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To: [AGED-L](#)
Subject: Fwd: NY Ag Ed/FFA News Blitz
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 7:41:13 PM

Good Afternoon,

I hope that everyone is having a great summer!

As a reminder of why we are sending this email out: In an attempt to streamline communications and keep everyone updated on the status of NY AG ED & FFA we will be sending out emails on the 1st and 15th of each month (if one of these dates is on a weekend it will be sent out either the Friday before or the Monday after) that will have updates on all of the current and future events, projects, deadlines, etc. of our organizations. We will still continue to send out information if it can't wait to be included on the 2 week cycles but at least this way there will be regular communication and you know when it will be. All of our different groups will be participating in this new initiative which includes the following (NY Association of FFA, NY FFA Foundation, NY FFA Alumni, Ag. Education (NYAAE), Camp Oswegatchie, Ag In The Classroom) We hope this will help all of you and your programs going forward. Since today is July 28th and we will be on the road for Intense next week, below is our second edition of NY AG ED/FFA News Blitz!



AG ED/Professional Development Updates:

Do your students know that agriculture is the single largest employer in the world? Are your students aware of the

amount of food that will need to be produced to feed our population by 2050? **Show your Students the Importance of Ag Education, print the attached poster for your classroom.**

Harbor Freight Prize for Teaching Excellence - \$500,000 in Awards

The Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence recognizes outstanding skilled trades programs at public high schools in the United States. The application deadline is July 24, 2017, at 5 pm Pacific time. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply!

National Teach Ag Day

Go ahead and start making your plans to celebrate National Teach Ag Day on Thursday, September 21st! Check out the [Teach Ag website](#) for more information, celebration ideas & so much more!

Did you complete the survey after attending the 2017 NYAAE Professional Development Conference? Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYAAE17> Please help NYAAE and share your responses so your feedback can be incorporated into planning our 2018 conference.

Apply for XLR8 2017

Selected recipients will receive a scholarship to attend the XLR8 Institute at the 2017 NAAE Convention, December 5-9, 2017 in Nashville, Tennessee (including airfare and hotel!) Applications are due Friday, September 1. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.



Camp Oswegatchie

Updates:

NORTH COUNTRY CHALLENGE

4 MILE RACE ❖ 2 MILE FUN RUN/WALK

**OFF-ROAD RUN/WALK WITH MAN-MADE AND NATURAL
OBSTACLES**

Oswegatchie Educational Center, 9340 Long Pond Road, Croghan, NY

Saturday, August 19th, 2017

Registration 9:00am Race 10:00am

The Burrville office will be hosting our fourth annual North Country Challenge consisting of a four mile race and two mile fun run/walk. The race will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017 at the Oswegatchie Educational Center in Croghan, NY. The race includes man-made and natural obstacles on a trail in the Adirondack Park with a noon time meal and prizes! We would like to invite anyone that is interested to join in on the fun this year. All the information about the race can be found at:

<https://NorthCountryChallenge.itsyourrace.com/register/>

Last year, we raised over \$14,000 to benefit these three organizations:

- **Food Bank of Central New York** provided over 12,000 meals to Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, and Oswego Counties.
- **NY FFA Leadership Training Foundation** purchased additional items for camp use and leadership training.
- **NNY Community Foundation** provided training opportunities through the Garrett Loomis Foundation which helps to train and prepare firefighters for on-farm emergencies.

You will be supporting our community, youth, agriculture, and wellness activities!

Thank you and we hope to see you there!

New York Association of FFA Updates:

The state officers have split responsibilities over the past couple of weeks, some are currently at camp engaging with members at campsites, during recreational activities and through the leadership workshop. Ethan Keller and Megan Lamb traveled to Washington DC this week to represent our state at the State Presidents Conference (SPC), please see the attached pictures. New York's proposal was combined with a couple of other proposals that will look at the roles of delegates. Unpaid SAE hours along with Degree Requirements will be looked at by a separate committee that Megan Lamb is a member of. New York will also be submitting an amendment to the constitution by the January Deadline to remove the 24 month stipulation to

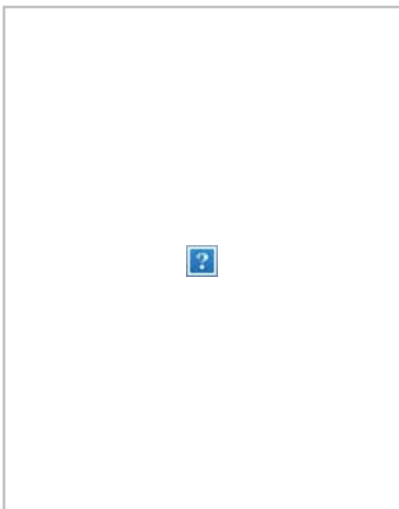
receive your state degree and replace it with two years of paid membership. Thank you Holly Partridge for bringing this issue to the attention of our state leaders.

With a new school year comes the need to update and submit your students **waivers and emergency contact health forms** which can be found at <http://www.nysffa.org/student-waiver>. Each school must also submit a Certificate of Liability with the New York Association of FFA listed as additionally insured. Please feel free to send these things electronically or by mail to Nancy Grossman. We must have student waivers and emergency contact health forms in order for them to participate at any state level event, this includes all of the events happening over the summer (Intense, Empire Farm Days, State Fair, etc.)

The **FFA roster** year will be coming to a close in just a few short weeks. Please double check your rosters to make sure all of your students that are participating at Empire Farm Days, State Fair, Big E and National Convention are dues paying members before the August 15th deadline. Empire Farm Days is before this deadline, students must be on the roster before this event in order to compete in welding or tractor driving.

INTENSE has added a 5th college tour, Paul Smith's is now one of the agricultural colleges the 59 registered students will be visiting the week of July 30th – August 4th. For more information regarding Intense please visit <http://www.nysffa.org/intense>.

Empire Farm Days will be August 8-10, 2017 with CDE's taking place on the 10th. Please make sure you contact either Johanna Bossard, jbossard@hamiltoncentral.org, (Welding) or Jon Clayson, jclayson@pioneersd.org, (Tractor Driving) to register your teams. They both have sent emails with the information that you need.



State Fair will be here before we know it! All of the information regarding CDE's, lodging, rules, etc. can be found at <http://www.nysffa.org/state-fair>. The updated dorm registration form can be found at this link: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/statefairdorm2017_328.

State fair ticket request form must be submitted by August 1st.

We have been working on at four new initiatives for the State Fair this year. With the State Fair hosting over 1 million people and having the National FFA President, David Townsend, joining us we want to take full advantage of these opportunities to engage our members but also the

public.

-The first new initiative is called the **AIM** (Action Influences Members) Experience which will take place Saturday, 8/26, and Sunday, 8/27, at the Empire Room on the fairgrounds. The goal behind this experience is to help your chapter get excited and prepared for the upcoming year. Attached is more information and here is the link to register <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYFFAAIM2017>. As you will note on the attached information, Saturday is optional to attend. This way if you are not able to spend the night you can still participate on Sunday. To encourage new ideas chapters who participate on Sunday will have the opportunity to win a \$500 grant to implement what they develop during the conference. Visit our website for more updates.

-The second new initiative will be to encourage chapters to bring displays to the fair. The National FFA President will pick one or two displays that really stand out and in return those 1 or 2 chapters will have the opportunity to have the National FFA President take your chapter out to dinner or a fun activity. David will be available after 3pm on Friday, 8/25, Sunday, 8/27 and Monday 8/28 to meet you and your chapter members within 2-3 hours of Syracuse at a location of your choosing.

-The third new initiative will be to recognize students on the talent stage that is located next to the 4-H building. We hope this will give our state fair competitors a little more recognition of their accomplishments.

-A joint effort between the NY Department of Labor and the NY Department of Ag and Markets is hosting an **Agriculture Career Day** at the State Fair this year on Friday, 9/1/17. They have asked that FFA members help with this event. They will be interacting with the public. We are looking for about 30-40 members that would be available to help on this day. More information to come.

State Officer Tour will be taking place the week of Oct. 2nd-Oct. 6th, 2017. We are seeking chapters that are willing to work with us to develop events for our members around the state. We are looking for new interactive ideas that will allow our members to interact with the state officer team and our National Officer Candidate. If you are a new chapter and would like us to visit your school please reach out to us as well. **If you are interested in participating/hosting this event please reach back out to me by August 7th.**

National FFA Updates:

FFA Participates in Native Youth in Agriculture Summit

Local Program Success Specialist Ben Meyer and Mark Poeschl started the week in Arkansas speaking to 134 indigenous youth who represented 79 tribal affiliations as part of the Native Youth in Agriculture Summit. This is our organization's fourth year of involvement in this event. Ben discussed our outreach efforts to Native Americans, and he and Mark connected with many of the attendees who proudly proclaimed their home FFA chapters. Dozens of

additional youth expressed interest in bringing agricultural education to their communities. We shared resources, ideas and best practices for leveraging local leaders to help add agricultural education as an option in their schools.

As part of the summit, Mark Poeschl held two focus group discussions, learning and listening to native youth as they shared the realities of being an indigenous FFA member; living on a reservation; experiencing prejudices at FFA and school events outside their communities; and making FFA a more inclusive organization.

Telling the FFA Story

Our FFA members are doing great things, and Oologah FFA member Jesse Rader is a prime example. Jesse not only participated in the 2017 Stars and Proficiency International Travel Experience this summer, he also attended the Washington Leadership Conference. He shared his summer highlights with his local media. Read his story in the attached PDF.

Awards and Recognition Team Update

Summer is a busy time for the awards and recognition staff, too. They recently welcomed intern Cassidy Neal to the career development event (CDE) and leadership development event (LDE) team. Cassidy joins us from Murray State University and majors in agricultural education, with a minor in chemistry. She will be with us through the convention and expo. We are excited to have her join us.

Team members Madeline Young, Brett Evans, Rebecca Carter and Cassidy recently toured the headquarters of Beck's Hybrid in Atlanta, Ind. They learned about the history of Beck's and how this FFA sponsor contributes to agriculture and FFA. The team also met a few current and potential program judges.

Rebecca and newly hired CDE Education Specialist Matthew Swartz traveled to Purdue University's College of Agriculture to meet with Dr. Karen Plaut, the new interim dean; Dr. Marcos Fernandez, the associate dean and director; and Dr. Tracie Egger, assistant director for academic programs. The meeting focused on ways to continue our partnership with Purdue, which helps us with all of our programs at the national convention and expo.

Habitudes Helps Teach Advocacy in the Classroom

More than 1,700 FFA advisors have received copies of the book, "Habitudes: The Art of Telling Our Story," a nice resource to help teach advocacy in the classroom and with FFA chapters. In May, we surveyed teachers and advisors on how they use the book and how it has impacted their students: 240 people responded. The attached PDF highlights a few findings.

FFA Alumni and Sponsors Engage with New Century Farmer Participants

We can't thank our alumni and foundation sponsors enough for all the help they provide during our summer FFA conferences. This week, for the first time, National FFA Alumni facilitated the alumni portion of the New Century Farmer (NCF) conference in Des Moines, Iowa, with discussions on involvement and advocacy. DuPont Pioneer, a gold sponsor, has been investing in the New Century Farmer conference for 20 years. Mark Timke, DuPont Pioneer's senior manager of strategic accounts, shared with the class why the company invests in FFA.

New Hampshire FFA Foundation and National FFA Foundation Share Knowledge

National FFA Foundation Major Gift Officer Kristen Self recently spent time with the New Hampshire FFA Foundation. To start the day, Kristen and New Hampshire FFA Foundation board member Debbi Cox toured Pleasant View Gardens in Pembroke, N.H., before meeting with the foundation's board. The meeting included a thorough conversation about the roles and responsibilities of board members and a brainstorm on how to add new members. Kristen also talked with board members about the process of engaging donors through the cycle of qualification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship.

Did You Know a Gift to the National FFA Foundation Can Also Pay You Income?

Have you recently sold a portion or all of your farm? Are you curious how you can make the money last? With a charitable gift annuity, you can turn that sale into a steady income stream for life. This is a perfect way to prepare today for the uncertainties that tomorrow may hold. For details on how the National FFA Foundation can help with your succession and retirement planning, visit our [planned giving website](#). Contact Matthew Treadwell, 317-802-6060 or plannedgiving@ffa.org, so we can discuss the future of your farm.

FFA, AFBF Collaboration Formalizes Commitment to Agricultural Education

Last week, we mentioned that we worked with the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) on developing our partnership. Mark Poeschl had the privilege of sitting down with Newsline to talk a little bit more about our Memorandum of Understanding. If you'd like to hear the interview, click [here](#).

State Presidents' Conference Takes Over D.C.

This week, 103 state FFA officers from each of our 52 state associations assembled in Washington, D.C., for the State Presidents' Conference. The conference focuses on our strategic priority of "telling our story" by using our nation's capital as a living classroom. While the conference in its current form is our longest-running leadership conference, the

program will expand in 2018 and be available to every state officer, rather than two officers per state. Here are some highlights from the week:

- The National FFA Officers piloted 10 learning hours of brand new content related to advocacy.
- State officers conducted 238 meetings with members of Congress and their staffs, averaging 4.5 visits per state.
- The national officer team commissioned six special committees for the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo, officially kicking off the National FFA Delegate Process.

Attached are a few photos from the week.

State FFA Presidents' Conference D.C. Alumni Breakfast Highlights FFA/USDA Partnership

In conjunction with D.C. FFA Alumni, National FFA hosted a breakfast at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Wednesday. More than 100 FFA Alumni from in and around the Washington, D.C., area joined the state officers to get to know one another and swap FFA stories.

During the event, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Mark Poeschl signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which outlines how we will work toward a common goal of advancing a highly prepared workforce within agriculture.

After the signing, the state officers and guests were joined by members of the Senate and House agriculture committees. Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Pat Roberts (Kansas) and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (Texas); Senator Joni Ernst (Iowa); and Representatives Frank Lucas (Oklahoma) and James Comer (Kentucky) spoke about their FFA experiences and encounters with the next generation of agriculture. Also speaking to the group were former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Rural Outreach at the U.S. Department of Education Lucy Johnson and current White House Policy Advisor and former National FFA Officer Ray Starling.

State officers then took part in bipartisan visits in both chambers on Capitol Hill. One topic of importance is a [bill](#) that would provide a tax exemption for the first \$5,000 in income from FFA and 4-H projects.

The MOU signing generated great conversations about FFA. A few to note:

[Policymakers Should Invest in America's Future: It's Youth](#), written by National FFA President David Townsend.

Perdue, House Ag Leaders Press FFA Members to Get Involved

Read more about the event on the [USDA's website](#). You can also see photos of the event on [Flickr](#).

2017 American Stars Named

We are pleased to announce the selection of the 16 finalists for our 2017 top achievement awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. The American Star Awards represents the best of the best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients. A panel of judges will interview finalists and select one winner for each award at the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo, Oct. 25-28 in Indianapolis.

To see the finalists, visit our [media center](#).

IT Staff News

It has been a couple of busy months for our IT division. The staff has spent this week working on some of the final components for the roster and profile changes coming around Sept. 1. They have also been supporting the summer judging processes for the National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards, National Chapter Award Program and National FFA Agriscience Fair, which includes the pilot use of tablets the National FFA Board of Directors approved in the 2017 budget for award programs. Finally, the staff has been working double-time to prepare for the upcoming virtual board of directors meeting in early August.

Updated Resources Now Available on FFA.org

National FFA has updated the "Opening Doors" presentation that stakeholders can find at FFA.org/join/how-to-join/start-an-ag-program. National FFA also added a link to the "We Are FFA" video as a resource for these discussions. It's near the bottom of the page, section 9.

Changes to note:

- We have rebranded the presentation and compressed it into 21 slides.
- The content is intended to be a high-level FFA introduction.
- The presentation is editable and intended as a starting point.
- Four slides include videos we have produced that may help stakeholders add some pizzazz to their meetings.

Using the presentation is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Download the zip file.
2. Extract the files to the folder of your choice.
3. Edit the presentation to fit your needs.

I hope you and our stakeholders find it a useful resource.

One of the Largest RDCs Coming to Florida

This weekend's FFA Alumni Regional Development Conference (RDC) in Williston, Fla., will be the largest regional alumni conference they have had in the last three years. More than 150 supporters have registered for this free conference to gain skills that will make them the best supporters of FFA, agricultural education and agriculture. This RDC is one of six remaining for 2017. Anyone is welcome to attend; visit FFA.org/GoToRDC for more.

***FFA New Horizons* Brings Home Major Award**

Congratulations to *FFA New Horizons* publisher and FFA sponsor Meredith Agrimedia. The magazine won first place in the "Publication – Print or Electronic – Not for Profit" category at the 2017 [American Agricultural Editors' Association](#) Communications Awards. Matt Strelecki, the creative director for Meredith Agrimedia and *FFA New Horizons*, was also named the American Agricultural Editors' Association's 2017 Designer of the Year.

National FFA Visits AGCO Global Headquarters

In a recently posted [blog](#), National FFA President David Townsend discusses a few of his first-ever experiences, including driving a tractor at AGCO's headquarters in Duluth, Ga. AGCO is a five-star sponsor of National FFA.

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FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.