

STAMFORD FFA



Monthly
Newsletter



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EDITION

BY: STEWART SBORDONE
2018-2019 CHAPTER REPORTER

Updates

Events

IMAGE: Ms. Jeffries and Mrs. Cascio chaperoned eleven kids to the annual IMAGE workshop at UConn in Storrs. This year, a previous FFA National Officer, David Townsend, led the workshop focusing on long term goals and how to achieve them. "It was great to see students....all mingle with each other and describe how they are going to accomplish their life goals; no matter how big or small" -CT FFA Association

HOLIDAY SHOP!:

As the holiday shop days are nearing, the Ag building is teaming with holiday spirit. Decorations are being hung, and our wreaths and poinsettias are in our greenhouse. The dates you can come snag these amazing deals are the **first two Saturdays of December** (12/1 and 12/8)! We hope to see YOU there!

October Chapter Meeting

At our October Chapter meeting, John Sbordone, a parent of two of our members, came to speak about his career in the food science industry. His specialty, flavor chemistry, gave insightful information to all of our members about the ins and outs of the scope of that industry niche. His experience gave the kids an idea of what is required to get an education, start, and continue in the flavor chemistry world.

November Chapter Meeting

In place of a standard meeting with a guest speaker, our November Chapter meeting was the time where we filmed our section of the second annual Westhill Lip Dub! This year was miles better than the last one and the song we dubbed to was "Dynamite" by Taio Cruz. A few of the Ag dubbers were our own students, Sydney Steinberg, Abby Lupinacci, Ries Allyn, and Zoe Karukas. We are looking forward to seeing the completed video.

Star Sae

Evie Wolpo- Senior

"For the last two years my SAEs have been working at zoos. In 10th grade I volunteered in the Beardsley Zoo's Conservation Discovery Corps program and this past year I was enrolled in the Bronx Zoo's Discovery Guide program. In both programs I went through several weeks of training to learn about how zoos operate and why they are so critical to wildlife conservation. I worked at multiple animal exhibits and spoke to visitors about the many different species these zoos housed. This was a wonderful experience because I learned so much personally while also helping to educate others, especially children. I was able to talk to them not only about all the amazing animals they were seeing but also about how important it is to take care of our earth and all the life it supports. Next year I am going to college and plan to major in animal science on the pre veterinary track with a minor in wildlife conservation. I hope to one day work as a zoo veterinarian caring for wild and exotic animals, many of which have sadly become endangered over the past decades. These SAEs are a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in both animal preservation and environmental conservation, as well as a career in education. For more information on both of these programs you can visit www.beardsleyzoo.org and www.bronxzoo.com."



Sophomores participating in our weekly doggy day care program by walking the dogs during their class period.

Fall CDEs

On November 9th, two teams with four students each, travelled up to the University of Connecticut in Storrs to compete in the Floriculture and Poultry Judging CDE.

Floriculture

Placement: 10th/14

In this competition there are several sections including corsage making, general knowledge, mixed planter evaluation, pest/disorder identification, plant identification and there is also a team event. This year it was to make a window display. In order to prepare for this competition, the team met with each other and practiced corsages, quizzed each other on content and used quizlet as a helpful resource for pest/disorder ID as well as plant ID. The team event rules were reviewed and a mock team event was performed in order to understand what to expect. CDE's are a great way to get involved in the program, learn a lot, meet new people and there is always the chance that a team can make it to FFA National Convention! There is a CDE for everyone so it is definitely something worth looking into if you are interested.
-Catherine Caragine

Poultry Judging

Placement: 8th/9

I competed in the poultry CDE, a competition in which participants handle live chickens, complete a team event, and grade poultry products. During practices we studied broilers and hens, critical defects in poultry products and read the poultry manual to prepare for the general knowledge test. During the competition, chapters send teams of 4 students. The competition begins with the general knowledge test and team event. Once those two activities are completed, teams are split up and sent to different stations, where students rank live chickens and give oral reasons for the ranking, examine and grade products like eggs and meat, and find defects in other poultry products
-Caroline Klumac

Stamford Agriscience Program

**NATIONAL FFA
CONVENTION**

Stamford, Connecticut to Indianapolis, Indiana

For a week at the beginning of November, Ms. Jeffries and Ms. Cipolla took 25 kids to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana! At this convention, FFA Chapters from all 50 states, plus the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico come to mingle with one another, walk to convention floor where agriculture organizations and companies have interactive booths, and have a wonderful time shopping in the FFA "mall" in the convention center.

Nation Convention was so awesome this year, we got to Indiana in under 15 hours so that was a great way to start off the trip. Evie Wolpo and I saw a lot of cool booths and learned a lot about different industries in Agriculture. It was amazing to go to the Big Cat Rescue and get up close with the tigers. Seeing so many of them was really eye opening because I had no idea that there were so many tigers kept in captivity.

Learning from the other members what life is like in their respective states was really interesting, I learned a lot about the different ways of what life is like in the more rural parts of America.

-Lauren Klym- Senior

The best experience I have probably ever had was when I went to Nationals because that when I had truly found myself. I had new experiences with people that I can call some of my best friends, and I did things that I didn't think were possible. For example. being able to see a tiger almost about five feet away from me, and not behind glass. This trip showed me what it's like to get out of your comfort zone and make new friends that may not even live close to you. From going to a Garth Brooks concert, and staying late at night at a wolf sanctuary, and howling with all 24 of us that went, combined it was an experience that I could never forget.

- Bridget Sypniewski- Junior

Pictures!

