peers and mentors are setting us up for in our school, community, and own life.

**The Grow-NY Conference** took place on November 15-16th. Grow-NY hosts an annual business competition for students and adults with incredible ideas for future agriculture innovation. These minds are pitching their start-ups for a cash prize to either fuel or create their visions. NYSFFA was proudly represented by students from Oxford FFA, On-Tech FFA, McGraw FFA, and Marathon FFA. From mushrooms for improved nutrition to rock dust for increased nutritional value in our produce, the youth competitors did not disappoint! NYSFFA's very own Faith Baker of Marathon FFA won first place in the youth division with her Kune Kune start-up.

**Native American Heritage Month** started on November 1st and continued until November 30th. NY is the home of Native land and rich traditions left behind by indigenous people in our agriculture practices and beyond. NYSFFA highlights and celebrates all of the contributions made by Native Americans in our nation to preserve our land, climate, and the advocacy of Native American rights. We extend our gratitude to all indigenous and non-indigenous people who continue these contributions. Let us continue to expand our knowledge on all cultures throughout our journeys in FFA.



**2022 Grow-NY Youth competitors and Competition Winner Faith Baker, Marathon FFA.**

## Member Spotlight:

Mandy Li,  
District 1

Mandy Li is a senior at John Bowne High School, she has been in FFA since 2019. and has been an active member since. With over **SEVEN** different Supervised Agricultural Experiences, competing in multiple Career Development Events and serving as a chapter officer, Mandy has done a lot throughout her years! Mandy is currently serving as the John Bowne FFA Chapter Secretary. When asked "How do you believe you've made an impact on your chapter?" she responded "I believe I made an impact on my chapter through the engagement I have with them. I've made friends with the younger classmen who I've inspired to run for office this upcoming year". As secretary, Mandy creates monthly calendars for her chapter which intrigue members to attend monthly chapter meetings and events with her calligraphy and artwork that make each calendar unique. FFA is Mandy's safe place, she has been able to learn and explore different areas in agriculture while creating long lasting friendships. Mandy's recent supervised agricultural experience was an apprenticeship with Brooklyn Bee Corps, where she was able to work and learn more about bees and apiaries. On a day-to-day basis, Mandy's SAE consisted of harvesting honey, doing daily check ins with the hives and much more! Through this project she was given the amazing opportunity to go on field trips to places such as the Billion Oysters Project located on Governors Island. Mandy states, "Living in the city, these opportunities are rare and seeing the bees at different sites such as rooftop gardens and cemeteries made me respect their hard work even more." Mandy plans on studying plant science in college with a focus in plant breeding, she hopes to attend the University of Wisconsin Madison or Cornell University!



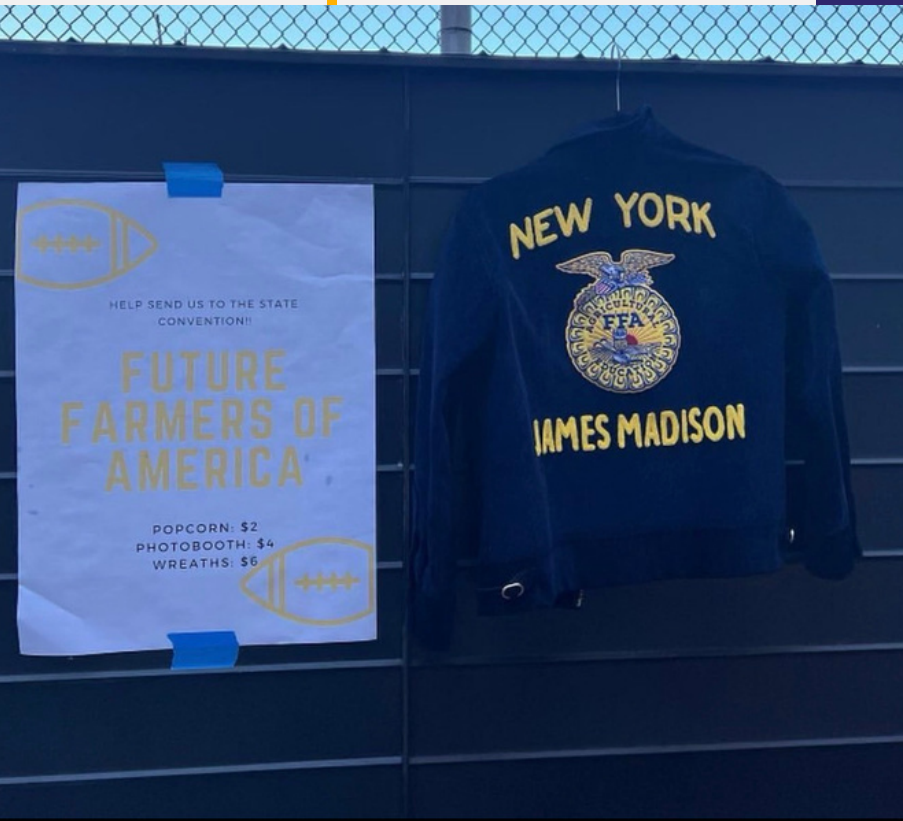
Keep up the  
good work  
Mandy!

# DISTRICT 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Like many others, District 1 has gotten into the swing of things. Throughout District 1 there have been many new members in FFA. We have been able to have new chapters become a part of District 1. District 1 would like to welcome HART High School FFA, James Madison FFA and the New York Harbor FFA chapter! With James Madison hosting their first event to fundraise to help them attend the 2023 New York State FFA Convention to the John Bowne FFA Chapter hosting their annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner, our members are being active in their FFA activities! We cannot wait to see what more District 1 will accomplish!

## Get to Know The District 1 President!

Hello everyone! My name is Naydeline Navarrete, and I have the amazing opportunity to serve as the 2022-2023 District One President. I'm currently a senior at John Bowne High School. I have done two different Supervised Agricultural Experiences, my first project was working at a doggy daycare where I worked with a variety of different dog breeds. I worked with them on a day to day basis and gave them enrichment throughout the day while always supervising them and just making sure everyone had a fun time. My current SAE project is working in the Exotic Avian Laboratory we have at John Bowne. In this facility I am the manager, on a day to day basis I take care of a variety of different bird species and give them the proper husbandry they need. Additionally I give them daily enrichment to make sure they are socialized and get what they need. Besides me being really active in FFA, I also manage boys and girls table tennis, and have also been on COED Varsity Stunt. During my free time I enjoy listening to music and catching up with friends. In the upcoming year I am planning on majoring in animal science with a minor in education to become an agriculture teacher. I hope to attend either the University of Minnesota or Rutgers University.



# Photo Contest Winners:

November's theme was Gratitude, Harvest, and Abundance. Students were able to send in pictures that exemplified any perspective of the chosen theme. Thank you to all that submitted an image!

Grand Champion: Jadon Flinton, Galway FFA

Reserve Champion: Ava Castine, Northern Adirondack

High Honorable Mention: Hanna Lighthall, Beaver River

Honorable Mention: Gurjeet Singh, John Bowne



Jadon Flinton, Galway



Ava Castine, Northern Adirondack



Hanna Lighthall, Beaver River



Gurjeet Singh, John Bowne

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**DECEMBERS THEME IS... PRESERVATION**



## NEW YORK AG: THE FUTURE

Thinking futuristically, what are students doing to impact the future of agriculture, our communities or our organization? In October, state FFA leaders serving as National FFA delegates traveled to Indianapolis to discuss challenges and make recommendations for the future of FFA. NY State Officers served as representatives and helped craft a series of reports that have been forwarded to the FFA Board of Directors for implementation. These revisions of the FFA manual and handbook will positively impact our national organization for years to come. Over 4 days of work, significant changes were adopted! New York FFA members and chapters should take note of some key topics that impact our chapters.

- 5th and 6th graders can now be added to your National FFA roster and are eligible for the full benefits of FFA membership as long as they are enrolled in courses. This will eventually eliminate the need for our NYS only membership option as all of our students will be eligible for traditional membership.
- FFA chapters can make choices that work best for them in FFA ceremonies when addressing members of their team. Mr. President, Madam President or President LAST NAME are all acceptable and meet the requirements set forth not only by FFA delegates but also by Roberts Rules of Order.
- FFA continues to wrestle with how to define a Supervised Agricultural Experience and whether it is "agricultural enough." The delegate body struck down a recommendation to create a list of acceptable SAEs out of concern it would discourage student innovation and take the authority and leadership away from teachers and students and give it to a list. We encourage all FFA members to think about how they can connect their experiences to agriculture, food and natural resources - AND to their future careers! No matter what you want to do with your future, your SAE can help you build relevant skills AND relate to agriculture at the same time.
- There was a lot of discussion about FFA official dress. While there isn't a national solution yet, our team encourages each chapter to think about how you might help your chapter members get access to the components of official dress. Being proactive and intentional can help us be more inclusive of students we might not know need help. This models the line of the FFA creed "in less need for charity and more of it when needed."

