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To: [AGED-L](#)
Subject: NY Ag Ed/FFA News Blitz
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Good evening,

Only a few more weeks until the start of a new school year!

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 just finished up the last week of summer camp and helping to facilitate the Intense conference. Pictures from Intense are now posted on our website. Thank you to all of the colleges and business that helped provide this amazing opportunity for our students. Thank you to our group leaders for spending a week with students and helping them to explore the possibilities in the ag. industry. This week the officers interacted with the public, sold tickets for the NY FFA Foundation tractor raffle and helped recognize the students that participated in the welding and tractor driving CDE's. We want to congratulate all of the students who participated and those students that had success. The results should be posted soon. Thank you to our sponsors and to Johanna Bossard and Jon Clayson for their support of these two CDE's.

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 on Tuesday, August 15th. Please double check your rosters to make sure all of your students that are participating at State Fair, Big E and National Convention are dues paying members.

State Fair will be here before we know we 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. We have will have close to 100 participants this year. 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. Please let Terry Hughes know if you have students that can help with this event.

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 ASAP.**

Congratulations to all of the New York FFA members that are being recognized this year on the National Level. Below are the results from the national contests:

American Degrees:

<https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-ffa-degree-recipient>

Band, Chorus, Talent:

The audition review process for the 2017 National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent has been completed. We are excited to host these groups in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. The quality of auditions this year was extremely impressive – making the selection process challenging for our Directors. All three Directors are very excited to meet their ensembles in October.

The application results from your state are listed below. Students will be emailed his/her audition status (both those accepted and denied) later this afternoon. Advisors will be copied on all emails.

First	Last	Attendee Type	Application Status	FFA Chapter	City	State
Lesley	Aucter	Band	Accepted to 2017 National FFA Band	Beaver River	Croghan	NY
Emily	Lighthall	Talent	Accepted to 2017 National FFA Talent	Beaver River	Croghan	NY

Below are the official results for the 2017 National FFA Agriscience Fair, National Chapter Award Program and the National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards. These results will be posted on FFA.org by Friday morning.

National FFA Agriscience Fair

- The National FFA Organization will charge certification fees (\$35 per project) for national finalists. Invoices will be generated and mailed to state leaders no later than Aug. 15.
- Orientation packets will be posted on the program webpage.

Agriscience Fair Results:

- FFA.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/awards_2017_asf_results_by_event.pdf

Agriscience Fair Orientation Packet:

- FFA.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/awards_asf_orientationpacket2017.pdf

National Chapter Award Program

- Orientation packets will be posted on the program webpage on Friday.

National Chapter Star Results by State:

- FFA.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/awards_2017_nca_star_report.pdf

Orientation packet:

- FFA.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/awards_nca_generalstar2017.pdf

National Chapter Finalists:

- FFA.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/awards_2017_nca_finalists.pdf

MOE/MSMOE Orientation Packet:

- FFA.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/awards_nca_moemsmoe2017.pdf

Premier Chapter Orientation Packet: FFA.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/awards_nca_premierchap2017.pdf

Contact Madeline Young (myoung@ffa.org), the National Chapter and Agriscience Fair program manager, for any questions regarding these two programs.

National FFA Proficiency Awards

- Proficiency award ratings are as follows: National Finalist, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Participant. Only National Finalists are recognized at national convention; all other applicants have now completed the process.
- Proficiency Award Results: FFA.org/ffa2015/Pages/Proficiencies-hidden.aspx
- The convention orientation packet for National Finalists is located on the proficiency awards webpage, FFA.org/participate/awards/proficiencies.
- Contact SAE Education Specialist Brett Evans (bevans@ffa.org) with proficiency award questions or concerns.

If you have a student moving on in one of these contests, please make sure you fill out and submit all of the necessary information.

National FFA Updates:

Delegate Committees Set for the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo

As outlined in Article XIII of the National FFA Constitution, the 2016-17 National FFA Officer Team has commissioned six special committees for delegate consideration at the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo. These committees were formed from the 20 proposals submitted by state associations and National FFA staff to the leadership delegates at State Presidents' Conference. The six committees and their purpose statements can be found in the attached document. National FFA staff will now work with state association staff to assign delegates to these six committees. For more information, visit FFA.org/delegates.

ILSSO Registration Opens Aug. 15

The 2018 International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) will be held in South Africa from Jan. 2 - 16, 2018, for 75 participants. The online application/registration for ILSSO will open Aug. 15 at 1 p.m. EDT. The state officer programs staff highly recommend that any state officer interested in the program submit the participant release form prior to registration opening on Aug. 15. Since the form must be notarized, applicants must mail the original form to the National FFA Organization, attention Eric Nelson. The participant release form, as well as other information regarding ILSSO, is available at FFA.org/ilssso.

FFA Visits the Empire State

Last week, COO Joshua Bledsoe and Local Program Success Specialist Karen Hutchison met with the New York state staff and other agricultural education supporters in Syracuse, N.Y., for a state relations visit. Several topics were discussed and ideas shared. New York agricultural education staff, the New York Association of Agricultural Educators (NYAAE), the foundation, alumni and other supporters were excited to share information on the number of new programs and FFA charters issued not only this year but also over the last few years. Even though the state added 20 new programs this year, a waiting list for 60

additional programs remains.

As with many states, providing enough teachers is a challenge. New York, however, has made the commitment to hire someone who will focus on teacher recruitment and retention. The state is also seeing increased financial support for FFA and agricultural programs. NYAAE shared information on their strong connection to Ag in the Classroom, which helps educate more students about agriculture. Many thanks to Shari Lighthall for arranging this informative meeting.

One of the results that has come from this meeting is below:

Derek and Sari,

I wanted to let you both know just how much I appreciated our visit with you and the entire NY Team Ag Ed a few weeks ago. I think we accomplished a great deal and I'm glad we were able to discuss issues that we all are passionate about in a productive manner.

Upon my return, I talked in our management team meetings and in turn, we shared at the board meeting this week, the feedback you provided regarding the language in the charter around the selection of national officers. Our management team agrees that we should include some type of statement ensuring that national officers are elected with regional representation in mind. We all think that makes sense. We aren't going to spell out the number of regions or the number of officers from each region, but we do think it's important to include regional representation language in the revised charter. I appreciate you all sharing that with me and spurring our thoughts further on that topic.

Thank you both for what you do. I know and appreciate the roles you play in New York. We are ready and able to assist you and your entire team in any way we can ... just let us know how we can best be of service to you.

Alumni Bylaw Amendments

Two official bylaw amendments will be presented to the alumni delegates at the 2017 annual meeting during the national convention and expo. The two amendments are:

1. To add a third past national officer to the alumni council and extend their terms from two to three years.
2. To redo the delegate allocation process.

These proposed bylaw amendments will be posted at FFA.org/support/alumni/events next week for the membership to review.

Semester-Long Living to Serve Grant Application Now Available

We're excited to announce that the first Semester-Long Living to Serve Grant application is now open and available in English and Spanish. Middle and high school chapters may apply for up to \$1,200 to support semester-long service-learning projects that address community needs in one of four focus areas:

- Community Safety
- Hunger, Health and Nutrition
- Environmental Responsibility
- Community Engagement

To access the application, visit FFA.org/livingtoserve/grants. Applications are due Sept. 1, 2017. Stay informed on all Living to Serve opportunities by visiting FFA.org/livingtoserve. Should you have any questions, contact the Living to Serve team, LTS@ffa.org. Feel free to share the attached infographic with chapters and members.

National FFA Foundation Presents at AgCareers.com Ag & Food HR Roundtable in Kansas City

This two-day conference is open to all human resource professionals, career services staff and relevant association representatives within the agriculture, food science, natural resources and biotechnology industries and is an excellent networking opportunity. AgCareers.com is an FFA strategic partner for career success, and this is our fourth year of having a partner presence at this annual event. Nearly 200 attendees from college/university career services departments, along with human resource managers and recruiters from across the industry, gather to share ideas and discuss the challenges facing all aspects of the talent pipeline.

Todd Greenwood with the National FFA Foundation brought remarks on behalf of National FFA, specifically addressing the value that agricultural education and FFA bring to the industry and why making the strategic investments of support is critical. The most recent FFA chapter and membership data was shared, along with AgExplorer and My Journey assessment and resume stats. Todd also spoke to the companies about surveying their employees to find out how many former FFA members are employed in their ranks and encouraged them to consider establishing nontraditional FFA Alumni chapters.

Blue Buffalo to Support the National FFA Organization in Partnership With Tractor Supply Co.

From July 31 through Oct. 1, for each 30-pound bag of Blue Buffalo Adult Chicken & Brown Rice, Adult Lamb & Brown Rice, or Adult Large Breed Chicken & Brown Rice purchased at Tractor Supply Company stores nationwide, Blue Buffalo will make a donation to the National FFA Organization. For more details, visit [here](#).

Sharing Our Stories

At FFA, we already know our members are doing extraordinary things, but it makes us even more proud when others recognize the talent, drive and heart-felt service of our members. Our friends at AGDAILY have done just that and have launched a special section on their website, <https://www.agdaily.com/ffa/>, devoted to coast-to-coast stories on FFA. When you have a moment, check out their coverage and be sure to bookmark the webpage for return visits; new stories are added regularly.

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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.