



# NY FFA Speaks

## December 2015

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?

IN THIS ISSUE

# Hello New York FFA!

By Erin Langdale, State FFA Reporter 15-16

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Decorations are going up, gifts are being bought, travel plans are being made, and the holiday madness is in full swing. In the middle of this holiday madness, sometimes our minds tend to drift onto the gifts we are going to receive, and we forget that the point of the holidays is to give to others. Who can we give to this holiday season? Are we taking the time to give back to the homes and communities that have helped us grow?

There is this story about a man that I read recently named George C. Boldt. He was a young hotel clerk in a small hotel in the city of Philadelphia. On a stormy night a couple came into that small hotel to hide from the storm, only to find out that there were no rooms available. Rather than turn the couple away, George C. Boldt offered the couple his own room for them to stay in that night. George had no reason to do this other than his own kindness. He didn't give up his room for any sort of

recognition; he just wanted to serve selflessly. Now, you may be thinking "What made this guy so important?" Well, two years later George C. Boldt was the first manager of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, one of the world's most luxurious hotels, built and owned by the man who was just looking to hide from a storm two years earlier in Philadelphia. It's crazy to think that one small act of kindness can truly change your life, and someone else's.

As FFA members we know the impact that giving and serving others can have on the world around us, and the holiday season gives us even more of an opportunity to do awesome things for others. This holiday, let's all make a goal to serve others in as many ways as possible, and stick to that goal well into the New Year!

## District Updates



## A Word from the Officers



### Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

- 212/360: 1/30-1/31/16, Syracuse, NY
- National FFA Scholarship Deadline: 2/1/16
- Gov. Awareness Institute: 2/8-2/9/16 (p. 9)
- Empire Degree App.: 2/15/16
- District CDE's start in February



John Bowne FFA members having fun with New York FFA's National Officer Candidate, Catie Rowe!

# DISTRICT ONE SPOTLIGHT

## Decembers' Student of the Month

By Christina Martinez

This month's student of the month goes to Connor Ruddy. Connor is a sophomore at John Bowne High School and a second year FFA member. During Connor's freshman year he was a part of Aquaculture and Ag sales teams. He was very active and went to most of our events. Last year

Connor had the opportunity to go to State Convention and compete in the Aquaculture CDE, the team took first place! The other members of the team were Alexis Blanchard, Nicole Perilla, and Chelsea O'neil. This year Connor had the chance to go to National Convention to show pride for his school and the John Bowne agriculture/ FFA program. Connors goal for this year is to be able to compete on the Vet. Science team at state convention; in addition he is still going to attend the Aquaculture meetings so that he can help this year's team. Keep up the good work Connor!



District 1 President: Christina Martinez

## December Overview

The John Bowne FFA Chapter had our annual Ginger Barn event. We had about 125 kids attend, we put them into teams of no more than 10, and gave each team 45 minutes to build a ginger bread dog shelter. We had so much fun watching everybody work together to build some pretty amazing ginger bread dog shelters.





## 212/360 Conference!

New York FFA is excited to offer the 212/360 conference again this year on **January 30-31, 2016**. 212/360 is one of our most anticipated and well-received leadership events, anchored in the middle of the school year. 212 focuses on individual leadership and 360 is excellent for older students with leadership experience, helping them to recognize the potential they have to impact their chapter, school and community around them.

## District Two in Action



*I was recently able to be a part of the team that got to represent NYS FFA in the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE at the 88th National FFA Convention and Expo. I am pictured above holding the silver plaque that my team received for our overall performance in the competition.*

## Who is Your District 2 President?

By Ethan Keller

Hey, New York State FFA! My name is Ethan Keller and I am so excited to be able to serve you as your 2015-2016 District 2 President! I am from the Sharon Springs FFA Chapter, where I also serve as my chapter's president and have been an active member for 6 years. Throughout my FFA career, I have competed in the Creed Speaking, Quiz Bowl, People in Agriculture, and the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE's. Other than competing, I have attended multiple State and National Conventions and Conferences where I have had the opportunity to develop myself into the member that I am today. I currently have a Supervised Agricultural Experience in the area of outdoor recreation. I work at the Cooperstown Dreams Park, a largely popular youth baseball camp for children under 12 years old. I am also currently developing a communications SAE where I will be posting blogs and other posts about how people can get involved in agriculture in creative and new ways. Outside of FFA, I actively participate in my local FBLA, SADD, and Drama Club. I also participate in multiple different vocal groups at my school. I haven't fully decided what I want to be when I grow up, but I would like to either go somewhere in the field of musical theatre and performing arts or study to become an Agriculture Education Teacher. I cannot wait to serve you all over the next year!



## 2016 Oswegatchie Winter camp!

February 14<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Outdoor Survival Camp is an opportunity to enjoy Oswegatchie during the beauty of winter. Each day will be filled with journeys through the 1,200 acre forest on snowshoes and cross country skis. Each night you will sleep in the comfort of an Adirondack lodge. Learn how to build shelters to protect yourself from the winter elements, learn different ways to build fires in the ice and snow. Share camaraderie around evening bonfires and participate in team building activities. The unforgettable memories are guaranteed on this winter experience!

### To Register:

<http://www.oswegatchie.org/2016-winter-camp.html>



## Hello from District 3!

By Seth Browe

Hi everyone, my name is Seth Browe. First off I want to thank everyone in D3 who participated in our district Meeting and Rodeo. It was great to see everyone and a huge thank you to the chapters that traveled hours to get to southern D3 .I hope everyone had a great time!

Even though the year is almost half over there is still so much to be done. I cannot wait for chapter visits. There is so much I want to learn and so many people I want to meet at your chapters. I am looking forward for the competition season to kick off with the Sub-District Competition in just a few months. If there is any way that I can assist you in preparing for you event please let me know. If your chapter has any upcoming events I would love to hear about them so that I can try to attend. I learned so much about each chapter at the rodeo and I can't wait to hear about your accomplishments.

Here's to a great rest of the year!



## Who is your District 4 President?

How many 18 year old Emergency Medical Technician Basics do you know? By the age of 18, our district 4 President Hunter McCall, past all necessary training and exams to become an EMT Basic. McCall is a senior at Walton Central School where he is also serving as the FFA Chapter Vice President. McCall has been a member of his local chapter since he was in Walton middle school. McCall’s SAE is in the area of home and community development. McCall is an active member of the Walton Fire Department Inc. and is employed by the

Jeffersonville Volunteer First Aid Corp. When McCall is not involved with the medical field he enjoys hunting, being outside, hanging with his friend and working with people in the community. McCall has plans to further his education in the medical field as a registered nurse primarily in emergency medicine with hopes of becoming a paramedic. Hunter is looking forward to serving the chapters in District 4 as the 2015-2016 President.

Respectfully submitted

Claire Loker

Walton FFA Reporter

### Answers to the Agriculture Trivia

1. 4<sup>th</sup>
2. 222 people
3. 95%

### Agriculture Trivia

1. Where does NY rank nationally for the number of Christmas tree farms?
2. How many New Yorker’s can one NY farmer feed if we only ate locally?
3. What percentage of farms in New York are family owned?



# Getting to Know your District 5 President!

By Taylor McNamara

Eli Corning and Cassandra Proctor of the TST New Visions FFA Chapter in Tompkins County along with Serene Boronow of the Stockbridge Valley FFA Chapter in Madison County were among the select students nominated to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute Oct. 15-17, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa, during the Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium, which drew 1,300 people from more than 60 countries to discuss the world's hunger and food security issues.

My name is Taylor McNamara! I love meeting new people and being able to lead others and watch them grow. Outside of FFA, I enjoy playing soccer, running, and singing. My favorite time of year is winter, and I would love to own a bakery and coffee shop some day! I would also like to teach agriculture education

I joined FFA in 6th grade, and had an immediate passion for agriculture. Since I do not live on a farm, I felt I may not fit in, but I ran for junior office anyway. I ended up being historian and fell in love with the organization. Today, there is no where I feel more "at home" than in my FFA jacket.



SAE: My SAE is in agriculture education. Each year, Madison holds a Fall Festival where children are given the opportunity to learn about and explore the agriculture in their community. I was inspired to choose agriculture education because of my passion and love for helping others and advocating for agriculture!



## District Six Spotlight



By Megan Parkman

### FFA Members in Action!



### Member Spotlight:

Natalie Chambers is a member of the Northwest Tech FFA Chapter. Natalie is currently serving as the President and is excited to help her chapter grow this year. She is so enthusiastic in her efforts to help her chapter stand strong as they start off their first full year.

Natalie along with another chapter member were the first to attend the National FFA Convention from their new chapter. The Northwest Tech FFA Chapter was started by Advisor Mrs. Gilbert through their Natural Resource Program. Their new chapter received a donation this fall from Senator Patty Ritchie which allowed the chapter to purchase a Bobcat Skid Steer. They have also participated in efforts to educate the public at the Annual Day at the Farm in St. Lawrence County. Northwest Tech participated in the Food Day Youth Summit in late October. Natalie has been present at all these events helping to spread a positive light not only on her and her chapter but our FFA district. I am so proud to call Natalie a member of District 6.



### District News:

Indian River FFA Chapter along with Assemblywoman Addie Russell sponsored the North Country Department Store in November. Over 80 vendors participated in the day of shopping and supporting the Indian River FFA. Upcoming events - Gouverneur FFA Chapter is working with St. Lawrence County Maple Producers for the Maple Expo on Saturday, January 30. FFA members are encouraged to attend and admission is free to members!

# DISTRICT 7 SPOTLIGHT

BY MAUREEN MURPHY



New York Farm Bureau, the State's largest agricultural lobbying organization, is excited to partner with FFA to provide complimentary NYFB Student Memberships for high school juniors and seniors who are FFA members.

Student members will receive a NYFB Membership card, a monthly copy of the NYFB newspaper "Grassroots" and information by email related to young farmer activities and the Agricultural Youth Scholarship Program.



## About your District 7 President:

My name is Maureen Murphy and I am the 2015-2016 District 7 president. This year has been hectic for all the district presidents, but with a little guidance from our new State Secretary Mr. Hill, we are back on our feet.

This year as district president I have made many goals for myself and hope that by the end of May I have reached them all. Currently, I am working with our State Sentinel, Lindsey, on making it to as many of our chapter visits as I can. These, believe it or not, are right around the corner and will be starting up soon. Before I meet with all of the District 7 chapters, I would like everyone to get to know me, so here's a little bit about me!

I'm sixteen years old, I live on a small Black Angus Beef farm, and I help around the barn in my free time. I found my love for FFA in seventh grade when I decided to follow my sister's footsteps in becoming an active member of the Tully FFA Chapter. Not long after that I found myself becoming more interested in participating in FFA activities and trips. These fun times with my chapter are a really big reason why I enjoy FFA so much. I decided that I wanted to start doing CDE's my seventh grade year at Districts, so I competed in Jr. Creed. I participated in this competition for as many years as I could, but finally my advisor told me I needed to try something new. This was the year I planned on running for District president. My advisor and I decided that competing in Extemporaneous Speaking would be really helpful with some of the district president competition that upcoming May. I did well at districts in extemporaneous speaking and made it to sub-states, but did not make it past that. Understanding my own abilities and the responsibilities of district president, I made the decision to run for president. At states that following May I ran and was honored to be elected to the district president position.

The rest of this year I plan on accomplishing my goals and exerting an influence in my local FFA community and in District 7.

District 7 President  
Maureen Murphy



## Governmental and Global Awareness Institute

New York Association of FFA



February 8-9, 2016  
Hilton Hotel  
Albany, NY

For more details visit [www.nysffa.org](http://www.nysffa.org)

This two day intensive conference focuses on FFA members engaging directly with their local lawmakers to learn about the legislative process. Chapter leaders will gain knowledge of the governmental process and develop leadership skills that they can use to promote agriculture, education, and FFA when meeting with state elected officials.



### Partnership Opportunities:

Contact your county Farm Bureau and ask for their support and sponsorship of this conference!

STUDENTS AND ADVISORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHEDULING INDIVIDUAL VISITS WITH THEIR LOCAL LEGISLATOR ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016. We are currently allowing chapters to register up to 6 students. After the registration deadline passes, the State FFA Office will open up a waiting list for additional students from registered chapters. Students attending this conference must be juniors or seniors in high school. They should have strong communication skills and have an interest in agricultural issues and the governmental process.

## Your District 8 President!



My name is Paige Demun and I am currently serving as District 8 President. In

addition to being district president, I am serving for the 4th year as chapter treasurer. My CDE is in dairy production. I own 32 dairy cattle. I am active in the breeding process of my animals. In addition I keep detailed records of all my cattle submitting these records to other dairy organizations. I also am active in leadership CDE's such as Prepared Public Speaking and Ag. Issues. I have competed in Dairy Judging and won the state Dairy Handlers contest a few years ago.

## Member Spotlight :

Vanessa Helgeland, currently a junior at Jasper-Troupsburg has been an active part of the chapter for many years. She is currently serving as the chapter secretary. She is very active in the leadership aspect of FFA. Vanesa has competed for many years in the extemporaneous speaking contest at the district and substate levels and last year competed in and won the



state Sr. High Creed speaking contest. She is currently preparing for this years' leadership contests. She plans to run for chapter president as well.

# DISTRICT 9 SPOTLIGHT

BY CLARA STILWELL



## Who is your District 9 President?

Hello New York FFA, my name is Clara Stilwell and I am proud to serve as your 2015-2016 District 9 President! I am from the Albion FFA Chapter, where I have served many officer positions and have been a member for 6 years. I have competed in a couple CDEs including Jr. Creed and Jr. People in Ag, but I hope to further my knowledge by competing in many more. I have been to several FFA events including 212/360, State Conventions and even National Convention. I cannot wait to be a part of this year's state convention in Syracuse and see all of you!

## Member Spotlight:

This month's member spotlight goes to Abby Maines of the Medina FFA Chapter! Abby has been working incredibly hard as her chapter's President. Abby has held many officer positions throughout her FFA history. She has always been a part of the Agricultural Program and has always helped out with Medina's FFA events. She has been a chairperson for several event and fundraiser committees and has just helped everything run smoothly. Each year the Medina FFA hosts a beef on wick dinner and Abby has been one of the main helpers and planners of this event. Abby has been a very active member and has competed in many CDEs such as Jr. People in Ag, Jr. Extemporaneous, Jr. Creed, Senior Prepared, Senior Extemporaneous and Food Science. Keep up the hard work Abby!



## District News:

The chapters in District 9 have had very busy schedules so far this year. Albion FFA just recently held their annual food drive to give back to the members of their community. Batavia Genesee Valley Boces FFA will be having an FFA Day where they will be bringing together all the FFA members in their school to learn about different aspects of agriculture and FFA.



## [State Convention Update](#)



### Plans are well underway for an exciting and rewarding 91<sup>st</sup> NYS FFA Convention

MAY 5-7, 2016  
@ THE ONCENTER  
SYRACUSE, NY

#### Endless Opportunities:

- Motivational Speakers
- Career Development Events
- "Day of Service"
- Career Show
- Recognition
- Celebration
- A Chance to Meet New People
- Tours
- Workshops
- Entertaining Acts
- Etc.....

We can't wait to see how you make an IMPRINT on this year's state convention!



## District 10 Spotlight

By Ashley Lyman

I'm Ashley Lyman from the Cuba-Rushford FFA chapter. This year I am our chapter's vice president and I am also serving as the District 10 president. This is my fifth year in FFA and I have gained so many useful life lessons and skills throughout these years. My SAE is dairy entrepreneurship. I raise and show my registered Jerseys at numerous shows including the New York State Fair and the All American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, PA. My favorite part about being in FFA is all of the leadership conferences we get to go to and also competing in CDE's. For me this is a great way to get to meet new people and make some great friends and also work on career success and personal growth. As a district president my goals are to be a successful leader; trying to make my district closer as a whole along with inspiring the members to set goals and not be afraid to try and reach them.

## A Word from the Officers

One of the most amazing opportunities the state officers have had this year is to be able to travel around the state and meet so many awesome FFA members and get to know them. While we have been getting to know more about you this year, the officers wanted you to know a bit more about us! So we took the time to answer some questions about who we are.

Questions the officers were asked:

1. What is your favorite thing you've done this year?
2. What are you most looking forward to this year?
3. What is your favorite holiday tradition?



Sara Millspaugh

State President

Albion FFA

So far as a state officer I have had the chance to participate in several state wide events, but my all-time favorite event was getting to spend two weeks at Oswegatchie during summer camp. This experience allowed me to spend time getting to know members from all across New York State by teaching workshops, serving meals, and staying the night at different campsites. I am looking forward to visiting District 3 for my chapter visits. I am so excited to interact with chapter members and tour their FFA programs. My all-time favorite holiday tradition is blaring Christmas music and decorating the house. Christmas is my all-time favorite holiday because of the music and all the decorations.



Emma Rose Wegner

State Vice President

Schoharie Valley FFA

My favorite thing that I have done this year was travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the State Presidents Conference. There I got to work with other state officers from all across the country and bounce ideas off of them on how to get their state associations more involved. I also got to work with the national officers and got advice from them on how to be a stronger leader. The connections I made at the conference were unbelievable and I know I have made lifelong friendships. This year I am looking forward to chapter visits. During National Officer Tour we were able to see so many chapters across the state and all the incredible things that they do. I am excited to be able to revisit some of those chapters and grasp a deeper understanding of just what their program entails and how they are strong leaders in their community. District 1, 8, and some of 5 get ready for me to come visit! My favorite holiday tradition is keeping multiple advent calendars to celebrate the days leading up to Christmas. It's fun to see what character or little object it is that day to make a bigger picture by the end of the 25 days of Christmas. It helps remind me what the true meaning of this holiday season is and be appreciative of the small things



Tricia Jordan

State Secretary

Greenwich FFA

My favorite thing so far this year was participating in the Community Service workshop with chapter officers at COLT. It was such a cool opportunity to sit down and identify the needs in our communities, and then develop plans to reach those needs. The officers were so obviously passionate about this project that it made it so much more exciting to be able to actually give two chapters a start on these projects with a scholarship. In the coming year I am most excited for chapter visits. I can't wait to spend more time getting to know all of the things that make each chapter uniquely incredible! My favorite holiday tradition is going to mass on Christmas Eve each year with my family. Although we go to church every Sunday, there is something so different and special about going on Christmas Eve. Members of the church have spent hours decorating and ensuring every detail is perfect so that the evening runs smoothly, but my favorite part is the joy found in every person. Everyone greets each other with a smile, filling the entire building with warmth. The holidays are truly a time to remind us of where we find our joy, and how we can bring that joy to those around us.



Kaylah Gulley

State Treasurer

Greenwich FFA

My absolute favorite thing I've done this year has to have been the InTENse Conference over the summer because I had the chance to spend a week with students who are interested in agriculture from all over the state. Between all of the campus tours, meeting and listening to different professors and of course enjoying the water park at the end of the week, the entire event not only helped me clearly decide what to do after high school but also meet students who also have a passion for agriculture! Among my other favorites of the year, speaking at the New York Farm Bureau Annual State Meeting was a highlight, especially when I was talking to lobbyists, Farm Bureau members, and FFA alumni who told me how proud they are of NYS FFA and all of its members, which is something we have in common. And spending two weeks at the beautiful Camp Oswegatchie and not only meeting students but also watching them develop into confident leaders in the span of a short week was another highlight of my year! I am most looking forward to the 91st State Convention at the OnCenter in Syracuse this May. My teammates and I, along with all of the State Staff, are working hard to make sure that it will be an amazing experience. As sad as it will be to retire during Convention, I am excited to see what this next team of officers will accomplish during their one year of service. But most importantly, I am stoked to celebrate NYS FFA and all of the members that make such a positive IMPRINT on our organization. I can't wait to see you all there! A classic Gulley family tradition that I look forward to year after year is our Christmas Eve Game Night. My brother and I were always antsy and in order to put a stop to our pestering, we were allowed to each open ONE present and a family present. My grandparents would come down for a big dinner and every year my brother and I got a new pair of Christmas pajamas to wear the next day and our family present was some sort of game. With my grandparents, we would play for hours, talking about our years, making fun of each other, and trying to beat our competitive dad in whatever game it was. I look forward every year to spending time with my family and having fun on Christmas Eve.



Erin Langdale

State Reporter

Warwick Valley FFA

My favorite event so far this year has been National Officer Tour. Getting to see chapters all over the state and what makes each of them unique was such a cool opportunity. Not only did we get to meet awesome FFA members, but we got to visit so many cool places that I have never seen before like Niagara Falls. The two events I'm most looking forward to are the 212/360 conference and State Convention. I can't wait to see the ways that FFA members "Get in Character" with us at 212/360 and I'm so excited to see the lasting "Imprint" that New York FFA members will make at State Convention! My favorite holiday tradition is Christmas mornings in the Langdale house. After we open gifts, my mom always makes a huge, delicious breakfast, while we blast Christmas music around the house. It always winds up turning into a giant jam session with my family, as we enjoy the spirit of the holidays. Memories like those are the reason Christmas is my favorite holiday.



Lindsey Palmer

State Sentinel

Hamilton FFA

National officer tour was my favorite event because I loved meeting members and visiting their chapters. It's really cool to see how New York FFA is so diverse but we all share common passions. I am looking forward to State Convention because it is a time where we can honor member's accomplishments and see just how talented NY FFA is. My favorite holiday tradition is going to my grandparents' house on Christmas Eve. I love sharing the holidays with my family, sharing stories and of course eating all the delicious food my family has prepared.



## Contact

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