

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022 | FOURTH EDITION

# NEW YORK FFA



## *What's in this newsletter:*

JANUARY & FEBRUARY UPDATE

FFA WEEK EVENTS 2022

DISTRICT UPDATE & MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY & MARCH CALENDAR



## January & February Update

*Makenna Seitz*

Hello, New York FFA! The last month has been busy for chapters across the state- preparing for district competitions, sub-states, and chapter events have been prominent components throughout January and February. Congratulations to all members who competed at the district level and to those moving on to sub-states! We were upset when we had to cancel the New Member Leadership Series but trust me, we have so many fun things coming up. In the upcoming weeks, the state officers will be working with the 2022-2023 state officer and district president candidates at our first ever Boot Camp training to help members prepare for the selection processes that are coming up very soon! We are also offering a virtual State Leaders Experience, where chapters will be able to hear from legislators and learn about advocating for agriculture, among so many other important qualities. We are excited to be offering the Pen Pal program again this year, which is starting soon! Sign up by February 22nd to get involved!

Just a few weeks ago, the state officers traveled across New York to congratulate the 11 Golden Owl Award finalists. The following advisors are the 2022 Golden Owl Award Finalists:

- Mrs. Crystal Aukema, Marathon FFA
- Mrs. Johanna Bossard, Hamilton FFA
- Mr. Charles Ax, Morrisville Collegiate FFA
- Mrs. Tina Miner-James, Windsor FFA
- Mr. Matthew Bryant, GST BOCES FFA
- Mr. Melvin Phelps, Lowville FFA
- Mr. John St. Mary, Brushton-Moira FFA
- Mr. Todd Eick, Medina FFA
- Ms. Chloe Fuentes, John Bowne FFA
- Mrs. Patricia Walker, Randolph FFA
- Mrs. Taylor Bogardus, Schoharie FFA



We are thankful to have these amazing educators with us, and good luck to you all at State Convention, where we will announce the state winner!

# FFA Week 2022

*Makenna Seitz*

Hey NY FFA! Are you all ready for FFA Week? The State Officers have been working hard to make sure that you all get to showcase your SAE's, show appreciation for our supporters and alumni, and so many other things! FFA Week begins on February 19 and ends on February 26.

How many of you know the history behind FFA Week? Read below for more information!

"Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. It's a time to share the story of what FFA is and how FFA is preparing future leaders through agricultural education. Currently, FFA has more than 735,000 student members as part of 8,600 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, the organization is supported by 8 million+ alumni members. What better way to show your support of FFA than to get involved in FFA Week?

Designated as a national week in 1947, the week of George Washington's birthday, National FFA Week runs from Saturday to Saturday. The week of George Washington's birthday was selected to celebrate the impact he had on agriculture. FFA Week gives FFA members an opportunity to educate the public about agriculture and show their local impact and story. During the week, chapters conduct a variety of activities to help others in their school and community learn about FFA and agricultural education.

By celebrating National FFA Week, the local chapter is able to engage all FFA members, students in the local school corporation, administration, faculty and staff, businesses in the community, alumni and supporters to bring awareness of the positive impact FFA and agricultural education have on members and students. Sharing each chapter's story only helps to share the positive impact members will have as world-changing future leaders."

- National FFA Organization

Each day is broken down into social media posts for members to showcase their stories, which can be seen below. Make sure you get ready to share your FFA experience on social media with our statewide FFA Week hashtag, #NYFFAWeek22.



Sunday 20	SAE Sunday
Monday 21	Grants for Growing
Tuesday 22	Alumni and Supporters
Wednesday 23	Ag Teacher Appreciation
Thursday 24	Give FFA Day
Friday 25	Wear BLUE
Saturday 26	Define Your FFA Story



## District Two Update

*Annette Prezzano*



Chapters in District Two have been busy at work in preparation for the holidays and harvesting their crops from the fall season. The Tri-Valley FFA Chapter has been operating in full swing since returning back to school in September. Their members have been participating in activities in their school by offering an Ag Question of the day, along with floral design workshops for the community to participate in. Members from their chapter assisted in the workshop as well as caring for the children of the adults who participated. Their chapter has also arranged floral designs for eight weddings and three other events in their area since the start of school. During the fall season, Tri-Valley FFA has been organizing and helping with events like their local Annual Pumpkin Party, The Big Apple Crunch, and Trunk or Treat to give back to the community.

Another chapter in District Two that has been helping their community is our fairly new John Jay FFA chapter. They have only been a chartered chapter for a few years, but they have made a big splash in the New York State FFA. They started a goat yoga fundraiser for their chapter with the members. They had an amazing turnout for their first year running the fundraiser, which ran for a few weeks in the spring of 2021. They plan on improving the goat yoga experience so that it can be used in the future. The John Jay chapter has also made headlines in the FFA New Horizons Magazine because of their tremendous efforts to become involved with their community. District Two is extremely happy to have them as a representative!

A third chapter that has been active in District Two is the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Chapter. They started the year off strong with bringing 30 members to Camp Oswegatchie for summer camp. They had a lot of fun bonding with other members and many of them especially enjoyed the high ropes course. In October, they celebrated Kayleigh Reynolds-Flynn as their first American Degree recipient! They have also held fundraisers such as a Citrus Sale, Soup Sale, and making Thanksgiving wreaths as a chapter to sell in their community. Their chapter also had members participate in the Farm Bureau business meeting where they were able to meet Senator Michelle Hinchey, the Chair of the Agriculture Committee. Over the holidays they participated in Christmas tree decorating at their local park to recognize a fellow student who has been facing an illness. Finally, in the Holiday spirit, their chapter put together a float in the Peter Becker Memorial Holiday Parade. Here are some of their pictures from their activities!

District Two has many activities planned for the winter season and beyond, including winter weekend and district contests. Winter Weekend is held at Camp Oswegatchie in Croghan, New York for members to build connections with others in their district. This event is an overnight trip and was held from January 14 to 16. Members and advisors were able to participate in activities like snowshoeing, shelter building, and fire making. During the weekend of winter fun, all that attended ate meals together and engaged in small workshops to form deeper connections. On March 5th, District Two will hold their district contests at the Pine Plains school, and more information will be shared as soon as we know. We look forward to seeing everyone and hearing more about what is keeping District Two productive!



# District Two- Member Spotlight

Annette Prezzano

The member spotlight for District Two is from the Tri-Valley FFA chapter. Katie Dauch is the chapter historian, and is a third year member. She volunteered in the community garden all summer to help grow and harvest food for the local food pantry and extended the project by using some of the vegetables to make preserves and breads for donation as well. Katie also worked with her mom to make over 100 additional dry jars filled with soup ingredients, cookie ingredients and bread ingredients for donation too. These are shelf stable items and just need wet ingredients added to them and some cooking to have a finished product. Katie has also helped with multiple chapter activities this year and went to camp and the Morrisville State College CDEs this summer. She is currently taking greenhouse management and floral design and wants to pursue a career in plant science. Her advisor says, “She is a fantastic member and is looking forward to attending leadership conferences this year. While soft spoken, she is a strong voice for FFA and agriculture!” She is definitely a member that is making her mark on the Tri-Valley FFA chapter and her community!



# District Two President

*Annette Prezzano*

Greetings New York State FFA! My name is Annette Prezzano. I am from the Pine Plains FFA chapter and I am currently serving as the District Two President. I am a senior at Stissing Mountain Jr/Sr High School, and this is my 7th year in the FFA. My SAE involves managing my family's hobby farm where we raise small animals, including chickens and goats. My herd of goats consists of an equal number of Alpine dairy goats and Boer meat goats. I began raising goats at 9 years old, and since then I travel to about 7 shows annually all over New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Along with showing goats, I play basketball, volleyball, and run track for my school. My favorite hobbies are showing goats and reading science-fiction books. I am also a member of Dutchess County 4-H, the American Dairy Goat Association, and a youth representative for the Dutchess County Livestock sale. I enjoy being involved in agriculture and hope to pursue an animal science degree with a minor in agricultural education at SUNY Cobleskill in the Fall of 2022.



# District Six Update

*Taylor Stalker*

While this year has not been the same as years in the past, members of District Six have seen opportunities and taken them. As the district begins to open up, we will continue to take these opportunities and make the best of them.

District Six took members to National Convention this past October. While not all chapters were able to attend due to an array of reasons, the chapters that could attend, made the most of it and had so much fun. Many leaders in the district competed at Nationals representing New York State. While some competed online, others had the chance to compete in person. The South Jefferson FFA chapter placed bronze at Nationals for Parli Pro. The Lowville FFA team for Conduct of Chapter meeting also placed bronze. Belleville Henderson's, Elizabeth Hyman's proficiency went onto Nationals, where she received gold ranking in dairy production placement. Beaver River's, Hanna Lighthall placed bronze at Nationals in Prepared Public Speaking.

Over the holidays, District 6 took the time to bring holiday cheer throughout their communities. The Beaver River FFA members made Christmas centerpieces for their homes, which is an annual tradition. The Lowville FFA held a tractor decorating contest for local businesses and families to participate in to spread the joy of the holidays. South Jefferson FFA just completed a community service project, where they made fleece winter hats for local community organizations.

District competitions are approaching, giving members the chance to compete in-person once again. As time goes on, I have hopes that we will all be able to meet together and have a day of fun as a district by having a cornhole tournament!



# District Six- Member Spotlight

*Taylor Stalker*

Hanna Lighthall is a hardworking member and very deserving of this spotlight. Hanna is a junior in the Beaver River FFA chapter, who joined FFA in 6th grade. Hanna is dedicated to agriculture and has participated in many FFA activities. Hanna's favorite agriculture class offered at her school is plant science, where she gets to learn all about propagation, the caring of plants, and also working with landscaping.

Hanna's SAE is horticulture, where she works in her garden. Her garden contains a multitude of herbs, vegetables, and flowers. In the winter and spring, she grows seeds indoors to prepare for the growing season. She also takes care of her house plants and cares for the plants in the ag classroom. She says her plant science class "really helps develop [my] SAE." Hanna is very passionate about horticulture and continues to develop her SAE daily.

Hanna is very active in FFA activities. Her favorite activity is going to events and meeting people from across the state and many different chapters. Her favorite competition is Prepared Public Speaking, which she had the honor of winning the state contest last year and represented New York State at the National Convention. Hanna believes that "prepared public speaking is the most beneficial contest that any young person can do to better their skills in speaking." Winning the state contest in Prepared Public Speaking is also Hanna's proudest FFA moment. Hanna also was given the opportunity to keynote speak at the Rural Schools Association with her winning speech!

At this point in time, Hanna has no concrete plans for after she graduates. Hanna would love to go to college in hopes of pursuing a career that will help her grow, and something where she is able to use her skills to the fullest.

Hanna is a great representation of a well-rounded FFA member. While being involved in FFA, she is also very involved in many activities in her school. Hanna always strives for greatness and has taken every opportunity she has gotten through the FFA and has come very far! Hanna is a hardworking student and member who is very deserving of this recognition.





# District Six President

*Taylor Stalker*

My name is Taylor Stalker and I am serving as the District Six President. I am in 11th grade and attend Lowville Academy. While I did not grow up on a farm, I was intrigued by FFA, leading me to join in 6th grade. I have enjoyed every part of FFA and have exposed myself to many things that I never would have without it.

FFA has taught me many things, from teaching me that I love public speaking, and also that agriculture is around us at all times. I have been active since I joined in 2016, I have done every fundraiser, gone on every trip that I could, competed in a variety of different LDE's, and have an SAE that I love. My favorite FFA event is National Convention. While I have only been able to attend once, it was very memorable. I met new people, competed in Agricultural Communications, and enjoyed all the time spent with my chapter and other schools.

For my SAE, I am incorporating hydroponics into elementary classrooms. Incorporating hydroponics systems into classrooms teaches younger students not only about hydroponics but also how plants grow. My SAE allows agriculture to be incorporated into younger students' lives, especially if they have not been raised on a farm.

While I remain active in FFA, I am also very active in other activities. I am on my high school varsity soccer, volleyball, and track and field teams. I also play club volleyball and soccer, along with dance outside of school. I have danced for 12 years and danced competitively for 7 years! I am also in a multitude of clubs in school. I enjoy the outdoors, reading, and being with friends and family. After high school, I want to further my education and go to college and med school to become a pediatrician. I am considering many schools, but Hartwick University is at the top of my list.

I look forward to interacting with members throughout the year and holding a district event. I am grateful for every opportunity I am given this year being District President!



# FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 District 7 LDE's District 8 LDE's
6	7	8	9 District 4 LDE's	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 24 <b>FFA WEEK</b>		25	26
27	28					

## Important Dates-

2/15:

- District President Applications due
- Empire Degree Applications due
- State Star Applications due

2/19-2/26:

- FFA Week

2/26:

- National Officer Selection Process

2/28:

- State Convention Registration opens

# MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> District 1 LDE's	<b>2</b> Virtual State Leaders Experience	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> District 2 LDE's
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Sub-State Manuscripts due	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
		<b>Ag Literacy Week</b>				
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	State Officer Selection	

## Important Dates-

3/2:

- Virtual State Leaders Experience

3/19:

- Sub-State LDE Contests

- District President Selection @ Sub-State Competitions

3/21-3/25:

- Ag Literacy Week

3/31-4/2:

- State Officer Selection