

From: bounce-122167021-76929370@list.cornell.edu
To: [AGED-L](#)
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Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image014.png](#)

Good Evening,

I hope that everyone had a great Holiday! Below are several important updates. Please reach out to us if you have specific questions.

AG ED/Professional Development Updates:

June 17-20th NYAAE conference for all NY Agricultural Educators. Registration and Scholarship Applications are **LIVE- Submit a conference request to your school today to ensure that funds will be available for you in June.** Complete the online registration and an invoice will be provided for you to submit to your school. Cost to attend will \$495/participant.

<http://www.nysffa.org/nyaaeconference>

CASE Scholarships-**\$1,250 NYAAE CASE Scholarships** are posted- Apply Online-

<http://www.nysffa.org/case>

212/360: January 27-28 2018, 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. For more information about this professional development opportunity please visit: <http://www.nysffa.org/professional-development/>.

Do you need help? Just have a 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.**

Do you have an idea that you would like to share? The NYAAE Professional Development Committee has begun planning the 2018 summer conference. We have learned from past experiences that we learn best from our peers. ***This is YOUR opportunity to shine in front of YOUR colleagues.*** Please visit the [Call for proposals link](#) if you would like to be considered as a professional development workshop presenter at the summer conference scheduled for **Sunday, June 17 to Wednesday, June 20, 2018** at the Oswegatchie Educational Center in Croghan, NY.

Hello Ag Teachers, Oswegatchie Educational Center has openings this winter for your students to retreat to the Adirondacks! Join us for a weekend filled with comradery, fresh air, and your choice of activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, winter survival and campfires.

Openings in Sutliff Lodge include <http://www.oswegatchieretreats.org/sutliff-lodge.html>

March 23-25

March 30-1 (Easter)

Openings in Foster Lodge include <http://www.oswegatchieretreats.org/foster-lodge.html>

Many Weekends! Contact us if you have a group of less than 24!

If you would like more detail about winter retreats at Oswegatchie request information from rwaite@oswegatchie.org

New! Earn \$100 for your FFA chapter by referring other groups to Oswegatchie. For more information and a flyer please visit the Camp Oswegatchie website: <http://www.oswegatchie.org/>.



New York FFA / New York Farm Bureau Membership Drive

By now each of our chapters should have received a packet in the mail of 10 to 50 special incentive Farm Bureau Membership applications. These are intended for FFA Chapters to hand to community members that are not current members of Farm Bureau. Any community member who signs up for Farm Bureau membership and credits your FFA Chapter, \$20 of their membership fee will benefit your FFA. If you need more flyers please contact Todd Lighthall at tllighthall@oswegatchie.org.

Citrus and Cheese Sales

Thank you to the chapters who sold Fruit and Cheese from the following companies this fall. Based on your sales these companies are making a donation to the FFA Foundation based on boxes of citrus and cheese sold. These companies are:

Pee Jays Fresh Fruit
Florida Fruit Association
Florida Farm Bureau
Cuba Cheese Shoppe

On behalf of the NY FFA Foundation we wish each of you a very festive holiday season.

New York Association of FFA Updates:

Happy New Year! We are very excited about all of the great opportunities that are available to all of you in 2018. Below are some updates and reminders.

212/360: Registration is closed. If a chapter needs to make a change to their registration you must contact the state office. Chapters are responsible for the number of registrations you registered for. We will help you find a replacement if you have a student dropout. You can also send an email out to the list serve letting others know but check with us first because we have a wait list.

Reminders:

- Payment must be postmarked to the FFA Office by January 12th with attention to Nancy Grossman.
- No room changes will be accepted after January 19th. Up until the January 19th you are able to switch students as long as they are of the same gender and are attending the same conference. Please make sure you notify Catie Rowe ahead of time if you make a change so that we can update our records and know who is in attendance.

- **State Convention:** Plans for the 2018 state convention are well underway. The official hotel of the 2018 convention has had a name change, it is now the Rochester Riverside Hotel. This facility is ideally located to all convention venues with direct access via skywalk to the convention center with a short walk to the Blue Cross Arena. Most workshops and LDE/CDE's will be held in either the Rochester Riverside Hotel or Convention Center. Please visit our website for more information about reserving rooms for your chapter:

<http://www.nysffa.org/state-convention-hotels>. **You are now able to make reservations.** You can now reserve up to five rooms at a time on the new online portal that the hotel has provided us. Please limit the number of excess rooms you reserve so all schools have the opportunity to join us at this location.

The convention planning sheet is now posted on our website for you to review and to help aid you in your planning. Please visit the convention website to find out more:

<http://www.nysffa.org/state-convention>.

FFA Membership: The new **FFA roster** year started on September 1st. There have been many updates and changes to the system. Please read **ALL** of the following information carefully so that this transition can be as smooth of a process as possible. We have created a new page on our www.nysffa.org website just for help with FFA membership and help with rosters. Please visit this link for information and tutorials on how to do your student roster this year:

<http://www.nysffa.org/membership/>. As our state continues to see growth in our membership, we are starting to see some overlap with our homeschools and BOCES centers

having students in two programs. As a reminder, students can only be members in one chapter. This is a student's choice which chapter they will be a member of. In order to be a member of a chapter students should be receiving instruction from the certified agriculture teacher at that program. **A new policy that took affect September 1st is, 7-12th grade members must be added to the national roster, only 6th graders can be added to the NY Only Roster.**

State Leaders Experience: NY FFA is pleased to announce that we will be offering a NEW conference this year that will replace Governmental Awareness in 2018. The new conference name is, "State Leaders Experience". This event will be held at the Hilton Albany on February 5-6, 2018. As we have a limited amount of space for this experience, students will need to apply for this experience. The application process will be very simple and students will be chosen through a point-based application process that hones in on their involvement and dedication to the advancement of agriculture, agricultural education and FFA. The application is on our website. Registration information will be sent to the students chosen once they have been selected. **Students and advisors will be notified on January 15th by email if they have been selected or not to participate in this conference. We will send you additional information at this time. The registration fee (\$95) must be postmarked by January 22, 2018 to the State FFA Office.**

We are also seeking 5 chapters to bring 4 students to have interactive displays at the capital. We are asking that chapters submit a proposal that will be evaluated by the Trustees. The Trustees will select the 5 chapters that will have displays. Here is the link to the website where more information can be found: <http://www.nysffa.org/stateleadersexperience>. **Chapters will be notified on January 15th by email if they have been selected or not to participate in this conference. We will send you additional information at this time. The registration fee (\$95) must be postmarked by January 22, 2018 to the State FFA Office.**

We have posted updated information since the last news blitz.

District President and State Officers Applications and Handbooks: We have updated and posted the DP and SO Handbooks. These can be found at this link: <http://www.nysffa.org/apps/2015/9/23/leadership-awards-applications>. The new application is an online application. Everything will be submitted online except for the DP and SO contracts which can be found in the updated handbooks. Those must be mailed to the state office post marked by the deadline. Our address is 300 Kennedy Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Letters of intent must be emailed to dhill@cornell.edu by the respective deadlines. The State Officers are developing a proposal to be reviewed by the Governing Board related to the time and location of the State Officer Selection. Therefore, in the updated handbooks it says To Be Determined. Once the Governing Board has made a decision on the timing and location of State Officer selection we will send information out. **District**

President selection process will still take place at sub-states.

The National FFA Scholarship application is now LIVE! Applications are due February 1st. Students must be on this year's roster to complete the application.

Calling all CDE Lovers!

If you or someone you know has a passion for competition and want to judge at the 2018 State Convention in Rochester fill out this form!

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/45754-Aoe> This link can also be found under the "JUDGE FFA CONTESTS" tab on the State Convention page (<http://www.nysffa.org/state-convention>)

Do you want to be more involved in competitions this year? Do you enjoy seeing students hard work come to life in their favorite competitions? Become a CDE Coordinator! Email Catie Rowe at cmr323@cornell.edu for more information.

CDEs that need Coordinators for 2018:

Jr/ Sr People in Ag

Sr Prepared Public Speaking

Scrapbook/Secretary's Book/Reporter's Award

CDEs that need a Coordinator for 2019:

Jr Prepared Public Speaking

AET Webinars are now posted at this link for you to reference:

[http://www.nysffa.org/resources/!](http://www.nysffa.org/resources/)

We will be offering two more opportunities for advisors to learn and ask questions about AET on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 3 and 4pm.

National FFA Updates:

1. Take My Journey Into the New Year

Looking for free, turn-key lessons and activities? Check out the new educational resources found on My Journey! On the [Explore](#) webpage, you will find an agriculture lesson on the history of Firestone, a lesson on National FFA Convention & Expo keynote speaker Mick Ebeling, and an agricultural knowledge lesson on fencing basics with an

accompanying PowerPoint from Red Brand. Head over to the [Build](#) webpage for an employability lesson on the importance of work ethic and have your students start/update their resumes using the FFA Resume Generator. On the [Connect](#) webpage, check out the Zoetis Virtual Field Trip, along with accompanying educator's guide, and information about the Living to Serve semester-long grant due Jan. 1. Don't forget to incorporate AgExplorer into your classroom by using the Explore webpage, and be sure to look through past months' ideas on our [Archive](#) webpage.

2. **New Century Farmer Application Now Open**

Know an FFA member who has experience in the field of production agriculture and plans to return to a career in production agriculture through work experience, training or other activities? Are they a former FFA member who's currently attending a two- or four-year college or university and between the ages of 18-24? Look into New Century Farmer! To be held July 8-14, 2018, in Des Moines, Iowa, this all-expense paid conference will be packed with interactive workshops, field tours, visioning design, networking opportunities and financial planning. The application is now live and closes Feb. 15, 2018. Head [here](#) for more information.

3. **212° and 360° Conferences Update**

More than 3,230 encouraging cards will be distributed to the organization [Cards for Hospitalized Kids](#) this week. FFA members participating in 360° conferences this fall wrote the cards as part of the conference curriculum. A big thanks to the staff in our LEAD division for volunteering to sort all of the cards this week. The 212° and 360° conference season will break for the upcoming holidays. So far, 10 state associations have hosted 27 conferences from September through December, reaching 3,927 student participants.

212° and 360° conferences will begin again in North Dakota on Jan. 6-7. This conference season follows the typical school year with conferences beginning in September and concluding at the beginning of summer. Anticipated registration for the 2017-18 conference season is 65 conferences across 20 state associations, reaching 9,277 students.

4. **Coming Soon: 2018 Grants for Growing**

Mark your calendars now: The National FFA Foundation and Tractor Supply Company (TSC) are excited to announce the return of the successful Grants for Growing Chapter Grant Program in early 2018. In 2017, more than \$730,000 was raised to award more than [300 FFA chapter](#) and 48 state FFA foundation grants.

In 2018, advisors can complete a grant application on FFA.org Jan. 10 - Feb.

14. Eligibility will be based on how the grant money will be used plus volunteer hours

and promotional activities during the fundraising period. This is a competitive grant process; any volunteer hours or promotional activities during the fundraising period do not guarantee an award.

The fundraising period in 2018 will be Feb. 16-25, coinciding with National FFA Week, and includes paper emblems sold at TSC checkouts. Every dollar raised in a state stays in that state, and 10 percent of all funds raised go to the state FFA foundation.

Visit [FFA.org/GrantsForGrowing](https://www.ffa.org/GrantsForGrowing) for more information.

5. FFA Wins Award for Military Support

I am happy to report that National FFA just received the prestigious Above and Beyond Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The award acknowledges our organization's strong support for the men and women who serve in the military. The program, established in 1972, promotes the partnership between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers. According to the ESGR, "These citizen warriors could not defend and protect us at home and abroad without the continued promise of meaningful civilian employment for themselves and their families." At FFA, we proudly honor and recognize the sacrifices of those who presently serve or who have served our country either in the military or in public service.

6. Sponsor News

As part of our national officer training, two corporate visits were held in Arkansas this past week. The national officers visited Simmons Foods and Cobb-Vantress while going through training at Tyson Foods. The officers shared their goals for the year, the FFA mission and vision, and more. They also learned about both companies and the poultry industry. At Simmons Foods, former National FFA Sponsors' Board Chair Craig Bacon received his retiring sponsors' board member plaque and VIP Citation. The national officers also met with Donnie Smith, who is now retired from Tyson Foods but provided some great leadership training to the officers.

7. 'Tis the Season to Say Thank You

During the National FFA Convention & Expo this past October, the Living to Serve team hosted an interactive educational expo booth that engaged participants in planning a service project. One station had members "living to serve" by writing letters thanking troops, veterans, recruits, or first responders for their service to our country. This week, the Living to Serve team with support from other FFA staff members, reviewed more than 7,000 letters which will be sent to Operation Gratitude and included in service members care packages. All letters must be reviewed to ensure compliance with the Operation Gratitude's guidelines for quality.

8. Two New Supporters for Living to Serve

We are excited to share that the Living to Serve Platform recently received two new sponsors. CoBank has committed \$150,000/year for three years (2018-2020) for a total of \$450,000 to be invested in the platform. Ardent Mills also came on board for a three-year commitment (2018-2020) for \$25,000/year for a total of \$75,000. My thanks to CoBank and Ardent Mills for their support of FFA and their desire to impact local communities across the country!

9. FFA Members Benefit From Alumni Scholarships

More than 16,000 FFA student members have been impacted by alumni leadership development scholarships. Student members have been able to attend 212/360 Conferences, National FFA Convention & Expo, WLC, state officer conferences, state events, regional/sectional events and more thanks to the alumni leadership scholarships awarded to states by the National FFA Alumni Association.

10. Planned Giving News from National FFA Foundation

The National FFA Organization is currently (temporarily) a landowner. Earlier this year, FFA entered the process of accepting a gift of land. We now have the deed to just under 400 acres of prime hunting real estate in Bowie, Texas. In the short amount of time we have owned the land, our realtor - who is a former FFA member - has shown the property to three different individuals. For more information about the property in Texas, please contact Dave Schapker at dschapker@ffa.org. If you are interested in making a gift of land, please contact Matthew Treadwell at mtreadwell@ffa.org.

With tax reform now a reality, we want to make sure you are aware of an item that could affect charitable giving. With the standard deduction being doubled, it is estimated that charitable giving could drop up to \$13 billion annually as people may reduce their giving due to lack of incentive via itemized tax deductions. While it is impossible to say how this will affect FFA, the general recommendation is that 2017 could be more advantageous for charitable giving than 2018. If you want to take advantage of the current tax incentives before they go away, please contact Dave Schapker at dschapker@ffa.org or Matthew Treadwell at mtreadwell@ffa.org.

Happy New Year!



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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.