AND SO IT BEGINS

In the middle of June, your state officers began their training. They dedicated their time at Base Camp in order to further develop their leadership skills, and in turn, better serve all of our members. They received their training from former National FFA Secretary, Victoria Harris, who ensured the team understood everything in order to reach their true leading potential.

INTRODUCING THE 2018-2019 STATE OFFICERS

From left to right:
Michael Wetherell (President),
Megan Davenport (Vice President),
Mady Roy (Secretary),
Lauren Murtagh (Treasurer),
Britni Pastylnak (Reporter),
Marissa Naclerio (Sentinel),
Alexa DeAndrade (Parliamentarian)
THE TRAINING CONTINUES

During the last week of June, the officer team took a 6 hour drive up to Camp Oswegatchie in New York. They continued to receive training on how to become the best leaders to our members. The team also got to interact with other state officer teams from all of New England and New York. They learned many more important skills that will help them make a positive difference in their homes and communities as they carry out their year of service.
**CHAPTER OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

On August 21, the annual Chapter Officer Leadership Training conference was held at Ledyard High School. This year, Connecticut chapter officer teams were joined by chapter officers from our neighboring state, Rhode Island, along with their state officer team who helped facilitate the workshops.

During the day, National Central Region Vice President, Piper Merritt, gave a workshop about discovering personal strengths, which members later learned how each strength can positively impact a team’s success! Through smaller workshops and larger group sessions, students were able to explore not only how they can serve members but also what motivates them to become better leaders! The state officer team hopes all of those who attended are integrating what they learned within their own chapters.

**FUN AT THE BIG E**

September 15th was FFA Day at The Big E! Members from all over the eastern region traveled to the fairgrounds to complete in career development events as a practice for the National FFA Convention! The National FFA Secretary, Erica Baier, was also able to attend and spent the weekend visiting the fairgrounds and our FFA members! This year’s CT FFA State Officer Team joined state officers from all across the northeastern region to help the superintendents with the CDE competitions all day. Some of our state officers were also invited to join in to help represent our state at the Star Program Awards Ceremony and at the Big E parade around the fairgrounds! Our final event was the awards banquet where the accomplishments of all were celebrated. Overall, it was a great weekend for FFA!

**2018- 2019 STATE THEME**

The 2018-2019 Connecticut FFA State Officer Team is aiming to promote diversity within our organization and the inclusion of different backgrounds, ideas, passions, and agricultural experiences.

This year, the team hopes to encourage members to rise up to the challenges of being a leader, and to stand proudly as we advocate for this great organization. By uniting through our common love for agriculture, they hope to inspire the next generation of agricultural leaders to make a difference in the world!
Breanna Holbert, the National FFA President, visited Mattabeset FFA at Herd restaurant in Middletown, CT. The state officers had a great time talking with members and advisors/Middletown High School staff and learned a lot about Bre's incredible experiences she's had in her year of service!

**ANOTHER NATIONAL OFFICER?**

District One held a district social, hosted by the Housatonic Valley Chapter. This year, members from the Housatonic, Northwestern, Woodbury and Wamogo chapters used their social as a time to give back to the community! For part of the afternoon, members packed 15,936 Meals of Hope which will be distributed to Connecticut food banks! After all that hard work, members spent time getting to know one another by playing games and chatting outdoors. Overall, members had a fantastic time meeting new friends and truly living to serve their communities.

**GIVING BACK IN DISTRICT ONE**

Megan, Lauren, Michael and Mady had the opportunity to advocate for CT FFA, family farms and local agriculture at the 2018 Farm Aid Festival held in Hartford, CT.

**FUN AT FARM AID**

They spoke with countless agricultural supporters, farmers and consumers about their experiences in the industry while also illustrating how our goals/values as an organization help give our local agriculturalists a voice. They even got the chance to attend a press conference with some of Farm Aid's board members!

After they finished voicing their passion for this great industry at the booth, the state officers were able to attend the concert afterwards to listen to numerous country legends perform! Some of these legends (who are also Farm Aid Board Members) being the great Willie Nelson (Board President), Neil Young, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews, Chris Stapleton and many more!
Megan and Marissa were invited to attend Rockville FFA’s Fall Festival. They had an amazing time talking with members, painting and carving pumpkins, bidding on silent auction items and watching Rockville’s chapter officers run their meeting!

KILLINGLY FALL FESTIVAL
Alexa and Megan attended Killingly’s Annual Fall Festival and Corn Maze. They had an amazing time navigating through a corn maze while learning about agriculture, listening to songs sung by FFA members, eating delicious hot dogs and kettle corn, playing corn hole and painting pumpkins!

Thank you again, Killingly FFA, for inviting Megan and Alexa, they had an amazing time talking with your incredible members and advisors as well as the excited families who also attended!

ROCKVILLE FALL FESTIVAL
Megan and Marissa were invited to attend Rockville FFA’s Fall Festival. They had an amazing time talking with members, painting and carving pumpkins, bidding on silent auction items and watching Rockville’s chapter officers run their meeting!

THE CONNECTICUT GRANGE
Lauren and Britni attended the Connecticut State Grange Convention. After speaking during the delegate session, they were invited to the banquet where they were able to make connections with Grange members from all over the state. During the day they spoke to Mr. Noel Miller, the president, about the agricultural industry.
LET THE TOURS BEGIN!

The State Officer Team and National FFA Central Region Vice President, Piper Merritt, went on industry tours all throughout Connecticut. They toured agriscience centers such as Woodbury, Housatonic Valley, Bridgeport Aquaculture, and New Haven Sound School. They also toured Freund’s Dairy Farm to see the famous "cow pots", Arethusa Dairy Farm and Birchmill Farm to gain an understanding of dairy genetics and Fischer’s Island Oyster Farm to observe their oyster production facilities!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Connecticut FFA Association on Facebook and ct_ffa on Instagram and Snapchat to learn more about the latest happenings in CT FFA!

REQUESTING STATE OFFICERS

If you would like the state officers to visit your chapter or business/farm, please fill out an officer request form on our state website, we would love to visit and learn more about you so that we can better advocate for you! You can access this form on www.ctffa.org!