

# End of year report 2023

## State Convention

Another huge success with a few small kinks. This was a two day event held at the end of may. We had roughly 230 members attending in person on the Vermont Technical College Randolph Campus. We hosted 13 competitive events with huge numbers of participants compared to previous years. We were able to once again Host the career and college fair on Day number two increasing participation up to 12 colleges and industry professionals. We had approximately 70 students from six chapters spend the night and participate in our ag olympics night time event. This year we also added in a non ffa competitive event called the Game of logging which we will also say helped increase our participation.

## Membership

Membership increase is one of our most successful topics this year as we have grown to around 380 members representing 17 chapters. In the last year we have chartered 3 brand new chapters and reactivated a chapter that's been inactive for several years. We were able to make all of this happen due to our huge presence inside as many schools and tech centers as possible around the state. We also spent countless hours communicating with teachers showing them the importance of ffa in the schools and the opportunities it can give their students.

## Leadership Development

The state officers participated in the three part officer continuum again this year with one huge and successful change of part two was a combined all new england states event. This was turned into a five day event focused on using your strengths and weaknesses to build the strongest team possible. Beyond the officer continuum this year we were able to send our entire officer team to Washington D.C. and to the National Convention. Our officers were able to connect with almost every chapter to host a workshop this year based on "what is FFA?"

## Career Development

Careers have been a major focal point this year with our state officers and bringing it back to our chapters. We wanted to show the members that FFA isn't just agriculture. FFA is preparing you for any industry you want to go into after high school. We have strived to increase our involvement in industry from tours to visiting workplaces

of members and alumni to hosting a career and industry expo at state convention. The career expo we are seeing is a huge success as we are able to get such a variety of employment and college opportunities to connect with students. We can show them so much more than the farming aspect of agriculture and the ways so many other jobs can connect to this industry.

## Local Advisors

Old or New we made it our goal for the year to see every single one of them in person be it during a chapter visit at an event or we just simply show up at their school to work with them on specific things. We really pushed and I feel we succeeded in having two meetings that gathered all of our advisors in one room to go over FFA related topics. During these meetings we were able to really connect the seasoned advisors with the new ones. This really helped us update certain events and simply explain to the new teachers some of the other events. This proved worthwhile by looking at how after these meetings we would always receive more forms of communication from teachers who before we may never hear from. It was a way to show our advisors in person how we are truly here to help them and make their students as successful as possible.

## Communication

I feel we were able to reduce our email clutter that we sent to teachers by condensing our emails and trying to do as much as possible through direct phone calls or in person communication. Our greatest form of communication was making our presence known through in person meetings with teachers and officers alike. We had an in person meeting at minimum once a month with our officers and then most months a second. Through our in person meetings with teachers they came out and said how much they appreciate that communication and feel much more comfortable with their standing with the FFA because they saw our passion in person and we gained more of their trust.

## Connection with employers

WE spent numerous opportunities bringing chapters to industry professionals and professionals to our chapters. By hosting a career expo at convention or doing tours of industry with classes during field trips.

## Integration of programing

FFA is directly tied into each teacher's curriculum and that makes it just a simple aspect in every classroom. Every ag student gets the opportunity to learn and understand FFA and the importance of ag education thanks to our wonderful teachers from around the state.

## National CTSO Connections

Thankfully for Karen Hutchinson and National officers we were able to have a huge presence from national FFA numerous times this year. We also indeed participated with 24 students from four chapters that attended our national convention in October which hosted 70000 FFA members from all fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

## Budgets

Budgets continue to look brighter as we continue to grow our memberships and our community involvement. We have seen a slight increase in donations and help from our foundation and community involvement wanting to help us financially succeed. We have also made some great connections throughout the state to help in various ways fundraising. We even went as far as getting a small grant from the agency of ag to help of