

Welcome to the First Edition of the Granite State FFA Newsletter

New Hampshire FFA members always seem to be up to something interesting, so our hope with this newsletter is to share those things with other chapters and members along with the State Officers, collegiate members, alumni and the Trustees. The newsletter will periodically be emailed to chapter advisors. **If anyone wants to receive it directly, just send your email address to debbiffa@gmail.com.** We can't do this without your help. Please let us now about your chapter activities, fundraisers, unusual SAE's, member accomplishments, agricultural issues or anything else FFA related. Feel free to pass on any other suggestions you may have for the newsletter.

State Officer Spotlight



Haley Paradis, State President

Haley is in her second year as a state officer, serving last year as your State Secretary. She is a member of the Dover Chapter, graduated last year, works on the family farm and has a paid apprenticeship training horses.

Why did you join FFA? I was the only kid in my school who lived on a farm growing up, so when I found out there was a way to meet other kids with the same interests as me I couldn't join faster!

What is your best FFA memory? National convention. It was crazy seeing so many blue jackets in one place! I made friends from all over the country and got to spend time with the state members, even though I got the Region 9 Forestry team & myself lost in the mall for two hours.

Who is your idol and why? My dad. At 52 years old he still acts like he's 20. He got in an accident when he was 19 and has one paralyzed arm but that (continued on next page)

How does a State Officer spend their summer?

State Officers don't necessarily come equipped with great leadership skills; it usually takes a bit of training. Your state officers did just that this summer. Beginning with two weekends this past spring where they got to know each other and then learned the basics of being a state officer with a trainer from National FFA during "Blast Off". Along with helping out at the 5K for FFA and the golf tournament, the state officers found time to attend various chapter banquets.

In July, the group headed to upstate New York with Mrs. VanderWoude and Mrs. Cox to meet with the other state officers from New England and New York. At this National Leadership Conference for State Officers, National Officers Landan Schaffert and Shannon Norris helped them with workshop development and presentation, leadership skills and the foundation for their role as delegates at the National Convention. They managed to find time to take on the low ropes course, the high ropes course, a dance, The Great Race, and of course, ice cream at Wishy's.

In August, the group traveled to Shelburne, NH for more training with the state officers from the state's other Career and Technical Student Organizations. Now they are hard at work planning fantastic workshops for your chapters and the Fall Leadership Experience.



Haley Paradis, continued

never slowed him down. He's an amazing hunter, a hard worker and was a great logger before buying the farm. He gave me a strong work ethic, sense of humor and taught me about the ethics of raising and harvesting livestock and the animals I hunt.

Something about you that most people don't know: I can't leave the house without a belt buckle on. *Favorite CDE:* Horse Evaluation *Favorite food:* tacos *Favorite Movie:* Step Brothers *Favorite Character:* Harry Potter *Favorite Musician:* Eric Church (his new album is the best thing ever!

NH FFA Foundation

The New Hampshire FFA Foundation is a group of Trustees with all sorts of agricultural and FFA experience. The Trustees provide a vital support role to the Granite State FFA Association, both financially and through interaction with teachers and FFA members. The volunteers raise funds to be used by the Granite State FFA Association for leadership programs, travel for State Officers and delegates plus other member expenses. They also award several scholarships each year. So next time you see a Foundation Trustee, be sure to thank them for the hard behind-the-scenes work!

Meet Emery Booska Foundation President

Was FFA part of your educational experience?

I attended a 2-yr high school in my hometown of Orwell, VT. There was one teacher for the Freshman and Sophomore classes who taught all 8 subjects. I continued my high school education at Brandon High School in Brandon, VT. BHS included courses in vocational agriculture as well as all the regular college preparatory courses. Although BHS had an FFA



Emery Booska, continued

chapter, I was unable to participate in FFA due to having to get home to help with work on the family farm. We had a large dairy farm in Orwell and the distance to BHS (about 40 miles round trip) was a further complication to participating in FFA. However, I did participate in Boy Scouts and 4-H activities in my hometown for several years.

Did you continue your education after high school?

An A.B.S. degree in Agriculture Education was awarded in Dec. 1956 from UVM and I immediately took a teaching job in Poultney, VT to finish out the term of the Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor who had left at mid-year. I accepted a position at Alvirne High School in Hudson, NH on August 17, 1957 as Agriculture Science teacher, FFA Advisor, and farm supervisor. Then I was able to complete a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education at UNH in 1964.

Why did you accept a position on the NH Foundation?

Through my experiences, I developed a great affection and respect for the FFA and the opportunities it affords participants and the reinforcement of the agriculture science education process. Even after leaving Alvirne in 1967 to take a position in the College of Life Sciences & Agriculture at UNH, I continued working with schools and FFA chapters in various activities such as judging events at state and regional events. After many years of teaching and advising the "kids in Blue Jackets", it was just a natural thing to accept a nomination to become a member of the NH FFA Foundation.

CALENDAR

September 30 th	Deerfield Fair
Oct 19 th - 22 nd	National Convention
Oct 14 th	Fall Interscholastics @ UNH
Nov 15 th	Fall Leadership Experience (new members only)
Dec 16 th	State Holiday party and Monarchs Game

Alumni in Action

So what happens after you graduate from high school and maybe college? What can you do with all of your great leadership skills and agricultural experience? Some of you may remember Caitlin Cox. She served New Hampshire as State Secretary, State President,



intern and National Officer Candidate. She graduated from UNH with a degree in Agricultural Communications. Then she headed for Disney World as part of their Professional Internship Program. Caitlin spent seven months in Animal Kingdom working as a Conservation Education Presenter. She is now

based in Disney's Animal Kingdom as a full-time employee handling various environmental initiatives such as inspiring cast members (employees) to care for wildlife and wild places while connecting with nature, helping create a "green" hotel and roll out creative recycling initiatives.

How has FFA helped you with your current job?

FFA developed my networking and communication skills which I now use to take a broad body of information and individualize it for the person I am speaking with to help make an impact and make them care.

What are your best FFA memories?

Watching my sister Courtney give her retiring address as State President while I was hiding behind a plant to surprise her. Throwing a pie at the State Vice President's face on stage during state convention as result of who bet who could get the most chapters involved at workshops (see picture). Opening my letter informing me that I had made it to the final round of National Officer elections.

Caitlin Cox, continued

Why do you think FFA is important?

FFA engages members in America's best kept secret which is that we can feed, clothe and provide for ourselves. It also empowers kids to really find their passions – even if it seems nerdy or not cool, there is a community of people to support you.



Big E Results

Dairy Foods: Paradise 9th place

Dairy Judging: SST 7th place

Foriculture: Alivirne 4th place

Kayla Trott 5th individual

Forestry: Region 9 3rd place

Josh Olszewski 3rd individual

Livestock Judging: SST 5th place

Alayna Perkins 10th individual

Job Interview: Steven Miller, Region 9 6th place

Nurse/Landscape: Paradise 9th place

Prepared Public Speaking: Megan Horne,
Region 9 4th place

Small Animal: SST 8th place

Granite State FFA Receives 2 Grants

#1) \$500 from the Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement program. The \$500 will be used to reduce the cost of FLE for new members this year.

#2) The New Hampshire Farm & Rural Education Foundation (NHFR&EF) has awarded a \$2500 grant to the Granite State FFA. The monies will be used to bridge an unexpected gap in the Granite State FFA's annual budget.

Thank you to both organizations.