

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

2022 Annual Report



New York
Agriculture
in the Classroom



New York Agriculture Education Outreach Team

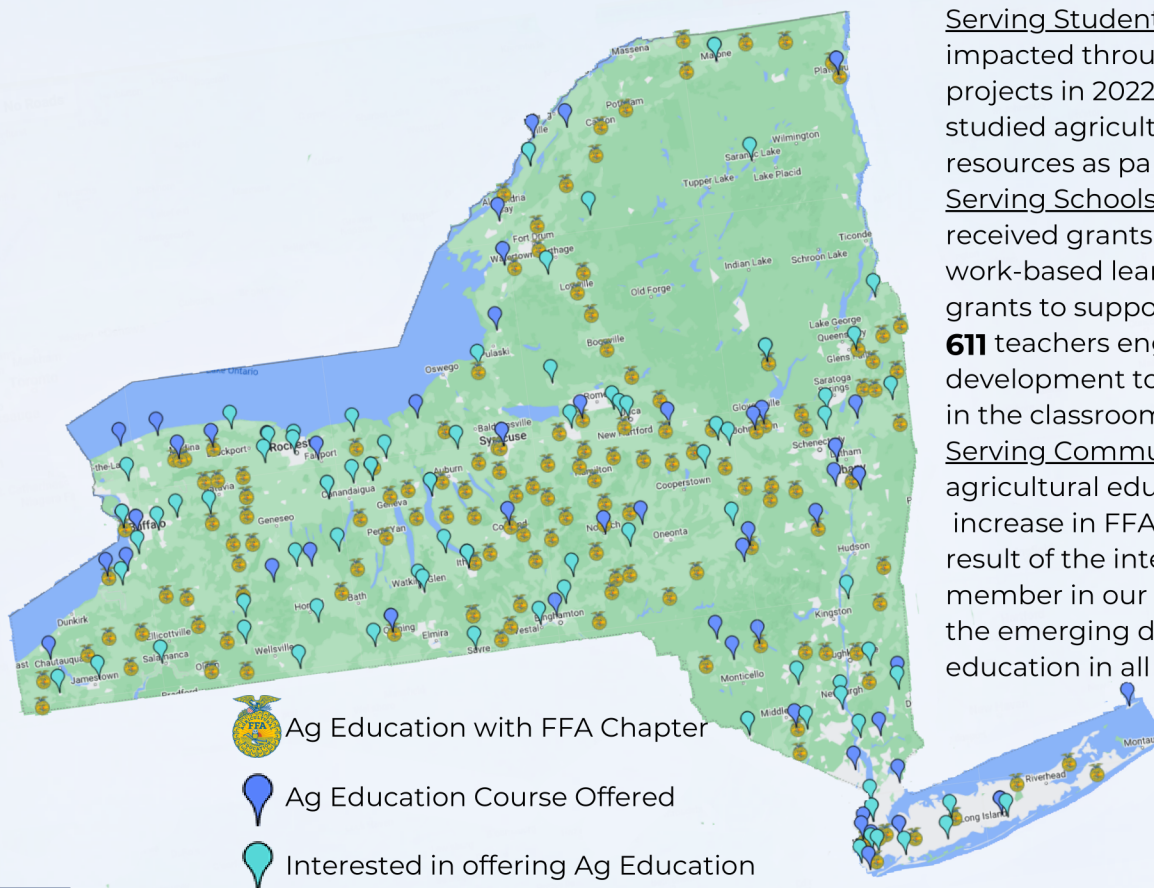


From left to right, Front Row: Josie Maroney, AITC Administrative Assistant; Kelli Grab, Associate in Instructional Services for Career and Technical Education (NYSED); Nancy Grossman, AEO Program Assistant; Katie Carpenter, Director of Agriculture in the Classroom; Shari Lighthall, Director of Agricultural Education Outreach; Kelsey O'Hare, FFA Program Specialist; Caitlyn McFadden, Urban Agricultural Education and FFA Specialist; Juleah Tolosky, Director of New York FFA

From left to right, Back Row: Sarah Hale, AITC Program Specialist; Todd Lighthall, Executive Director of NYS FFA Leadership Training Foundation; Robin Waite, OEC Program Specialist; Catie Rowe, Agriculture Education Program Specialist; Rolland Krohn, OEC Program Specialist; Jeremiah Best, AITC Educator; Terry Hughes, Recruitment and Retention Specialist; Bill Waite, OEC Program Director

New York Agriculture Education Outreach Delivers Impact to Students, Schools and Communities throughout New York

The New York Agricultural Outreach Team worked to serve students, schools and communities in new and meaningful ways in 2022.



Ag Education with FFA Chapter



Ag Education Course Offered



Interested in offering Ag Education

Serving Students: **465,000** children were impacted through Ag in the Classroom projects in 2022. **22,753** New York students studied agriculture, food and natural resources as part of their school day.

Serving Schools: **9,100** FFA members received grants for FFA membership and work-based learning. **117** schools received grants to support local program needs. **611** teachers engaged in professional development to improve their proficiency in the classroom.

Serving Communities: Growth in access to agricultural education has included a **400 %** increase in FFA chapters in NYC. This is a result of the intentional placement of a staff member in our urban centers to support the emerging demand for agricultural education in all NY communities.

New York Agriculture Education

OVER 400 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.



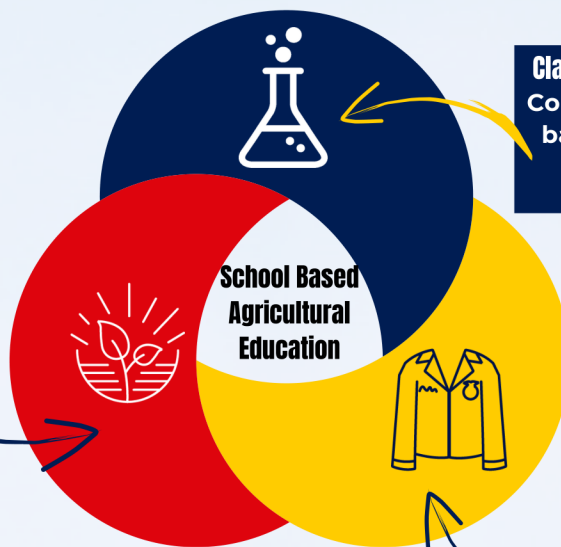
New York Agricultural Educators Participated

in over

12,000

hours of professional development in the eight AFNR pathways through events sponsored by New York Association of Agricultural Educators and Cornell University.

SAE
Experiential,
Service and
Work-Based
Learning



Classroom/Laboratory
Contextual, Inquiry-
based instruction
and learning

FFA
Premier
Leadership,
Personal Growth
and Career
Success



"Agricultural Education is as much about the importance of service as it is about teaching agriculture. Many of the students that cross our paths will not follow careers in agriculture but all are able to be good stewards in their community and in this country. If we can educate a generation that understands the importance of agriculture and holds an appreciation for the hard work it takes to be successful in these fields we are making the world a better place. Agricultural Education serves two purposes - prepare youth for careers and prepare people to support and appreciate those in the career area!" ~ Tara Berescik-Burke, NYAAE President





NEW YORK

FFA

Live and Onstage: Convention Returns In-Person!

After two years of restriction, New York FFA returned to Syracuse, NY in May of 2022 for a long-awaited, in-person State FFA Convention. Over three days, 1,520 students took part in competitions, service projects and a celebration of FFA's members and leaders. Students were awarded plaques, medals, FFA jackets and grants. FFA advisors were honored in person for the first time for their excellence through the FFA Golden Owl Award. State FFA Officers shared parting wisdom and a new team of students was elected to lead over 9,000 NY FFA members into 2023.

"It takes grit and tenacity to know when it's time for a change and to be able to see that there is so much more in store for us"
~Makenna Seitz

"No matter what our passion is we need to become the hardest working person we know and believe in our inner power to be successful."
~Anna Western

"In order to bloom, we have to grow through every situation."
~Brooklin Drake

"Don't let your past moments hold you back from your success today."
~Julia Uhrenik

"The way we think about things is what they will become."
~Molly Adams



"Living in the moment allows us to appreciate the people around us, the experiences we're having and not take for granted the time we have."
~Paige Warren

Exploration of Excellence: Career & Leadership Development



In less than an hour, teams of high schoolers read a prompt and create a product to pitch to marketing executives. The team gets to work, simultaneously scratching out nutritional and calorie content, identifying health and safety production plans, recommending price points and designing labels or advertising to secure a place in a competitive market. The Food Science and Technology Career Development Event takes a customer focused approach to adding value to agricultural commodities.



Career and Leadership Development events offer experiences for FFA members to develop skills and confidence in all areas of agricultural, food and natural resource careers. What starts out as a classroom activity, or something a teacher encourages an FFA member to try can grow from exploration to excellence when they find passion and talent. Lowville Academy's Taylor did just that and found herself a gold-ranked individual at the National FFA Food Science event in 2022.

NY FFA is proud to celebrate Taylor - and every member who found success this year through FFA's competitive events!

New York FFA Brings Home Gold at the 2022 National FFA Convention

Taylor Stalker, Lowville FFA - Food Science & Technology
Joshua Kennedy, Royalton-Hartland FFA - Nursery/Landscape
Mandy Li, John Bowne FFA - Agricultural Communications
Austin King, Whitman FFA - Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems
Sarah Cox, Warsaw FFA - Employment Skills
Garrett Armendia, Royalton-Hartland FFA - Milk Quality & Products
Ian Keberle, Elba FFA - Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management
Bing Zuber, Elba FFA - Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management
William Rumovicz, Unadilla Valley FFA - Dairy Handlers



A message from the 2022-2023 State FFA Officer Team

The future of agriculture is something we all think about. When our team was elected to serve, we each had unique ideas of what the future of agriculture could be. We are committed to helping students take steps to create a future for themselves, for agriculture and for our New York communities.

Our students dream of being part of the great minds that will respond to climate change, increase agricultural yields, or advocate to make this world a better place. They turn their dreams into reality when they develop skills and perspectives they'll use in the future. In classes and conferences, they can find purpose for their talents and interests. E.M. Tiffany's famous words, "I believe in the future of agriculture," are still relevant today.

Whether you've volunteered to judge a leadership development event, donated to your local chapter, or advocated for FFA at a school board meeting, thank you. Every contribution to student success is an investment into a future we all will benefit from.

Myah LaFave, President
Elizabeth Schieferstine, Treasurer

Hunter Smigel, Vice-President
Cristian Gilces, Reporter

Annette Prezzano, Secretary
Morgan Craven, Sentinel



Premier Leadership, Personal Growth & Career Success



Generations of Success - Clark Simmons



The Simmons vineyard in Penn Yan, NY has a family history worth preserving. Clark will tell you he was inspired by his uncle Jeff who gained local notoriety in the 80s when he and his brother decided to sell grapevine to area florists. Jeff's entrepreneurial spirit earned titles from National FFA and started him on the path to his current career leading one of the largest agricultural companies in America. Clark's story started among the same rows of grapes his uncle's did - but where Uncle Jeff's vision took him away from

home, Clark aspires to strengthen and sustain that homestead for future generations.

Thirty plus years after a Simmons was recognized on the National FFA stage, Clark was identified as one of the top four students in the country for his work in fruit production. His project included caring for vines, helping with harvest, marketing grapes and even managing employees. When the time came for Clark to stand under the National FFA spotlight, his name was the one called for 1st place.



Through Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), students design successful futures for themselves. In 2022, there has been much attention on work-based learning and its potential to help all students succeed. Within agricultural education, students like Clark have been doing to learn for nearly 100 years.

The Simmons story is certainly worthy of attention, but what's really worth celebrating is the impact SAEs have for students from all backgrounds. From school-based maple syrup production, agriscience research projects, service-learning community restoration efforts to students raising grain, show strings and flocks of their own, FFA provides members the tools to cultivate award-worthy career and financial skills whether or not they're ever recognized on a stage.

New York Students Grow in Eight Agricultural Pathways

As part of agricultural education, FFA members develop lifelong skills to support their personal and professional success. With anchors in career and college readiness, agricultural literacy, employability skills, personal financial literacy and workplace safety, New York FFA is developing leaders for the workforce. Where are students directing their focus? In 2022, students recorded hours and investments in eight agricultural career pathways.



51%

Animal Systems



5%

Agribusiness Systems



7%

Mechanical Systems



4%

Environmental Systems



17%

Plant Systems



4%

Natural Resources Systems



8%

Food Processing Systems



4%

Agricultural Education/Leadership/Communication

Student success starts with teacher investment and every blue jacket begins in an agriculture classroom. In 2022, New York FFA recognized outstanding advisors from every district with the Golden Owl Award. Congratulations to Johanna Bossard of Hamilton, the 2022 State Golden Owl winner!



New Faces, New Possibilities

Liana greeted the State Officer Team when they stepped off of the ferry from New York City onto Governor's Island where she goes to school each day. Surrounded by historic buildings, the work done by students in her school is both futuristic and timeless. Currently, the school aims toward a sustainability goal of zero-waste and Liana laughed as she showed the officers how to operate one of the enormous composters located near an area that they plan to convert into vegetable gardens in the coming months. She shared how student leaders hosted competitions to achieve their sustainability goals and recounted learning how "annoying" oranges were to compost. Her teacher stood back, letting her take the lead.

New York's emerging FFA chapters demonstrate FFA traditions in new environments. The Harbor School focuses on composting, waste reduction and even restoration of the New York Harbor. The Renaissance Charter School is wedged between markets, parking garages and apartments, and operates a rooftop garden. Leya, one of their chapter leaders, passionately encouraged their classmates to come on the trip they're planning to the State FFA Convention as the State Officer Team introduced them to FFA's values, symbols and opportunities. At a school visit to Syracuse's OnTECH chapter, FFA member Jamilka eagerly shared what she's learned through her work at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo with her classmates and the State Officer Team before being presented with her own FFA jacket - the very first in her chapter's history.

Growth in NY Agricultural Education is happening across the state and new schools - and students - find their place in FFA each year. Interest abounds and thanks to support from the NY Department of Ag and Markets, NY FFA can foster new and continuous growth in FFA chapters through Incentive Grant funding. Since 2017, FFA has distributed \$1.79 million of these funds to chapters through direct grants and membership services. In 2022, applications are being reviewed for an additional \$350,000 in grant funds.



New York Agriculture in the Classroom

National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NYAIRC) was the proud host state of the 2022 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. From June 28-July 1, 2022, over 700 teachers, state program leaders, and volunteers in agricultural literacy gathered in Saratoga Springs, New York to attend the nation's premier professional development conference for teaching through a lens of food and agriculture.

NYAIRC showcased the unique and diverse agriculture and food production systems in New York with traveling workshops to start the conference. From multi-generation dairy operations, maple syrup production, fiber mills, honeybee suppliers, apple production, the equine industry, and more, there was no shortage of uniquely New York agriculture to tour in Washington and Saratoga Counties. Exposing educators from across the country to the state's landscape and diversity of production is a proud moment for NYAIRC.

Hands-on workshops, incredible keynote speakers, and educator networking were featured during the conference experience. It was important to NYAIRC that a strong presence of New York teachers had access to this high-quality professional development experience in their backyard. New York educators were well represented with 286 in attendance, 68 receiving scholarship funding from NYAIRC and 20 workshop presenters from across New York State.



Left: Traveling workshops were a highlight of the Conference experience. From putting on bee suits to taste-testing ice cream, many facets of New York Agriculture were explored.

Below: Over 280 educators represented NY from Long Island to Niagara Falls and Plattsburgh to Jamestown.

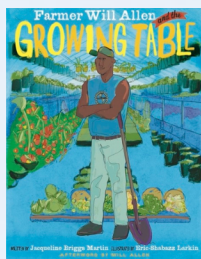


Teachers were able to experience their choice of over 80 unique workshops presented during the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.



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 Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, with a choice of a hands-on activity of exploring a vermicomposting worm bin or setting up an experiment to observe how worm castings impact plant growth to pair with the book. In 2022, New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NYAIRC) distributed over 2,100 books that were read to over 80,000 students in all 62 counties in New York State.



To further enhance the experience, New York Agriculture in the Classroom developed pre-recorded videos and a special live event. For one of the pre-recorded videos, New York State Assemblymember Jamie Williams read the story aloud and shared a message with students. In another video, Adirondack Worm Farm owner Bill Richmond shared a look into his commercial compost business and worm farm operation.

As a special treat, the real-life Farmer Will Allen visited New York during Agricultural Literacy Week and hosted a virtual field trips for over 4,500 students across the state. Classrooms had the chance to meet Mr. Allen, ask him questions about his life and experiences, and walk through an urban farm in Schenectady County with him as he talked about worms, soil, and compost through a virtual experience.



New York Agriculture in the Classroom, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and New York FFA,

hosted the first Youth Competition during the 2021 Grow-NY Food and Agriculture Business Competition. Nine youth participants presented their innovative business pitches to a panel of judges for a chance to win a \$2,000 prize to invest in their enterprise. Selected based on a competitive proposal process, the next generation of business developers, agriculture, food, and technology leaders engaged in this unique program. Twin brothers Ethan and Oren Welch of Marion, NY were named as winners for their booming business building apple bins for the apple growers in their region.



Above: Ethan and Oren Welch pitched their winning business idea, Welch Brother's Bins, that filled the need in their community for quality apple bins.



Left: As an additional prize, Silas Alvarez was awarded consultation from the Cornell Food Venture Center to help make his product, Silas Sauce, shelf-stable.



New York Agriculture in the Classroom

Dairy In The Classroom

Dairy isn't just found in the cafeteria anymore! Dairy in the Classroom is a program in partnership with county Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in every corner of New York. Funded by New York's 3,600 dairy farmers, Dairy in the Classroom brings educators into the formal school day to provide hands-on lessons to illustrate core curricular concepts. Using dairy products, farm ecosystems, and considering the wide impact of dairy economics in a community, it is easy for 14 counties to create authentic learning experiences from the agriculture in their backyard.



Students learned that many foods they eat everyday, like pizza and ice cream, include dairy in Madison County.



Over almost 50,000 hours of instruction led by Dairy in the Classroom Educators have been invested in New York's students. From understanding climate, soil, calculating food miles traveled of pizza ingredients while making a mini pizza, to watching phases of matter change by shaking heavy cream into butter, the connections to the learning goals are strong and cross-curricular. Dairy and agriculture are the application of the concepts taught in the classroom, and they are brought to life by the educators.

The dairy community in New York includes large and small family-run farms. It also boasts processing facilities of various types and sizes, from major global processing companies to small artisanal dairy product makers. With this grant being funded directly by New York's dairy farmers, it is the mission of NYAIC to creatively and innovatively spread awareness and education about dairy production and systems so there may be increased student engagement and knowledge about this ever-growing industry.

Students in Monroe County were excited to shake up butter while learning about dairy products.



2022 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. Jennifer Bailey was recognized as the 2022 Teacher of the Year. Bailey is a second grade teacher at the Argyle Central School District and is a teacher who saw a need in her community and prioritizes learning through agriculture through relevant and engaging cross-curricular learning experiences.

Bailey educates her students about agricultural concepts by featuring a wide variety of in-class speakers, agriculturally-focused literature, and student-centered lessons that promote rich discussions about food and agriculture systems locally and globally. Bailey has introduced garden beds and vermicomposting into her school community to demonstrate to her students how agriculture affects the environment, and how the environment we interact with impacts other living organisms.

Bailey was also renowned nationally with the USDA-NIFA National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award. Bailey was one of eight educators nationally to receive this distinguishing award during the National Agriculture in Classroom Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Katie Carpenter, Director of New York Agriculture in the Classroom, shares, "I could not be more impressed with Jennifer Bailey's thoughtfulness and approach to her educational goals. She is so very earnest in her true desire to build strong community connections and instill an adventurous spirit in her students. There is underlying purpose to her work, and that is to give her students the gift of an open mind as they travel through life in their small, rural community. The passion that Jennifer holds for her work is evident in all she does, and that passion only inspires curiosity in her students. She gives her students the space to try new foods, skills, and challenges - and that makes her an exceptional teacher worthy of this award."

Number of Pre-K - 12 teachers and students directly reached in 2022



15,000
teachers

465,000
students



New York FFA Leadership

All gifts to the FFA have the ability to make an impact. Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to FFA and Agricultural Education.

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\$250,000 +

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Oswegatchie Educational Center



During the summer of 2022, Oswegatchie Camp held 5 weeklong sessions. A total of 855 youth experienced programming that focused on outdoor recreation, environmental education, and leadership development. Thank you to the 57 FFA Chapters that attended.

Oswegatchie

To Learn More about
Oswegatchie go to
www.oswegatchie.org



NEW YORK FFA ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

2022 National FFA Convention & Expo

3 buses

129 students

4 days of education and fun

This year's trip included a Lincoln Electric Tour, 3 excursions in Richmond, IN; Blue Buffalo dog food plant, museum, arboretum, Wednesday night concert, World's Toughest Rodeo on Friday and the Indianapolis Zoo on Saturday.



**LINCOLN
ELECTRIC**



"Lincoln Electric has been a sponsor of the FFA for over 60 years promoting welding safety and technology to the next generation of future leaders."



Victoria L. Pinney Gregory Scholarship



In 2022, the NYS FFA Alumni and Supporters were honored to award the Victoria L. Pinney-Gregory scholarships to deserving individuals at the 2022 NY State FFA Convention.

Regional Development Conference hosted at Camp Oswegatchie



In June, Allie Ellis from the National FFA Alumni Association met with 20 FFA Alumni & Supporters from all over the Northeast.

2022 Bob Watson Toy Auction



A New York State Farm Show favorite returned after a few years hiatus due to the pandemic. The toy auction was back in full swing with a packed house. We appreciate the continued support of this event.

Thank you to the New York FFA Association for their generous donation of \$4,000 to help fund the NY FFA Alumni & Supporters Activities Grant. In conjunction with Alumni & Supporters funding, 46 scholarships were awarded to FFA members in New York State.

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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**Agriculture
and Markets**

