

A photograph of several students working in a garden bed. In the foreground, a student in a white hoodie is planting a red flower. To the left, another student in a blue and white jacket is also working. In the background, a student in a dark blue t-shirt with 'GOOD WORLD' and 'SCHOOL' printed on it is standing. The garden bed is filled with various plants, including red and purple flowers. A green cylindrical object is visible in the center of the bed. The background shows a black metal fence and some trees.

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



New York Agricultural Education Team



New York Agricultural Education Staff

From Left to right, Top Row: Shari Lighthall, Director, New York Agricultural Education Outreach; Derek Hill, Director, New York Association of FFA; Katie Carpenter, Director, New York Agriculture in the Classroom; Todd Lighthall, Director, New York FFA Foundation.

Middle Row: Terry Hughes, Program Specialist, New York Agricultural Education; Jessica Currie, Program Specialist, New York Association of FFA; Sarah Peavey, Program Specialist, New York Agriculture in the Classroom; Robin Waite, Program Specialist, Oswegatchie Educational Center; Bill Waite, Program Director, Oswegatchie Educational Center.

Bottom Row: Catie Rowe, Program Specialist, New York Agricultural Education; Nancy Grossman, Program Assistant, New York Agricultural Education Outreach; Jeremiah Best, Program Specialist, Agriculture in the Classroom; Rolland Krohn, Ropes Course Director, Oswegatchie Educational Center.

Not pictured: Kelli Grab, NYS Representative for Agricultural Education, New York State Department of Education

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION began 2020 by celebrating New York FFA having the highest increase in membership in the United States and New York Agriculture in the Classroom on track to train thousands of teachers, but it seems that March rolled in like a lion because the world seemingly paused with the onset of the global pandemic known as COVID-19. Even this monumental challenge could not stop the creativity and passion of our FFA community, agriculture educators, and our K-12 teachers using food and agriculture to continue to engage their students through virtual learning. The collective resilience of agricultural education has resulted in a strong and focused vision of creating an agriculturally literate generation by “growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening New York agriculture.”

Where We Are

PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS WITH AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS





From a school district with 200 K-12 students, to the largest school district in the United States, agricultural education is in a school near you!

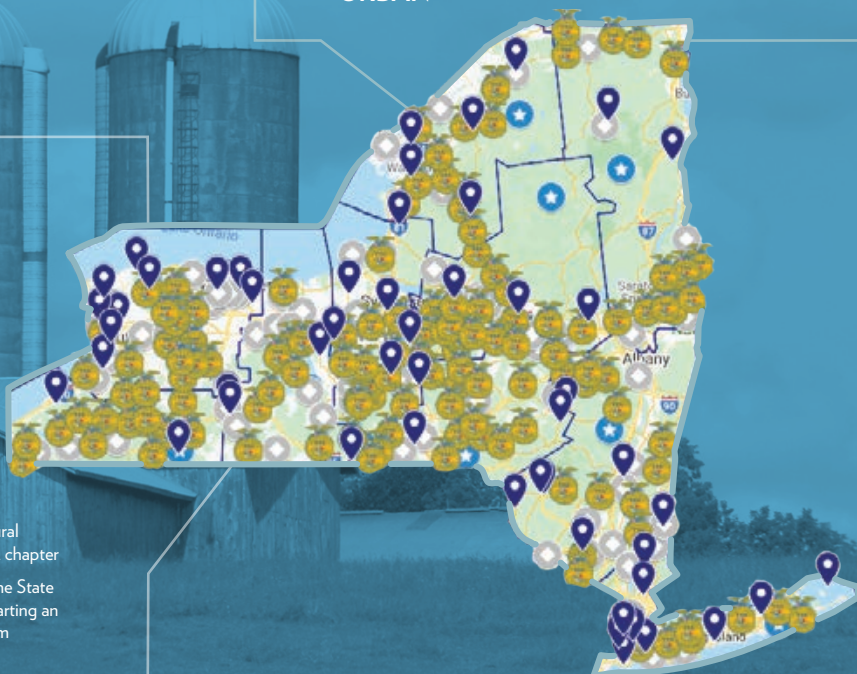
7% | 51%
URBAN | RURAL

Programs in New York State

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

This map represents all of New York State's school-based agricultural education programs. The different symbols indicate the following:

-  FFA District
-  Schools that have an Agricultural Education program
-  Schools that have an Agricultural Education program and a FFA chapter
-  Schools that have contacted the State Office and are interested in starting an Agricultural Education program



What do New York Agricultural Education Programs Teach?



OVER 350 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS teach the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Content Career Cluster standards at 222 middle and/or high schools across the state so that more than 15,000 students can gain an in-depth understanding of the different sectors of the agriculture industry.

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS:

Percent of students who participate in each education pathway

Percent of schools that teach agriculture pathways:

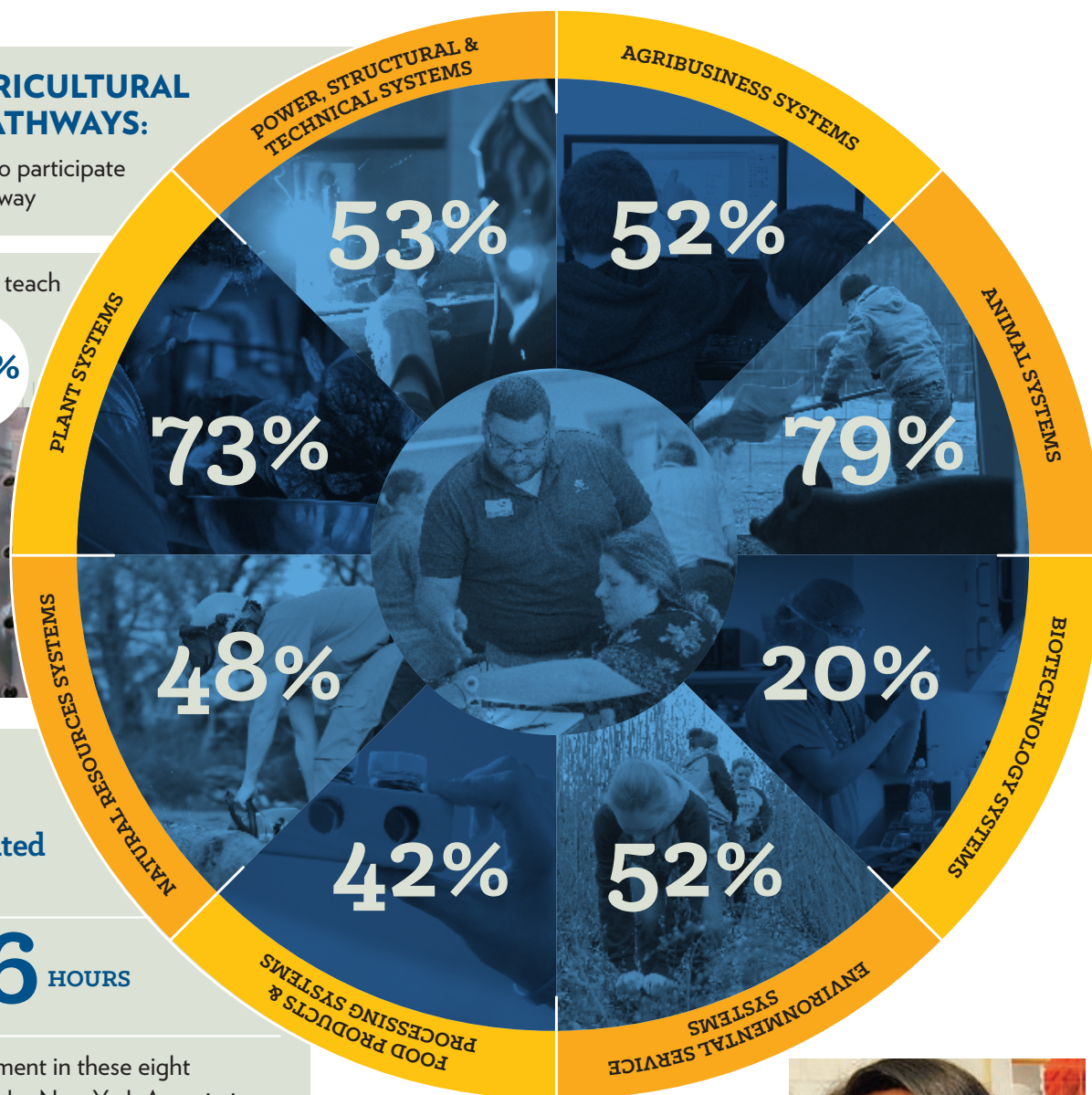
84%



New York Agriculture teachers participated in over

11,286 HOURS

of professional development in these eight pathways sponsored by the New York Association of Agricultural Educators and Cornell University.



"As agricultural educators we have the opportunity to let young minds explore the vast opportunities that agriculture offers. We also have the ability to make them stewards of the land and keep the future of agriculture looking bright."

Karen LaBombard, NYAAE President



Message from our State FFA Officers



What a crazy year it has been. Since the founding of the National FFA Organization in 1928 the world has never met such a challenge, but the amazing FFA members from New York have been more resilient than ever. From attending New York State FFA's first Virtual State Convention to participating in virtual workshops throughout the summer, FFA members have made the most out of this tough situation. They have used this time to their advantage to grow their leadership potential and agricultural passions.

Our officer team would like to continue this excitement and drive as we look toward the rest of the year. We plan to continue offering virtual opportunities to students such as virtual chapter visits, banquets, workshops, and leadership conferences. This year we have been given a unique opportunity to reach out to a

vast number of members who we would not have been able to connect with in years past. We would like to continue the goal of the 2019-2020 New York State FFA Officer Team by expanding the membership of New York State FFA to 10,000 members. While it may be hard this year, our team is eagerly looking forward to building relationships with schools interested in starting an agricultural program.

Our team has been focusing on securing funding for agricultural education programs throughout the state, as well. During the latter half of the summer, we met with several representatives that serve on the State Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees. The act of securing funding for agricultural programs will be crucial within the coming years so we can continue to grow, and advance opportunities provided to members.

As we look to the future we urge our members to seize every opportunity that they have available to them. You have the chance to be the link between the past and the future of agriculture education. Don't let the challenges presented this year hold you back. Take this opportunity to change the future forever.

Sincerely,



Paige Warren *Austin Nollay*
Hannah-Rose Foote *Philip H. Rea* *Triana Burgess-Farnum*

2020 New York FFA Chapter of the Year: Penn Yan FFA

The Penn Yan FFA Chapter was selected as the 2020 New York State FFA Chapter of the Year! They have gone above and beyond to serve their members, community, and agriculture by participating in the 360° State Leadership Conference, making nesting sites for local wildlife, and attending the State Leaders Experience meeting with local representatives in the state capital. The Penn Yan FFA also volunteered at Empire Farm Days operating the information booths and assisting the NY Beef producers. In support of their community the Penn Yan FFA hosted a "Souper Bowl" food drive to donate to a local food pantry and presented at the "Fun on the Farm" event, hosted by the Ontario County Farm Bureau, where students created displays for visitors to press cider, stomp grapes, and learn about FFA. Penn Yan FFA was recognized by the National FFA Organization as one of New York's 3-Star Chapters.



FFA CHAPTERS

We would like to welcome the following new chapters to NY FFA:

HERKIMER FFA

JOHN JAY FFA

OWEGO FFA

24%

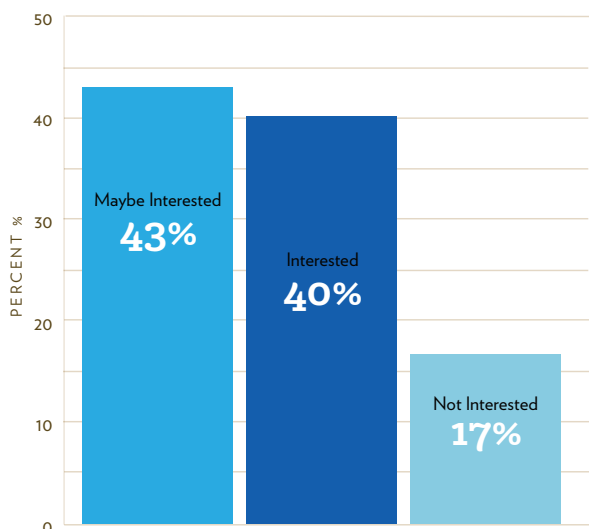
MEMBERSHIP INCREASE OVER 2019

New York Agricultural Education and FFA By the Numbers



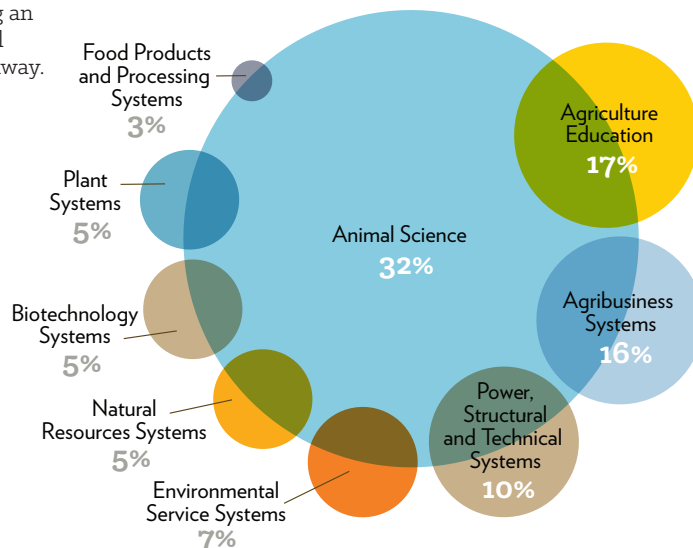
FFA SENIORS INTERESTED IN PURSUING AN AGRICULTURAL CAREER PATHWAY

Based on a survey by the National FFA Organization



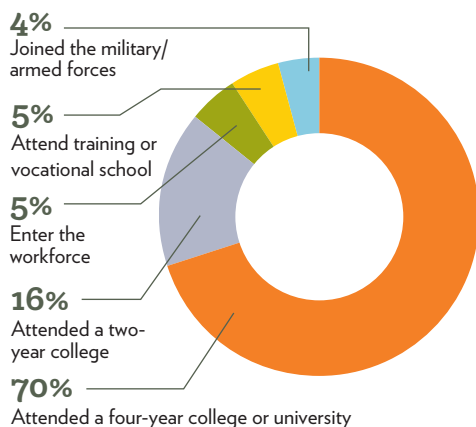
2019 AGRICULTURAL CAREER FOCUS AREA PREFERENCES

These are the selected career focus areas by those members who are interested in or might be interested in pursuing an agricultural career pathway.



FFA MEMBERS ARE HIGH ACHIEVERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Based on a survey by the National FFA Organization and AET records



FFA SENIOR'S AIM HIGH

	Average College Acceptance	FFA Members
GPA	2.7-3.2	3.59

2019 NYS FFA MEMBER'S OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) opportunities are truly endless and entirely based on students exploring passions and career interests. All of our members have access to a platform that allows them to input and store their records to not only gain this important skill, but to utilize it for many needs including award applications, resume building, chapter activities, community service and more!

OVERVIEW OF STUDENT SAE'S IN NEW YORK

SAE Projects	1,284
Hours	90,400
Asset Value	\$1,138,155
Income	\$396,834
Investment	\$259,063
Economic Impact	\$403,115

2020 NY FFA PARTICIPATION AND AWARD RECOGNITIONS

2019-2020 New York FFA Membership:

8,814

Leadership Development Conferences

212/360 Leadership Conference	824
Camp in a Box	606
State Leaders Experience	138
State Officer and District President Candidates	41
Virtual State Convention	~3,500

Student & Adult Recognition

American Degree	38
Dairy Breed Awards	3
District LDEs	875
District Stars	8
Empire Degrees	144
Honorary Empire Degrees	14
Jacket Award Recipients	59
National Chapter Award	5
National Proficiency Awards	14
National Scholarship Recipients	8
NY Proficiencies	63
NY SAE Grant Recipients	3
State Stars	3
State Superior Award	12



New York Agriculture in the Classroom



AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

Agricultural Literacy Week is a statewide effort to educate students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Volunteers with a connection to agriculture visit schools to read an agricultural-themed book to first through third graders and lead a paired hands-on activity each March.

In 2020, New York Agriculture in the Classroom distributed over 2,000 books to all 62 counties in New York State and was on track to read to 80,000 prior to the school shutdowns due to COVID-19. New York Agriculture in the Classroom was able to quickly work with our network of volunteers to switch Agricultural Literacy Week 2020 to a virtual program where volunteers connected with students via Zoom, YouTube, Facebook Live, and other platforms. Volunteers continued to read to students throughout the summer and into the fall and have seized the opportunity to extend Agricultural Literacy Week and increase reach and engagement in teaching students about agriculture.

Right This Very Minute by Lisl H. Detlefsen, focuses on a journey tracing the food on students plates back to its source – the farmer.



Volunteer Jeremy Silsby from Niagara County virtually read to students from his tractor this year.

E-LEARNING

As our state's teachers had to immediately adapt to online learning in March, New York Agriculture in the Classroom worked quickly to launch eLearning resources with the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization. Existing lessons were reimagined to work in a virtual format, with the goal of keeping the content relevant to curricular goals and also staying true to our commitment of hands-on learning. The host of lessons that were developed and implemented could be completed at-home and in a virtual classroom with minimal resources.

In support of this eLearning effort, New York Agriculture in the Classroom highlighted 12 "Agriculture at Home" lessons on our website including butter making, bread in a bag, DNA extraction, and much more. Six "Classroom Chats" were hosted on Facebook Live with educators across New York sharing how they incorporate agriculture in their classrooms, and the initiated "Read to SucCEED" mailing over 350 homes an agriculturally accurate books to teachers and families.



One of the 12 Agriculture at Home lessons that was adapted this spring for eLearning.

eLearning has been a new opportunity for students to learn and explore a range of topics.

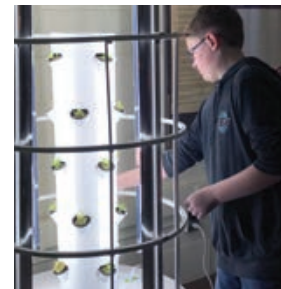


GROW WITH US GRANT

Integrating food, agriculture, and nutrition in schools was made relevant and successful for sixteen teachers across the state with New York Agriculture in the Classroom's third annual Grow with Us Grant. The Grow with Us Grant provides teachers the growing tools to extend the school gardening season and facilitate experiential-learning opportunities through agriculture. Teachers earned one of three indoor grow systems that their students will have the opportunity to interact with as they learn the seed to produce process and explore alternative growing methods.



Students from PS 59 William Floyd harvesting from their 2445 Organics Grow Rack.

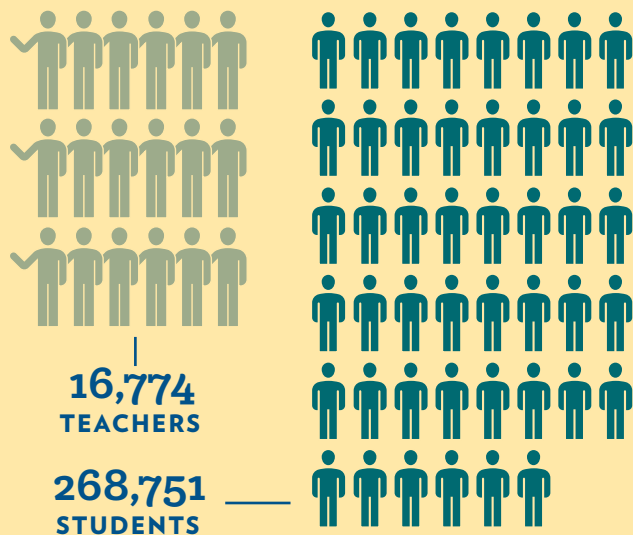


Planting plugs in the Tower Garden at Morristown Central School.



PROGRAM IMPACT

Number of PreK–12 teachers and students reached in 2020



SCHOOLYARD SUGARING

The fourth annual Schoolyard Sugaring: Maple Syrup Contest was held with astounding participation. This contest promotes learning by giving teachers and students applied experience with the time, patience, and science it takes to turn sap into syrup by participating in every step of the maple syrup production process from tapping the trees to bottling the syrup.

This year's contest saw a record number of registrants with 132 Pre-k through 12th grade teachers that registered their classrooms to participate. New in 2020, classrooms received a maple starter kit. The maple starter kit was designed for schools that may not have the necessary resources to access maple sugaring supplies. Included in this kit were sap collection bags, sap bag holders, spouts, a tapping drill bit, a hydrometer, and a hydrometer test cup. The kit was a \$120 value and provided all the essential items students needed to tap trees and collect sap this year, and many years to come. It is thanks to the New York State Maple Foundation and the New York

State Maple Producers Association that we were able to expand this contest and give out so many maple starter kits.

With the sudden closing of schools due to COVID-19 during maple season, it was unfortunate that most of our schools participating in the contest did not get a chance to complete their project. Luckily, not all schools were interrupted by the virus and 32 entries were submitted for judging by a panel of maple experts. Each entry was scored for sugar content, clarity, color, and taste.

The high school photography contest winning photo from OCM New Visions BOCES.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

New York Agriculture in the Classroom recognizes an exceptional teacher who incorporates learning through a lens of agriculture into their curriculum. **Jeremiah Best** was recognized as the 2020 Teacher of the Year. Best is a fifth-grade teacher at the Town of Webb Union Free School District (UFSD) and is a teacher who champions teaching through agriculture and finds new and exciting ways to engage his students in hands-on and student-led learning. In his classroom Best incorporated a community garden, a Trout in the Classroom project, an extensive maple sugarbush, and many other cross-curricular projects.

Best was also renowned nationally for embracing a school garden as a way to help his students deal with a mental health crisis in their community with the USDA NIFA National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award. This competitive program recognizes state selected teacher recipients for their successful efforts in teaching agricultural concepts in their curriculum. Best was recognized for the innovative ways he uses agricultural concepts to teach



reading, writing, math, science, social studies, STEM, STEAM and more.

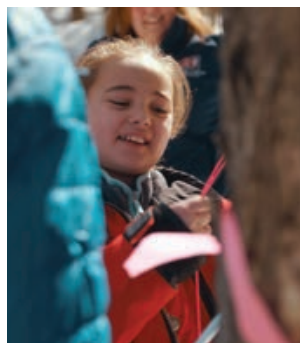
Jeremiah Best is an educator who believes in the importance of his students understanding and appreciating our food and fiber systems in their community. One parent said of her daughter's experience, "Little did I know that [one] year with him would

singlehandedly change her life and open so many doors for her future. Mr. Best is one of the few teachers I have seen that goes so very far above and beyond what is required of him as an elementary school teacher."

The Sandlot Maple is a cross curricular program that teaches students about the maple sugaring process.



Students in Jeremiah Best's classroom explore the trout tank.



Financial Support of the NY FFA Foundation

Financial contributions are key to the success of the NY FFA Foundation. Over the past eighteen months, we have generated a record level of contributions due in large part to our Capital Campaign for Oswegatchie, but also for general support of the NY FFA. This report is not broken down by categories this year, rather we have listed alphabetically the 600 names of donors who made an impact between January 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020. At the conclusion of the 2020 funding year, a supplemental report will be shared showcasing the levels of support and our lifetime donors. Thank you to our donors, whose investment of every size, make a daily impact in the lives of New York FFA members.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING RANGE OF GIFTS \$5 TO \$162,000

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Jessica Zeh
Emily Zehr

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SUPPORT RANGE OF GIFTS \$50 TO \$20,000

Aerial Equipment Service
Agro Liquid
Atlas Ag Services, LLC
Attica Vet Associates PC
Basset Healthcare Network
Beardsley Architects
Bessies Best Compost, LLC
Buckingham Hardware
Butternut Valley Grange
Byrne Dairy, Inc.
Catania Chiropractic
Cayuga Milk Ingredients
CNY Community Foundation
Co Bank
Community Bank, NA
Custom Ag Solutions, Inc.
Dairy Farmers of America
Eastern Crown, Inc.
Erie & Niagara Insurance
Farm Credit East, Burrrville Branch
Farm Credit East, ACA
Ferry & Griep Veterinary Svcs.
Florida Agricultural Marketing Assoc
Florida Fruit Association Inc.
Geronimo Energy
Greenville Saw Service, Inc.
Harden Foundation
Hudson River Tractor Company, Inc.
Ideal Dairy, LLC
Impact Pro Parts Inc.
Jack Miller & Family Trucking
John B Martin & Sons Farm Inc
John Clark - NASF
Kast Farms Inc
Krehers Farm Fresh Eggs, LLC
LandVest, Inc.
National FFA Foundation

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Financial Support of the NY FFA Foundation

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NBT Bank- In Honor of Ed Coates
New York Agricultural Outreach Program
New York Forest Owners Association
New York State FFA Alumni
New York State Grange
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance Inc.
Northeast Dairy Producers Association, Inc.
Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge
Northrup Farm Supply
NYAAE Teacher Auction
NYS FFA Association
NYS FFA Endowment Fund
Pee Jays Fresh Fruit
Pikeside Ag Machinery, LLC
Poulin Grain
Pratt-Northam Foundation
Purcell Construction Corporation
RAENY
Shaver-Hill Farm
Sidney ROTARY

Smith Farm Management
Sorbellos
Stewart's Shoppes
Successful Practices Network
Syracuse Crunch
Tri-County Supply
United Wire Technologies, Inc.
VanSlyke Heritage Farm, LLC
Wayne Goldstein Foundation
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
Wel-Dun, Inc.
Willis E. Kilbourne Agency

FFA CHAPTER RANGE OF GIFTS \$250 TO \$25,000

Adirondack FFA
Afton FFA
Albion FFA
Alexandria Bay FFA
Attica FFA
Beaver River FFA
Beekmantown FFA
Belleville Henderson FFA
Berne Knox Westerlo FFA

Byron Bergen FFA
Canton FFA
Carthage FFA
CG May FFA
Cobleskill Richmondville FFA
Delaware Academy FFA
Fonda Fultonville FFA & Alumni
Greenville Jr. FFA
Greenville Sr. FFA
Greenwich FFA
Groton Ag Advisory Board
Hamilton FFA
Homer FFA
Indian River FFA
Jasper Troupsberg Ag Advisory Committee
Jasper Troupsberg FFA
John Bowne FFA
Lowville FFA
Lowville FFA Alumni
Madison FFA
Marathon FFA
Marcus Whitman FFA
Medina FFA
Mt. Markham FFA
New York FFA Alumni Assoc

Northern Adirondack FFA
Northwest Regional H.S.
Otselic Valley FFA
Oxford FFA
Penn Yan FFA
Pine Plains FFA
Pioneer FFA
Pioneer Jr. FFA
Prattsburg FFA
Remsen FFA
Salem FFA
Salmon River FFA
Schoharie Valley FFA
Sherman FFA
Sidney FFA
Sidney FFA Alumni
South Jefferson FFA
South Lewis FFA
Southern Cayuga FFA
Springville FFA
Stockbridge Valley FFA
Stockbridge Valley FFA Alumni
Tri Valley FFA
Unadilla Valley FFA
VVS FFA & Alumni
Waterville FFA

FARM BUREAU SUPPORT GAVE A COMBINED \$18,700 IN SUPPORT

Broome Co Farm Bureau
Cortland Co. Farm Bureau
Franklin Co. Farm Bureau
Genesee Co. Farm Bureau
Greene Co. Farm Bureau
Jefferson Co. Farm Bureau
Lewis Co. Farm Bureau
Livingston Co. Farm Bureau
Long Island Farm Bureau
Madison Co. Farm Bureau
New York Farm Bureau
Oneida Co. Farm Bureau
Ontario Co. Farm Bureau
Orleans Co. Farm Bureau
Tompkins Co. Farm Bureau
Washington Co. Farm Bureau
Wyoming Co. Farm Bureau

Oswegatchie Educational Center Capital CAMpaign



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE The completion goal for this project was July 5th, 2020. Tremendous work throughout the winter and spring allowed us to officially open the building on May 4th, 2020. The final product is a delight and we can not wait to enjoy the porches with friends and fill the dining hall with happy campers!



FUNDRAISING FACTS

Project Cost	\$ 3,450,000
Total Funds Raised	\$ 1,300,000
Amount from NYS Grant	\$ 2,000,000

Amount remaining to be raised \$ 150,000

The Alfred and Joan Chapin FFA Chapter Hall, pictured below, was possible due to a \$100,000 challenge gift. FFA Chapters who helped to exceed this challenge (\$1,000 or more) will be recognized in this space. There's still time to contribute to this cause by visiting www.nyffaafoundation.org.





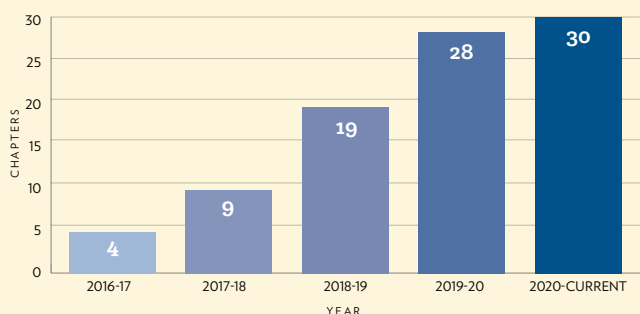
NEW YORK FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

2020 by the Numbers



NEW YORK STATE FFA ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS have seen their impact growing. This will be the 3rd year that the NYS Alumni and Supporters will be recognized at the National FFA Alumni Awards and Recognition Session at the FFA National Convention!

NYS FFA ALUMNI CHAPTERS

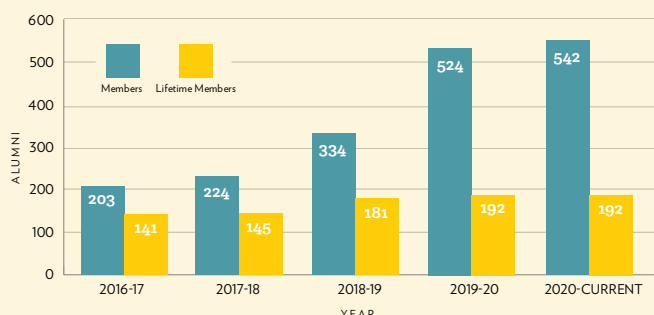


NYS Alumni and Supporters helping at the January Maple Conference.



Bidders at the Bob Watson Toy Auction make it possible to raise funds for our scholarships.

NYS ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP



Maple King and Queen at the January Maple Conference.



FFA Students help serve barbeque at the January Maple Conference.



The crowd at the January Maple Conference.



NYS FFA Alumni and Supporters Treasurer, Sheila Sreca, at the January Maple Conference.



NYS Officers with a Groton FFA alumni celebrating the rechartering of their school's FFA Chapter this year.

THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

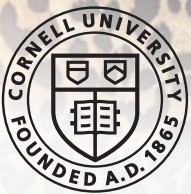
2020 has certainly been an interesting year, but the NYS FFA Alumni and Supporters were still able to make a difference. We received a **\$500.00** Legacy Grant from Tractor Supply Company, through the National FFA Alumni and Supporters, to make resource guidebooks for our NYS Alumni and Supporters Chapters across New York State. **Six** of our Alumni Chapters have also received grants from the National FFA Alumni and Supporters in 2020.

January's Mid-Winter Maple Conference had just over **1,000** people in attendance. In February, the annual Bob Watson Toy Auction saw **90** bidders, with **250** donated items. In 2020, the Alumni presented **5** scholarships for a total amount of **\$6,500.00**.

In June, with the NYS FFA Association, we held a Zoom meet with over **80** agriculture educators and FFA advisors to discuss Home Grown Advocacy and the importance of Alumni and Supporters to the FFA programs.

Check out the newly redesigned New York FFA Alumni and Supporters site at www.nysffaalumni.org to learn more about all of the opportunities offered by the NYFFA Alumni and Supporters!

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION



**Agriculture
and Markets**

Shari Lighthall, New York Agriculture Education Outreach Director | slighthall@cornell.edu

Derek Hill, New York FFA Director | dhill@cornell.edu

Katie Carpenter, New York Agriculture in the Classroom Director | kse45@cornell.edu

300 Kennedy Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853 | 607.255.9253

FFA - www.nysffa.org | NYAITC - www.agclassroom.org/ny