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Good Morning,

I hope that you all have had the opportunity to get some rest after a great National FFA Convention! NY Ag. Ed./FFA had many achievements this year at the National FFA Convention including a national proficiency finalist, Megan Lamb, seeing our own Ashley Willits give her retiring address as the National Eastern Region Vice President. We had 36 of our members receive their American Degrees which is almost double from the year before! We are so proud of all of our members and advisors that put forth so much effort to put their best foot forward. I would like to recognize someone who we all know for an award that she received from our State Staff organization (NASAE) that was presented before convention started. Mrs. Shari Lighthall received the 2017 NASAE Outstanding State Supervisor Award. Here is a piece of what was included in the application:

Over the last 20 years, Shari has gained responsibility in the organization, progressing from a role supporting professional development activities to her current role as the primary contact for all teacher services, professional development and needs from the State Department of Education. She works hand in hand with staff at the Department of Education to resolve licensure or credentialing issues and to help agricultural educators within the state of NY remain at the forefront of state educational initiatives. New York's teacher professional development programming is offered year-round and Shari is the primary reason it is as successful as it is. One of the most engaging and high quality summer conferences in the state, Shari has worked to put resources, materials and curriculum into the hands of teachers from NY. The program is so effective it attracts teachers from neighboring states. Most recently, Shari has stepped into the role of Director for the Agricultural Education and Outreach program where she is a liaison between the University and the program, supports and provides guidance to a program that employs 7 other staff members operating in the realm of teacher support, student/FFA services and Ag in the Classroom programming.

We are very lucky to have someone like Shari in New York. Just as all of you invest extra time and energy into your students, Shari invests extra time and energy into all of us. So please help me congratulate Shari Lighthall for receiving this long overdue recognition.

## **AG ED/Professional Development Updates:**

Do you need help? Could you benefit from a few new lessons or ideas from an agricultural education colleague? NYAAE is expanding its agricultural education-mentoring program. The goal of this program is to support and retain **new and existing teachers**, provide a [content specific mentoring](#) experience, and aid all members seeking to raise the rigor and efficacy of their comprehensive agricultural education programs. Mentors will work predominantly virtually with educators across New York State assisting their colleagues with all facets of developing agricultural education curriculum and instruction related to the three-circle agricultural education program.

Mentors will be willing to share their experiences, best practices, curriculum examples, and guidance related to the assigned topic area.

I excited to share that the selected 2017-18 NYAAE Mentors are as follows:

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**2017-18 Mentors:**

Ag Science/AFNR- **Tedra Bean**, Belleville Henderson

Plant/Horticultural Science- **Pat Ploetz**, Cuba Rushford

Animal/Vet Science- **Johanna Bossard**, Hamilton, and **Lynn Telaak**, Olean BOCES

Mechanics, Power and Structural Technologies- **Chris Smith**, OESJ

Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Sciences- **Bill Stowell**, South Jefferson

Agricultural Business and Leadership- **Carol Wright**, Canton

Food Science- **Deb Fletcher**, Cobleskill Richmondville

Middle School Agriculture- **Melvin Phelps**, Lowville

FFA and SAE- **Dave Marbot**, Schoharie

**Please visit the [NYAAE mentoring portal](#), click on a mentor's name and reach out for assistance.**

**Do you have an idea that you would like to share?** The NYAAE Professional Development Committee has begun planning the 2018 summer conference. We have some great ideas for next summer's event, but would like to give each of you the opportunity to share your workshop suggestions. We have learned from past experiences that we learn best from our peers. ***This is YOUR opportunity to shine in front of YOUR colleagues.*** Please visit the [Call for proposals link](#) if you would like to be considered as a professional development workshop presenter at the summer conference scheduled for **Sunday, June 17 to Wednesday, June 20, 2018** at the Oswegatchie Educational Center in Croghan, NY.

This past June we had over 100 agricultural educators and guests attend the event. We are certain that this conference has something for everyone. We are looking forward to seeing each of you next June! Be sure to **save this date** and be on the lookout for additional conference information coming across the list serve. **Plan ahead and submit a conference request to your school now to ensure that funds will be available for you in June.** Cost to attend will be \$495/participant.

If you have any questions regarding submitting a workshop proposal or attending the 2018 summer conference please feel free to contact Shari Lighthall or the planning committee members.

**2018 NYAAE Professional Development Committee:** Anne Allen, Rachel Anderson, Carol Wright, Jon English, Jessica DeVries, Brooke Head, Tara Berescik, Erin McCaffrey, Terry Hughes

**Save the Dates:**

January 27-28 2018, Syracuse, NY- Receive professional development while your students attend the 212/360 FFA Leadership Conferences. Each teacher will be eligible for up to six hours of professional development credit.

**Agriculture Education Incentive Grants Available Now!**

The Fall 2017 cycle of the New York State Agriculture Education Incentive Grant is now available! This grant aims to support local agricultural education programs and FFA chapters in areas that the teacher and community has identified as a priority for the individual program. Don't miss out on this funding opportunity for your chapter! For more information about the program, please visit the

[Incentive Grant](#) on the New York State FFA webpage. If you have any questions please reach out to grant manager Kaylie Siddall at [ksiddall@cornell.edu](mailto:ksiddall@cornell.edu).

Hello Ag Teachers, Oswegatchie Educational Center has openings this winter for your students to retreat to the Adirondacks! Join us for a weekend filled with comradery, fresh air, and your choice of activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, winter survival and campfires.

Openings in Sutliff Lodge include <http://www.oswegatchieretreats.org/sutliff-lodge.html>

March 23-25

March 30-1 (Easter)

Openings in Foster Lodge include <http://www.oswegatchieretreats.org/foster-lodge.html>

Many Weekends! Contact us if you have a group of less than 24!

If you would like more detail about winter retreats at Oswegatchie request information from [rwaite@oswegatchie.org](mailto:rwaite@oswegatchie.org)



## **New York Association of FFA Updates:**

The state officers and I would like to say congratulations to everyone who was recognized or competed at the 90<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention. We had a great time seeing many of you there and having a chance to interact with many who attended. We have updated our website with pictures from convention and there will be more added soon. The officers spent much of their time representing our state through the delegate process and made sure NY FFA had a voice. There are several changes that have been recommended and are now under consideration by the National FFA Officers and Board. We will keep everyone informed as these changes begin to be implemented.

**The Officers and I would also like to welcome our newest chapters to join New York FFA, Bridgehampton, Dutchess BOCES and Berne Knox Westerlo FFA Chapters were approved by the Governing Board. Congratulations and welcome to the Ag/FFA family! We look forward to seeing your blue jackets at future events!**

**212/360:** Registration for 212/360 is open. All conference information is available on our website. Please visit [www.nysffa.org/212360](http://www.nysffa.org/212360). Please make sure register in a timely fashion because there is a limit to the number of students that will be able to attend these two conferences. Professional development for educators will take place, that information will be provided in the near future.

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**State Convention Housing:** Plans for the 2018 state convention are well underway. The official hotel of the 2018 convention has had a name change, it is now the Rochester Riverside Hotel. Radisson Hotel. This facility is ideally located to all convention venues with direct access via skywalk to the convention center with a short walk to the Blue Cross Arena. Most workshops and LDE/CDE's will be held in either the Rochester Riverside Hotel or Convention Center. Please visit our website for more information about reserving rooms for your chapter: <http://www.nysffa.org/state-convention-hotels>. **You are now able to make reservations.** The hotel is working on an online system to reserve rooms with our room block as well, this should be available very soon. Please limit the number of excess rooms you reserve so all schools have the opportunity to join us at this location.

**FFA Membership:** The new **FFA roster** year started on September 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been many updates and changes to the system. Please read **ALL** of the following information carefully so that this can be as smooth of a process as possible. We have created a new page on our [www.nysffa.org](http://www.nysffa.org) website just for help with FFA membership and help with rosters. Please visit this link for information and tutorials on how to do your student roster this year: <http://www.nysffa.org/membership/>. As our state continues to see growth in our membership, we are starting to see some overlap with our homeschools and BOCES centers having students in two programs. As a reminder, students can only be members in one chapter. This is a student's choice, which chapter they will be a member of. In order to be a member of a chapter students should be receiving instruction from the certified agriculture teacher at that program. **A new policy that took affect September 1<sup>st</sup> is, 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade members must be added to the national roster, only 6<sup>th</sup> graders can be added to the NY Only Roster.**

**Governmental and Global Awareness Institute:** NY FFA is pleased to announce that we will be offering GGAI to our teachers and students in 2018. This event will be held at the Hilton Albany on February 5-6, 2018. We will update our website as more information becomes available: <http://www.nysffa.org/governmental-awareness>. Registration for this event will be open before the end of the year.

## **National FFA Updates:**

### 1. **SAE Grant Reminder**

FFA advisors and members this is a reminder about the 152 SAE Grants available to FFA members in grades 7-12. These grants for \$1,000 each are to help a member start or expand their SAE. Attached please find a Word document of a short flyer with information, including instructions for accessing the grant application.

Grant applications are entirely online and close automatically with no recourse at 11:59 p.m. on Nov 15. Students must be current member in order to apply.

### 2. **New Membership Numbers Announced**

We are happy to report that we, once again, had a record year in FFA membership. Our new membership numbers stand at 653,359 FFA members in 8,568 chapters! We'll share more impressive data soon.

### 3. **Telling Our Story: Meet the 2017 American Star Finalists**

New this year, we are posting short videos on *FFA New Horizons* online to introduce each of our American Star finalists. The Star in Agriscience finalist videos will be released later today, but you can watch the other videos now:

[American Star in Agribusiness Finalists](#)

[American Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists](#)

[American Star Farmer](#)

### 4. **Didn't Attend Convention? We've Got You Covered**

News, features, sights and sounds from the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo will be published on *FFA New Horizons* online and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) with #ICanWeWillFFA throughout the week. Thanks to our generous sponsor RFD-TV, there will be gavel-to-gavel coverage of the national convention and expo on RFD-TV and streamed on [FFA.org/convention](#). And visit the [National FFA Convention Audio Vault](#) for the latest radio interviews and stories, presented by our media partner [NAFB](#), the National Association of Farm Broadcasting.

### 5. **More on the World Food Prize**

The 2017 Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium convened a wide array of international leaders, farmers, agribusiness executives, nongovernmental organizations, and development experts to address the most critical issues facing global food security this week. Riley Pagett was there to represent our long-held partnership with the World Food Prize and to celebrate this year's Borlaug-Ryan interns and Wallace-Carver fellows, who as we read last week have strong FFA and agricultural education connections. Along with those fellowship programs, more than 200 high school students across the state of Iowa, many FFA members, presented their research on food, nutrition, and agriculture. This year, the World Food Prize honored the entrepreneurial spirit of

farmers and the ability of agriculture to provide health, wealth, and stability at the personal level and at the international level.



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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.