NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021
NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION began 2021 with the world seemingly paused in the mist of the COVID-19 global pandemic. 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. New York Agricultural Education continues to experience exponential growth after an unprecedented year, and we are proud to share the accomplishments of our students, members, teachers, and volunteers in 2021. Yet, just as a seed cannot grow without nutrients, time and tending, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without our supporters. The collective resilience of agricultural education and our stakeholders 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

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!

Programs in New York State

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

56/62 Counties in NY are teaching agricultural education
OVER 355 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS across New York State are meeting the demand for a skilled workforce by growing the next generation of agriculturalists in their classrooms. Students are learning rigorous and relevant curriculum that ensures they are ready to meet the needs of our ever-growing industry.

New York Agriculture teachers participated in over 12,000 HOURS of professional development within the eight educational pathways in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources through events sponsored by the New York Association of Agricultural Educators and Cornell University.

“Today’s modern agricultural science programs teach students to be environmental engineers, food scientists, animal scientists, agricultural engineers AND how to farm in a sustainable way. Challenging classroom instruction, applied agricultural experiences along with leadership development through the FFA ensure a qualified agricultural workforce as well as educated consumers in the future.”

Elizabeth (Betsy) Foote, NYAAE President
New York FFA Highlights

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 NEW YORK AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Josephine Allen, Sherman FFA
Emily P. Carey, Tri-Valley FFA
Sean Patrick Caron, Delaware Academy FFA
Owen Chase, Sherman FFA
Alvaro Chavez, Penn Yan FFA
Alexander Martin Cipperly, Schoharie Valley FFA
Robert Dorough, Schoharie Valley FFA
Kameron Finch, Randolph FFA
Patrick Fontaine, Pioneer FFA
Peyton M. Fontaine, Pioneer FFA
Stephanie G. Fyock, Pioneer FFA
Abigail M. Hatch, Fillmore FFA
Danielle Laura Herrick, Pioneer FFA
Timothy James, Afton FFA
Meghan Johnson, Whitman FFA
Jenna Kibbe, Clymer FFA
Terry B. Lansing, Schoharie Valley FFA
Jonathan Lasek, Whitman FFA
Evan Liskow, Randolph FFA
Jared Martin, Penn Yan FFA
Jillian Neaves, Indian River FFA
Kayleigh Reynolds-Flynn, Berne Knox Westerlo FFA
Emma Kathryn Rogers, Otsego Valley FFA
Austin Sherman, Otsego Valley FFA
Morgan Smithling, Whitman FFA
Emily Staroski, Sherman FFA
Sarah Steward, Randolph FFA
Sabrina Thompson, Indian River FFA
Megan VanWalsenburg, Sherman FFA
Brayden LC Webber, Penn Yan FFA

2021 NEW YORK FFA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR: PENN YAN FFA

The Penn Yan FFA Chapter was selected as the 2021 New York State FFA Chapter of the Year with their first-place gold application! This chapter has illustrated exactly how they grow leaders through engaging their community and strengthening agriculture during these challenging times. Members created their own projects for their virtual silent auction to provide a special FFA scholarship for their seniors, held virtual field trips of local businesses, and attended the Today Not Tomorrow conference hosted by NY FFA. Penn Yan members encouraged each other and their community to lead a healthy lifestyle by hosting a virtual cooking class collaborating with farmers to access local produce, develop a healthy recipe, and be involved in a safe, fun activity during the pandemic. Through this collaboration they were able to supply forty-one boxes and source seventy-three percent of the recipe’s ingredients from nearby farms. Penn Yan FFA was recognized by the National FFA Organization as one of New York’s 3-Star Chapters and a finalist in Growing Leaders with their virtual cooking class activity!

MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE FFA OFFICERS

Getting back to a more “normal” life post-pandemic has definitely been a relief and something we are not taking for granted. Our team is grateful to have the opportunity to serve the members and community of the New York State FFA. We all started off the year with eight jam-packed sessions at Camp Oswegatchie, which was our first in-person state event of the year! We are committed to providing great experiences, opportunities, and growth to all our members this year.

One of our goals this year is to refocus our efforts to increase membership across the state and continue on the trajectory that we were on before the pandemic. Before the pandemic hit, one of the previous officer teams had a goal of 10,000 members, we believe that this is an achievable goal this year with your continued support!

We are blessed to live in a very diverse state. However, New York FFA has to do better representing and being more inclusive of this diversity. This starts by identifying the areas of the state that lack these opportunities. Our team will be focusing our efforts on increasing access to agriculture education and FFA in our state’s urban centers, which is a very important topic to us and our supporters. By encouraging and providing access to agriculture education and FFA we can not only expand the impact agriculture and agricultural education has in our state but we can gain new perspectives and grow as an organization.

As a team, we also look forward to navigating our organization through the challenges we still face with the ongoing pandemic but also towards a new brighter future. We have learned from the challenges of the last two years and will be adapting our programming to allow more students to have access. For example, CCDF conference and state convention will have virtual opportunities that have not been offered in the past. We can adapt to our ever-changing world and that is exactly what we are going to do this year on behalf of our members.

As we all chart our paths forward, we want to remind you to take the opportunities given to us and to run towards possibility! Take chances, grow as a person and a leader so that you can define your story. New York FFA has so many talented leaders and we challenge you to achieve the greatness that we know is within each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

2021 Golden Owl Award
Grand Prize Winner: Elizabeth Foote, Greenwich High School

New York FFA is proud to partner with Nationwide and New York Farm Bureau to offer the Golden Owl Award. The Golden Owl Award® allows us to show our support to agricultural educators who devote countless hours, and often their own resources, to positively impact the lives of their students.

2021 Golden Owl Award Honoree Award Winners:
Anne Allen, Sharon Springs Central School
Elizabeth Foote, Greenwich High School
Jeff Perry, Cornell University
Leann Jordan, Tully Jr Sr High School
Mandi Millen, Canastota High School
Mary Coolbaugh, Marcus Whitman High School
Nichole Hirt, Indian River High School
Patricia Walker, Randolph High School
Patyrcja Zbrzezny, John Browne High School
Renee Johnson, Oxford Academy
Todd Eick, Medina High School
New York Agricultural Education and FFA

**FFA Members are High Achievers inside and outside the classroom**

(Based on records from the National FFA Organization, AET, and New York Association of FFA)

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) opportunities are truly endless and entirely based on students exploring passions and career interests. These are the selected SAE pathways of our members keeping their records in AET, FFA’s online record bookkeeping system. All of our members have access to this 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**

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<th>SAE Projects</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Economic Impact</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**IMPpersion SAE’S BY TYPE**

Immersion SAE’s allow students to build upon their classroom activities by gaining real-world, hands-on experience within their chosen career path. Students will enhance their agriculture industry knowledge, gain financial independence and management skills, and determine whether the career choice aligns with their interests and abilities—all while supporting their agricultural education coursework.

**NEW YORK FFA BRINGS HOME GOLD AT THE 2021 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION**

**Gold Ranking Proficiency Awards:**
- Elizabeth Hyman, Belleville Henderson FFA- Dairy Production Placement
- Rebecca Coombe, Tri-Valley FFA- Small Animal Production & Care Entrepreneurship/Placement

**Gold Ranking Career and Leadership Development Events:**
- Rebecca Coombe, Tri-Valley FFA- Employment Skills
- Schuylerville Team, Schuylerville FFA- Dairy Cattle Evaluation, 9th Place
- Nathan King, Schuylerville FFA- Dairy Cattle Evaluation
- Lauren King, Schuylerville FFA- Dairy Cattle Evaluation
- Caitlyn Vandeusen, Schuylerville FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation
- Morgan Hodge, Unadilla Valley FFA- Dairy Handlers, 1st Place
- Paige Johnson, Randolph FFA- Milk Quality and Products

**National Finalist in Agriscience Fair:**
- Ellie Yang, Taconic Hills FFA- Environmental Services and Natural Resources Systems, Division 5
- Evelyn Northrup, Pavilion Central FFA- Plant Systems, Division 3

**FFA CHAPTERS**

We would like to welcome the following new chapters to NY FFA:
- Bainbridge-Guilford FFA
- Cato-Meridian FFA
- Cincinnatus FFA
- Fabius-Pompey FFA
- OnTech FFA
- Potsdam FFA
- Roxbury FFA
- Sullivan West FFA

**NEW YORK HAS 142 FFA CHAPTERS!**

**2020-2021 New York FFA Membership:**

7,444
VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

No travel! No problem! Beginning in November 2020, NYAITC launched a series of nine virtual professional development events, with the first session featuring how to start a school beehive and visiting a live hive. This popular session was followed by a range of topics from maple to aeroponics, and vermicomposting to pollinator habitats.

The live virtual professional development sessions were two-hour blocks consisting of a virtual field trip to an agricultural location and a visit with an agriculture professional. Teachers also participated in a hands-on lesson with supplies sent to their classroom.

NYAITC was able to train over 340 teachers investing over $28,000 with the participating teachers and their students.

AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

Agricultural Literacy Week is a statewide effort to educate students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Volunteers connected with schools to read Chuck’s Ice Cream Wish (Tales of a Dairy Godmother) by Viola Butler, with a hands-on activity of making ice cream in a bag to pair with the book. In 2021, New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NYAITC) distributed over 2,100 books to all sixty-two counties in New York State read to over 80,000 students.

Embracing the challenge of hybrid learning, NYAITC accommodated schools to safely deliver valuable and relevant programming. Our outstanding network of volunteers connected with students via Zoom, YouTube, Facebook Live, and other platforms to seize the opportunity to extend Agricultural Literacy Week reach and engagement by teaching students about agriculture.

Pre-recorded videos were developed by NYAITC and included special guest readers NYS Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets Richard Ball; Jessica and Phoebe Ziehm of Tiashoke Farm; Johanna, Brynley, and Raegan Bossard of Barbland Dairy; and Diana Obregon Corredor a PhD Student at Cornell University who translated and read the book in Spanish.

A collection of videos featured elementary-age students sharing their lives on a dairy farm and explaining how they care for calves and feed their dairy animals. King Brothers Dairy in Saratoga County were featured on a video of how ice cream is made. Agricultural Literacy Week was supported this year by the generosity of New York’s dairy farmers.

GROW WITH US GRANT

Integrating food, agriculture, and nutrition in schools was made relevant and successful for eighteen teachers across the state with New York Agriculture in the Classroom’s 4th 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 a bundle of three Tower Gardens that their students will have the opportunity to interact with as they learn the seed to produce process and explore alternative growing methods.

Teachers visited eight different agricultural sites, engaged with twenty-two professional agriculturalists from different sectors in the agricultural field, and connected with over thirty different agricultural organizations.

Over 10,000 students directly benefited from the supplies and training of teachers who participated in NYAITC virtual professional developments.
**Virtual Field Trips**

Virtual field trip experiences give students an interactive look at farms and food-related industries. In a 40-minute class period, live virtual field trips are engaging as students from across the state ask farmers questions in real time while looking “behind the barn doors.” Virtual experiences are developed and tailored for grades Pre-K through 12 and include a multitude of topics and varying farms and producers.

Prior to virtual field trips, classrooms are shipped an Inquiry Box to help trigger the curiosity of students. The Inquiry Box holds four to six items that may include a tool used on the farm, products that are essential to animal or plant health, a farm or food by-product, samples, and more.

NYAITC hosted eight unique virtual field trips, some of which were offered multiple times. Over 14,300 students participated and had the opportunity to see food and agriculture experiences come to life. Virtual field trip topics included exploring a Christmas tree farm, visiting an apiary, seeing both dairy and beef farms, maple sugar bush, viewing the farm to processing cycle of wool, and more.

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**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. Patricia Eshelman was recognized as the 2021 Teacher of the Year. Eshelman is a high school teacher at the Bolivar Richburg Central School District and is a teacher who prioritizes learning agriculture through relevant and engaging cross-curricular learning experiences.

In her classroom, Eshelman educates her students about agricultural concepts and careers by featuring guest speakers from all agricultural fields on “Farmer Fridays” and requiring students to maintain a school garden called the “Wolverine Environmental Education (WEE) Center.” Students are hired to take care of the WEE Center during the summer.

Eshelman was also recognized nationally with the USDA NIFA National Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award.

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**Program Impact**

Number of Pre-K – 12 teachers and students directly reached in 2021

- **14,774 TEACHERS**
- **460,000 STUDENTS**
Financial Support of the Capital Campaign

**WE DID IT!** Thanks to your dedication and support, we raised nearly $1.5M. In Sentinel Hall we have a gathering place for all. We welcome you with warm greetings and open arms. We look forward to welcoming all whom pass through these doors. Just as a sentinel watches over and protects, thank you for being the sentinel of Oswegatchie. Thank you for going above and beyond to support this campaign. Thank you for securing a very strong future for the next generations to experience the Oswegatchie Magic.

This list below is comprised of all donors who contributed $1,000 or more to the campaign. To see a full list of our donors, you can go to [www.nyffafoundation.org](http://www.nyffafoundation.org).

**LEGACY**
Dr. Arthur Berkey
Alfred & Joan Chapin
Victoria L. Pinney Gregory

**LEADERSHIP**
Daryle & Sharon Foster
NYS FFA Endowment Fund
NYS FFA Association

**BLUE & GOLD**
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Bruce & Kathleen Erath
In Memory of John C. & Molly A. Hirshey
VVS FFA Alumni & Friends

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Greenwich FFA
Christopher Gridley
Terry & Lois Hughes
Raymond & Barbara Lighthall
New York State FFA Alumni
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Renwick & Candy Russell
Catherine Rowe
Sam Shapiro
Tri Valley FFA
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**JOE & KRISTY GOULD**
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Derek & Melissa Hill
Daniel & Tara Hooker
Charlie Jenison
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Phil & Chris Marsh
Evan & Katherine Mankoff
Kathryn McCarthy
Jim & Judy McClary
Joe & Cindy Miller
Robin McLean & Gene Battersby
New Berlin Class of 1981
Craig Niles Family
William Nohle
Austin Nolley
Melvin & Jennifer Phelps
Paul Perry
Purcell Construction Corporation
Jeff Parnapy
Glenna Ryan
Retired Ag Educators of NY
Justin & Denielle Romance

**Karl & Marita Oertel**

**Renwick & Candy Russell**

**Charlie & Dot Krause**

**In Memory of**
Harvey Lyndaker
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Purcell Construction Corporation
Jeff Parnapy
Glenna Ryan
Retired Ag Educators of NY
Justin & Denielle Romance

**LOGO**

Recognition of the support of Dr. Arthur Berkey
Logan Rohr
Victor Rodriquez
John Sackett
Keith & Paulette Schiebel
Karl & Charlotte Schweitzer
Tim & Donnalee Shields
Peter & Judy Signor
Steve Smith
Mark & Janet St. Pierre
Bill & Jean Stowell
Rick & Audrey Strangeway
Rick & Vonnie Strangeway
Dean & Diane Sutphin
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Gary & Maureen Swan
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South Lewis FFA
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Waterville FFA

Broome County Farm Bureau
Cortland County Farm Bureau
Genesee County Farm Bureau
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
Lewis County Farm Bureau
Livingston County Farm Bureau
Madison County Farm Bureau
Oneida County Farm Bureau
Ontario County Farm Bureau
Orleans County Farm Bureau
Tompkins Co Farm Bureau
Wyoming County Farm Bureau

Recognition of the support of the family of Al and Joan Chapin

Recognition of the support of Victoria L Pinney Gregory

Photo: Beardsley Design Associates Architecture
Oswegatchie held eight shortened sessions of camp in the summer of 2021. We are thankful that 697 kids were able to experience as much camp magic as we could pack into 3 days. Thank you to the schools from across the state that brought students to Oswegatchie camp this year.

We look forward to hosting campers in 2022! Visit our website for more information: oswegatchiecamp.com
2021 by the Numbers

NEW YORK STATE FFA ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS have seen their impact growing. This will be the 4th 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

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<td>28</td>
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Many FFA Chapters instituted an Alumni and Supporters Chapter to help with their fundraising during the pandemic. We grew from thirty-three to thirty-nine alumni chapters and added 280 new members to the organization in the past eighteen months.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Ten of our NY FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapters received grants in 2021 from the National FFA Alumni and Supporters to help support their chapters:

- Greenwich FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Penn Yan FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Granville FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Afton FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Friends of BKW FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Mohawk Valley FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Waterville FFA Alumni and Supporters
- DeRuyter FFA Alumni and Supporters
- South Jefferson FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Schuylerville FFA Alumni and Supporters

With $5,000 from the NY FFA Association, we were able to hand out more than 30 activity scholarships to students wishing to participate in FFA Activities being offered statewide and nationally.

In June, the NYS FFA Alumni and Supporters were awarded a grant from the National FFA Alumni and Supporters.
Due to the loss of two of our major fundraisers, this $500 grant allowed us to send out approximately 600 donation request letters. To date, we have received about $5,000 in donations to continue our mission of serving the FFA students.

The NYS FFA Alumni and Supporters were able to make and send out 170 chapter guidebooks for starting an Alumni and Supporters Chapter with help from a grant from the National FFA Alumni and Supporters.

Former teacher and a long standing FFA supporter Victoria L. Pinney-Gregory generously donated $25,000 to be used to continue a scholarship for college students wishing to become agriculture education teachers. With this gift, we were able to join with the NY FFA Association and the NYS FFA Foundation as a part of the CNY Community Foundation endowment program.

In September of 2021, the NYS Alumni and Supporters received a $1,000 Legacy Partnering Grant from the National FFA Alumni and Supporters to support our trip to National Convention.