

**From:** [bounce-123965114-76929370@list.cornell.edu](mailto:bounce-123965114-76929370@list.cornell.edu) on behalf of [Derek Todd Hill](#)  
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Wow, the school year is off to a fast start! Big E, All American Dairy Show, New Teachers Conference, Chapter and School Visits, COLT Conference, State Officer Tour and much much more. With more to come we want to make sure you stay informed. Below are some updates and reminders for the next few weeks as well as some recognition of teachers across the state! Let us know if we can answer any questions you may have!

### **In This Issue of NY Ag Education/FFA News Blitz:**

- *Teacher Professional Development Conferences*
- *Agriculture Education's Peer Mentors across New York*
- *LIVE NOW! Applications for the 2019-2020 Agriculture Education Incentive Grant*
- *Tips for a successful school year*
- *Registering for COLT Conference*
- *State Officer Tour Information*
- *212/360 Conference Reminders/Update*
- *State Convention Updates*
- *Requesting State Officer Visits*
- *Update on State Officer Selection date*
- *FFA Roster information*
- *Camp O updates*
- *Foundation updates*

### **Ag Ed/Professional Development Updates:**

#### **212/360 Teacher Professional Development:**

**January 25-26, 2020** 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 Mentors:**

**Do you need help?** Just have an agricultural content specific question? Could you benefit from a few new lessons or ideas from an agricultural education colleague? **NYAAE has expanded its agricultural education-mentoring program!** Please visit the [NYAAE mentoring portal](#), click on a mentor's name and reach out for assistance!

#### **Agricultural Education Incentive Grant:**

The application for the 2019-2020 Agricultural Education Incentive Grant for [New](#) and [Growing](#) Programs is **NOW AVAILABLE!** The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to new and growing agricultural education programs that are struggling to secure necessary resources for a high-quality agricultural education program.

These resources may include, but are not limited to: curriculum development, professional development, program development, resource acquisitions, and program coordination.

**For additional information please visit:** <https://www.nysffa.org/incentive-grant>

### **Tips for a Successful New School Year:**

*It is totally acceptable...*

1. To feel somewhat overwhelmed you're first few weeks of school,
2. To forget your copier code after you just walked all the way to the other end of the building repeating it to yourself,
3. To have faith in your new students to be just as awesome as the ones you had last year,
4. To wear the same pair of pants all week because you haven't had time to do laundry,
5. **To get up in the morning with a smile on your face, ready to face the day as an Ag teacher!** \*\* National Teach Ag Campaign-Ag Teacher by CHOICE, not by chance

Have you visited the **Communities of Practice Website when preparing for the new school year?** Communities of Practice is a professional networking site for agricultural educators managed by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Its purpose is to create a common place for anyone who is interested in agricultural education to share ideas and resources. Don't miss out and visit today for exceptional classroom resources and sharing. <https://communities.naae.org/welcome>  
If we can be of any assistance to you or your students, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

**New York Ag Education Offices-** <http://www.nysffa.org/aeostaff/>

**FFA/NYAAE Leadership -** <http://www.nysffa.org/trustees/>

### **New York FFA Updates:**

We are very excited to see our NY FFA members at COLT Conference and State Officer Tour this coming week! We continue to grow NY FFA with 4 schools submitting their charter applications in the last week alone.

### **COLT Conference:**

Colt Conference is a great way to help your chapter officers/leaders get the year started off right. This conference will be held on 9/28/19 at Cornell University. For more information and to register please visit: <https://www.nysffa.org/colt>.

### **State Officer Tour:**

The State Officers and I are very excited to have the opportunity to travel the state and interact with our members and advisors. If we are not stopping at your chapter for a visit, we would encourage all of you to find the closest regional host and join us there. State Officer tour will take place from 9/29-10/5/2019. Please visit [www.nysffa.org/sot](http://www.nysffa.org/sot) for more information. **If you would like to attend a regional event please contact the closest host and register with them.** We hope to see you all there!

### **212/360 Conference:**

We are excited to provide this mid-year leadership development conference for our students.

Conference information and lodging is available on our website:

<https://www.nysffa.org/212360>. **As a reminder, lodging is the responsibility of the chapter this year, we will not be doing rooming. We have provided you with all of the contact information and rates to the hotels that you will need to plan and make your reservations.** Please look for more promotional information to come out soon. Registration will open on 11/1/2019.

## **State Convention:**

This is a reminder that lodging options for state convention have been posted on our website: <https://www.nysffa.org/state-convention> for the 2020 State Convention. We will be announcing the Convention Theme during COLT Conference and will live stream it. More information to come in the coming months.

## **Requesting State Officers or District President for Chapter Visits and Banquets:**

If you would like to have a State Officer or District President visit your chapter or attend your banquet please fill out a request form. Please visit this link to fill out your request: <http://www.nysffa.org/officers/>. Each chapter can request a State Officer or District President up to two times. **Please put in your requests by October 1<sup>st</sup> so that we can secure it in one of our officer's schedules. If you wait beyond this date we may not be able to accommodate your request.**

## **Update to State Officer Selection Date:**

Due to when school spring breaks fall this year, we have moved State Officer Selection to 4/2-4/4/2020. We realize that this may be the start of some schools spring break but we are limited to the beginning-mid April to host this process and this weekend will impact the least amount of people based on our research. This has been updated in our state google calendar which you can find on the events page. There is also a pdf document with the events listed by month.

## **Roster:**

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, you can add students to your chapter's membership roster on [ffa.org](http://ffa.org). **As a reminder, NY is now an affiliate state which means you should be including all students taking an agriculture class on your rosters.** If you have any 6<sup>th</sup> grade members, they should be added to the sixth grade only roster [found here](#), towards the bottom of the page. 6<sup>th</sup> graders are added into the scale under affiliation membership. If you are registering sixth graders, please wait to submit payment until you receive an invoice from the State Office with the difference owed (if any) for adding your sixth graders. *(Example 1: If you have 23 members in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade on the national roster, you fall into the 1-25 member, \$200 bracket. Adding 10 members on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade roster, bumps you into the next fee bracket of \$300, so you will receive an invoice from the State Office for the additional \$100 owed. Example 2: If you have 35 members in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade on the national roster, you fall into the 26-50 member, \$300 bracket. Adding 12 students on your 6<sup>th</sup> grade roster, keeps you within the 50 members of this bracket and you still owe \$300, so you will not receive an additional invoice. If you do not*

receive an adjusted invoice within a week, please reach out to Catie Rowe or Nancy Grossman. **If you are not adding any sixth grade members, please remit payment when your roster is completed and submitted.**

### **FEE SCALE**

Number of Chapter Members State Affiliation Fee:

1-25 members \$200

26-50 members \$300

51-100 members \$400

101+ members \$500

On the [membership page](#) of our website, you will also find roster guides from National FFA that will aid you in submitting your students in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The easiest (and quickest) way to renew students for the new roster year is to follow the steps below. This only works for students who are *already* on your roster. Any new students need to have an account created, you can find information to add members [here](#).

### **Steps to Renew Memberships:**

- 1- Log into your [ffa.org](#) account and go to your instructor tool box/dashboard
- 2- Go to roster tools, manage roster, manage memberships
- 3- In the search box, go to “membership year” and make sure it says “2018-2019,” hit search
- 4- Check the box next to the students that you need to appear on the 2019-2020 roster.
- 5- In the “Actions” box, find “Renew Membership(s)” and make sure that “Membership Year” says 2019-2020. The membership type should be “**One Year**” for all students since we are affiliated.
- 6- Click on “Renew Membership(s)” This will reload the page and renew students for the new roster year. You want to see a green bar appear at the top of your screen.
- 7- Repeat steps 3-6 for each page of your membership roster
- 8- Once you have renewed all of your students, go back to the search box at the top, change the year to “2019-2020,” and hit search. This will load all of the students that you just renewed.
- 9- Review the list and make sure that all students you need appear on the new roster.
- 10- Check the boxes next to student names, scroll to “Actions”
- 11- Click on “Submit Membership(s) to State) and **make sure the green box says the number of selected memberships has been approved.** If you get a red box at the top of your screen, the issue will be hyper linked and direct you where to go to fix it.

General roster information/ guides can be found here- <https://help.ffa.org/categories/roster/>  
Students can also be added to the roster through AET. If you use this program, you may want to consider doing this as it will save you from entering names twice. Please reach out to Catie Rowe with any questions on how to do this.

**We highly encourage advisors to get their rosters done early in the school year so that their students have access to the many benefits that come with membership (participating at national convention, scholarships, etc.)**

**Rosters are due on March 1<sup>st</sup>, payment should be post marked by March 15<sup>th</sup>.** To access your invoice, you need to go to “Manage Batches” on [ffa.org](#) and click “print membership batch details.” Invoices for your roster on [ffa.org](#) are not automatically generated. Please reach out to Catie Rowe for any roster related questions.

### **Camp Oswegatchie:**

**Oswegatchie ELP's:** ELP's have been announced. For more information please visit this link:

<http://www.oswegatchie.org/updates-blog/2019-2020-environmental-science-leadership-training-program>

**2020 Camp Dates Released:**

Summer 2020: Save the Dates!

Week One: July 12-17, 2020

Week Two: July 19-24, 2020

Week Three: July 26-31, 2020

Week Four: August 2-7, 2020

Week Five: August 9-14, 2020

We're all in this together!

You may notice that the summer camp weeks start later. This is to help give us time to get the new dining hall ready to operate. We do not anticipate these later dates becoming a new trend, it is just a need for the summer of 2020.

We will be using the online registration system again in 2020. Be on the lookout for additional information. You will be able to place group holds for your week early in the new year.

Follow us on Facebook, to see the progress of the new building and keep informed about all things Oswegatchie!

**NY FFA Foundation:**

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*Kitchen and Dining Hall Update*

After many months of planning, preparation, and fund raising the new facility replacing Widrick Lodge will begin to be constructed on October 4. Demo of Widrick began on August 18, and by September 18 the site has been leveled in preparation for construction.

The Last Supper in Widrick Lodge was a tremendous success. 243 guests attended the event which included historical tours of Widrick, seaplane rides, chicken BBQ dinner prepared by Alumni of the Albion FFA, and a robust auction that included live items, silent items, and raffle items. In total over \$75,000 was raised during this event, closing our funding gap to approx. \$130,000.

Chapter Pledges- If your chapter has made a pledge of support, annual pledge invoices will be going out by the end of the year. If your chapter would still like to be a part of the project by making a donation or a multi year pledge, please contact Todd Lighthall, at [tlighthall@oswegatchie.org](mailto:tlighthall@oswegatchie.org)

*Tractor Restoration/Raffle*

Retired teacher of Agriculture Jim Schiebel, and his wife Donna, donated their Ford 8N to be restored and raffled. More than \$8,000 was raised in this initiative which ended with a drawing of a winner during the last day of the State Fair. Austin Nolley won the tractor and opted to take the cash prize of \$2,000 which was also donated by the Schiebel Family. He

donated \$1,000 back to the FFA Foundation for the capital campaign and the Schiebel Family matched this donation.

This was the 12<sup>th</sup> tractor renovation and raffle conducted by the FFA Foundation. To date this project has generated nearly \$145,000 in revenue to support ag education in NY. Currently 5 tractors are being worked on at ag programs across the state. To learn more about this program go to <http://www.nyffaoundation.org/events.html>

### *Fall Fruit and Cheese Sales*

The following companies make an annual donation to your FFA Foundation every year to support state level activities. Please consider their services for your fall fruit and cheese sales.

Pee Jays Fresh Fruit- Dominic Lanciano- Domenic Lanciano [Domenic@peejays.org](mailto:Domenic@peejays.org); <https://peejays.org/>

Florida Farm Bureau- Chad Roberts- <http://www.fwffb.com/Index.htm>

Florida Fruit Association- Patrick George- <http://www.fundraisingfruit.com/>

Cuba Cheese- Janine Ellington- [fundraising@cubacheese.com](mailto:fundraising@cubacheese.com)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Todd Lighthall at 315-364-1222 or [tlighthall@oswegatchie.org](mailto:tlighthall@oswegatchie.org)

Thank you for all that you do and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many events throughout the upcoming year!

Derek Hill  
NY FFA Director  
Youth Program Specialist, Cornell University  
300 Kennedy Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Office: 607-254-2880  
Cell: 716-353-1271  
Website: [www.nysffa.org](http://www.nysffa.org)

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.