



David Townsend

National FFA President

Age: 20
Birthdate: Jan. 12, 1996
Hometown and State: Townsend, Del.
Parents: Rebecca and Matthew Townsend
Siblings: Trevor, Dorothy, Sarah, Doug, Jake, Jared, Dana, Janie, Philip, Josh

FFA Stats

Chapter: Middletown FFA
Enterprise: Produce Garden (Entrepreneurship), Restaurant Work (Placement), Spaghetti Dinner (Community Service)
State Office: 2014-15 Delaware State FFA Treasurer

College Stats

Year: Junior
Major: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Plant Science
School: University of Delaware
College Activities: Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, UDairy Creamery, Collegiate FFA
Future Career Goal: To be a produce farmer.

David Townsend believes that it is crucial for FFA members to seek out the perspectives of others. He says seeking to understand the viewpoint from which an opposing opinion comes helps one increase understanding and continue to improve the world we live in.

"I believe I can continue to learn something new in every circumstance, and I hope others do the same," Townsend says.

Townsend was elected to the 2016-17 National FFA Officer Team as president at the 89th National FFA Convention & Expo.

A student at the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, he is involved in Collegiate FFA, University of Delaware Photography Club, University of Delaware Scuba Diving Club, Blue Hen Commuters Program and Delaware FFA Association Hunger Programs. He is also the assistant wrestling coach for Middletown High School. A member of Middletown FFA, he served as chapter reporter (2013-14) and Delaware State FFA Treasurer (2014-15).

Townsend did not grow up with an agricultural background, and he says he didn't always know where the food he was eating came from. However, through agricultural education, he came to learn the importance of the nation's most vital industry and as a result has become quite interested in the farm to table processes throughout agriculture.

"Previous ambitions to pursue a culinary career led to increased knowledge of food safety, marketing and restaurant management," Townsend says. "The overarching theme, however, is learning about where our safe and abundant food supply comes from, and then sharing that bounty of knowledge and food with others."

Townsend's future plans include earning a degree in plant science and then operating a large-scale produce operation in Delaware.