

79th New Jersey State FFA Convention Proceedings



May 20-22, 2008

Session I

Alyssa Mottram, 2007-2008 State FFA President, presided.

Opening Ceremonies

Introduction of Guests

There were 6 State Officers, 3 Executive Committee Members, and 389 members, advisors, and guests present.

Welcome to Cook College

Dr. Robert Goodman, Executive Dean of Agricultural and Natural Resources, Rutgers University, welcomed New Jersey FFA members and guests on behalf of the college.

Greetings from the NJDA

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, Charles Kuperus, brought greetings on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

FFA Jacket Presentation

28 New Jersey FFA members were presented with a new FFA Jacket. The jackets were funded through the “Blue Jackets. Bright Futures” Jacket Program, a special project of the New Jersey FFA Foundation. FFA Jackets were awarded to:

Allentown:	Ed Struck	Nichole Ondy
Cape May Tech:	Katrina Nicoletta Katie Mumford Alec McAlarnen Eric Revelli Carly Hilton	Jimmie Ferguson Harry Cowan Valerie Robertson Dana Oberkofler
Freehold:	Kelly Shoemaker Jennifer Roe Katie Petrillo Lauren Maskowitz	Kevin Brusotti Jessica Chaddon Aimee Domnizky
Middlesex-Piscataway:	Will Temple Kristina Pena	Ruddy Catala Randy Wahl
Northern Burlington Middle:	Jennifer Bucko	
West Essex:	Jessica Feder Icola Evelyn	LysMarie Perez Estephanie Lopez
Union County:	Wandy Rivera	

Keynote Address

Rhett Laubach presented the Keynote Address, “Discover the Leaders Within”

Introduction of NJ State FFA Officer Candidates and Nominating Committee

Alyssa Mottram described the State Officer Nomination and Selection Process and Karis Byram introduced the Nominating Committee, their Adult Chair, and Executive Committee Representative:

Ashely Selfridge- Penns Grove	Skylar Matthews-Woodstown
Brittany Enis-South Hunderton	Jordon Horowitz-Freehold
Jessica Voll-Philipsburg	Jenny Allen-Warren Hills
Adult Coordinator- Ms. Rebecca Schnetzer	
Executive Committee Representative-Alison Keggan	

State Officer Candidates were invited to come to the stage and introduce themselves.

The candidates were:

Karis Byram-Allentown	Kasha Tucker-Buena
Hanna Toft- Cape May Tech	Keely Weinberger-Cape May Tech
Brianne Scholl-Hackettstown	Mark Boyko- Middlesex Piscataway
Gabrielle Ritzer-Freehold	Annaliese Gancarz- Northern Burlington

New Jersey FFA Alumni Report

Ms. Nichole Steward, Mrs. Erin Noble and Ms. Heather White addressed the convention on behalf of the FFA Alumni. The results of the FFA Quiz Bowl were Woodstown Team B – 1st place, and Freehold Team A– 2nd place. The FFA Alumni WLC Scholarship was awarded to Abby Chek of the Allentown FFA Chapter.

State FFA Scholarships

The following scholarship winners were announced. Scholarships were made possible through special projects of the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

Bilinski Senior Award & C. Fred Lorenzo Memorial Scholarship- Kristina Tillou, Hackettstown

Harry Schneiber Honorary Scholarship-Dale Cruzan III, Cumberland

John Cummings Memorial Scholarship-Keely Weinberger, Cape May Tech

Joseph Sorbello Memorial Scholarship- Courtney Clair, Penns Grove

May Gerlack State Officer Scholarship-Karis Byram, Allentown

Ed Evaul Memorial Scholarship & New Jersey FFA Alumni Scholarship-Laura Pinhas, Allentown

Washington Grange #117 Scholarship, Norman J. Schnetzer Memorial Scholarship,

Taylor Jelliffe Scholarship- Alison Keggan, Warren Hills

Phillip Alampi Scholarship-Jacklene Oakes, Phillipsburg

Stephen Tucker Scholarship- Gabrielle Ritzer, Freehold

William G. Smith Memorial Scholarship- Janna Jenae Simpkins, Union County

Woodstown Alumni Association/

Arthur Jarman Memorial Scholarship- Kevin Coombs, Woodstown

Atlantic County Grange Scholarship- Mia Xyloportas, Freehold

Joshua Geary Memorial Scholarship- Karis Byram-Allentown, Haley Tomlin-Cape May Tech, Kristina Tillou-Hackettstown, Mark Boyko- Middlesex Piscataway, Ashely Selfridge-Penns Grove, Alyssa Mottram-Phillipsburg, Gary Galgoci-Union County, and Kevin Coombs, Woodstown.

Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture Scholarship-Dan Delcher, Buena, Amanda Hall, Woodstown, and Karis Byram, Allentown

National FFA Convention Scholarship- Alison Karr, Freehold

National FFA Scholarships

\$1000 Agway Foundation Scholarship-Bridget Levine, Allentown

\$5000 National Wild Turkey Federation Scholarship- Matthew Hamer, Cape May Tech

\$1000 Dodge Trucks Scholarship- Ryan Pribell, Northern Burlington

Greetings from the National FFA Organization

National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, Tyler Tenbarge, brought greetings to the convention on behalf of the National FFA Organization.

Introduction of Courtesy Corps

Mr. Chris Nnadi, with the help of Courtesy Corps Chair, Heather Shinn of the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter introduced the Courtesy Corps members and described the roles and responsibilities of those individuals.

State Convention Rules

The State Officers played a video skit that displayed the rules for State Convention.

Closing Ceremonies

Reflections

The State Officers gave their reflections.

Session II

Josh Alster, 2007-2008 State FFA Reporter, presided.

Opening Ceremonies

Introduction of Guests

There were 6 State Officers, 3 Executive Committee Members, and a second session record of 411 members, advisors, and guests present.

Official Ceremonies Event Award

- 1st Place: Allentown
- 2nd Place: Cape May
- 3rd Place: Penns Grove

The 1st place Official Ceremonies team will conduct the Opening Ceremonies at the State FFA Convention Recognition Banquet.

Landscape Design Event Awards

- 1st Place: Jennifer Roe, Freehold
- 2nd Place: Devin Hicks, Belvidere
- 3rd Place: Christopher Halloran, Belvidere

New Jersey FFA Foundation Report

Ms. JoAnn Sopchak addressed the convention on behalf of the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

FFA Essay Events Awards

Division 1 winner Nicolette Sepe, Freehold
Division 3 winner Yolanda Garcia, West Essex

FFA Week Awards

- 1st Place: BCIT Westampton
- 2nd Place: Allentown
- 3rd Place: Buena

Retiring Address: Karis Byram

Karis Byram gave her retiring address entitled "I Remember When" and presented her parents with their Honorary State FFA Degree.

Career Development Event Awards

Dairy Foods

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Megan Wheatley, Belvidere
- 2nd Adam Armstrong, Newton
- 3rd Joey Goodenough, Northern Burlington Middle
- 4th Monica Rivera, Buena
Richard Mead, Cumberland
Devin Hicks, Belvidere

5th Sarah Hamner, Northern Burlington Middle
Medals

Gold: Devin Hicks, Belvidere

Silver: Monica Rivera, Buena

Bronze: Joseph Goodenough, Northern Burlington Middle

The first place team was the Belvidere FFA Chapter.

Farm Business Management

1st Rob Welle, Allentown

1st Justine Sherer, Allentown

2nd Lauren Duarte, Allentown

3rd Dennis Allen, Salem County Vo Tech

The first place team was the Allentown FFA Chapter.

Floral Design

H.O. Sampson Certificates

1st Megan Wright, Buena Regional

2nd Megan Anderson, Monmouth County

Blanca Pasqual, Camden Tech East

3rd Brandy Harrington, West Essex

4th Elizabeth Rahner, BCIT Medford

Wandy Rivera, Union County

5th Kristina Pena, Middlesex Piscataway

Tyesha Reeve, Camden Penn Tech

Medals

Gold: Blanca Pasqual, Camden Tech East

Silver: Corey Rader, BCIT Westampton

Megan Wright, Buena Regional

Bronze: Marilou Camacho, Middlesex Piscataway

Katie Loew, Cumberland Regional

Teresa Novajavsky, Cumberland Regional

The first place team was the Cumberland Regional FFA Chapter.

Forestry

2007

H.O. Sampson Certificates

1st Scott Petrie, Newton

John Nehrings, Newton

2nd James Passafaro, Newton

Matt Mooney, Newton

Medals

Gold: Scott Petrie, Newton

Silver: John Nehrings, Newton

Bronze: James Passafaro, Newton

The first place team was the Newton FFA Chapter

2008

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Ryan Silverman, Newton

2nd Lindsay Mehrkins, Newton
3rd Eric Nelson, Newton
4th Eric Nunn, Newton
5th Jessica McCosker, Newton

Medals

Gold: Ryan Silverman, Newton
Silver: Lindsay Mehrkins, Newton
Bronze: Eric Nunn, Newton

The first place team was the Newton FFA Chapter.

Fruits and Vegetables

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Lindsey Horvath, Middlesex Piscataway
Bridget Levine, Allentown
2nd Ruddy Catala, Middlesex Piscataway
Lauren Jeffery, Allentown
3rd Rebecca Unangst, Belvidere
John Hacker, North Warren
Janelle Garzon, Monmouth County
Corey Rader, BCIT Westampton
Amanda Marino, BCIT Westampton
Matt Carney, Allentown
4th Aaron D'Addio, Freehold
Lauren Maskowitz, Freehold
Alison Karr, Freehold
Megan Anderson, Monmouth County
Melissa Whoeler, Monmouth County
5th Stephen Specca, Northern Burlington Middle
Nicholas Ricci, Northern Burlington
Kaitlyn Lord, Freehold
Kim Jackson, BCIT-Westampton

Medals

Gold: Lindsey Horvath, Middlesex Piscataway
Bridget Levine, Allentown
Silver: Ruddy Catala, Middlesex Piscataway
Lauren Jeffery, Allentown
Bronze: Rebecca Unangst, Belvidere
John Hacker, North Warren
Janelle Garzon, Monmouth County
Corey Rader, BCIT Westampton
Amanda Marino, BCIT Westampton
Matt Carney, Allentown

The first place team was the Allentown FFA Chapter.

Horse Evaluation

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Lauren Duarte, Allentown
- 2nd Justine Sherer, Allentown
- 3rd Brianne Scholl, Hackettstown
- 4th Emily Dargay, Hackettstown
- 5th Lindsey Nordstrom, Warren Hills

Medals

Gold: Lauren Duarte, Allentown

Silver: Justine Sherer, Allentown

Bronze: Brianne Scholl, Hackettstown

The winning team was the Allentown FFA Chapter.

Land Judging

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Rob Welle, Allentown
- 2nd Dustin Zukus, Allentown
- 3rd Dan Wolek, Allentown
- 4th Lauren Duarte, Allentown
- 5th Matt Chambergo, Phillipsburg

Medals

Gold: Rob Welle, Allentown

Silver: Dustin Zukus, Allentown

Bronze: Dan Wolek, Allentown

The first place team was the Allentown FFA Chapter.

Poultry Evaluation

H.O. Sampson

- 1st Tom Spain, Northern Burlington
- 2nd Theresa Scotto, Allentown
- 3rd Josh Jones, Northern Burlington
- 4th Melissa Wright, Allentown
- 5th Levi Wainwright, Northern Burlington

Medals

Gold: Tom Spain, Northern Burlington

Silver: Josh Jones, Northern Burlington

Bronze: Theresa Scotto, Allentown

The first place team was the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter.

Turf Management

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st John Humphrey, Monmouth County
- 2nd Matt French, Sussex County
- 3rd Kevin Coombs, Woodstown

- 4th Mike Conti, Sussex County
5th Justin Lewandowski, Sussex County

Medals

Gold: John Humphrey, Monmouth County

Silver: Matt French, Sussex County

Bronze: Kevin Coombs, Woodstown

The first place team was the Monmouth County FFA Chapter.

Horticultural Exposition Best of Division Recognition

Horticulture Division: Heather Castellano, Monmouth County

Fresh Division: Alex Reid, Bankbridge Regional

Permanent Division: K'La East, Northern Burlington

Adult Division: Peggy Grady, Bankbridge Regional

Retiring Address: Karoline Schoenlank

Karoline Schoenlank gave her retiring address entitled "Don't Blink" and she presented her parents the Honorary State FFA Degree.

Agriscience Teacher of the Year

The Agriscience teacher of the year was Mr. Joel Rudderow of the Penns Grove FFA chapter.

Agriscience Fair Recognition

The following individuals will have the opportunity to compete at the National FFA Convention in October:

Division II Winners:

Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science- Liz Mikotowicz, BCIT Medford

Botany- Valerie Roberston, Cape May Tech

Environmental Sciences- Katie Mumford, Cape May Tech

Zoology- Eric Revelli, Cape May Tech

Division IV Winners:

Botany- Dana Oberkofler & Alec MacAlamen, Cape May Tech

Environmental Sciences- Holly Toft and Hanna Toft, Cape May Tech

The following are overall event winners and recipients of cash awards sponsored by the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

Individuals:

1st Place: Katie Mumford, Cape May Tech

2nd Place: Valerie Roberston, Cape May Tech

3rd Place: Liz Mikotowicz, BCIT Medford

Teams:

1st Place: Holly Toft and Hanna Toft, Cape May Tech

2nd Place: Dana Oberkofler & Alec MacAlamen, Cape May Tech

3rd Place: Russell Nadler and Chelsea Shafranek, Biotechnology High School

Closing Ceremonies

2008 Delegate Business Session

State President, Alyssa Mottram, presided and called the delegate business session to order at 1:05 pm. Mrs. Lowe, Woodstown FFA Advisor, served as the official Parliamentarian.

There were 52 delegates and 9 executive board members present.

The 78th NJ FFA State Convention proceedings were presented.

Motion by Rachel Dey from the Allentown FFA chapter to approve the proceedings of the 78th New Jersey State FFA Convention.

Seconded by Jeff Bray from the Phillipsburg FFA chapter. **Motion passes.**

Motion by Courtney Clair from the Penns Grove FFA chapter to keep state association dues at the 2007-2008 level.

Seconded by Keri Caponetto from the Freehold FFA chapter. **Motion passes.**

Motion by Jeff Bray from the Phillipsburg FFA chapter to vote in favor of the ratification process of the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws.

Seconded by Amber banuena from the Buena FFA chapter. **Motion passes.**

Motion by Jeff Bray from the Phillipsburg FFA chapter to vote in favor to add community service hours to FFA Degree requirements.

Seconded by Julianne Robinson from the Northern Burlington FFA chapter. Division of the house was called. In favor 29. Opposed 26. **Motion passes.**

Motion by Rachel Dey from the Allentown FFA chapter to vote in favor of the proposed changes to the American FFA Degree requirements.

Seconded by Jeff Bray from the Phillipsburg FFA chapter. **Motion passes.**

Motion by Bridget Levine from the Allentown FFA chapter to vote in favor of the national dues increase to \$7.

Seconded by Andrew Taylor from the Buena FFA chapter. **Motion passes.**

Motion by Jeff Bray from the Phillipsburg FFA chapter to adjourn the 79th delegate business session.

Seconded by TJ Sprage from the South Hunterdon FFA chapter. **Motion passes.**

Session III

Josh Alster, 2007-2008 State FFA Reporter, presided.

Opening Ceremonies

Introduction of Guests

There were 6 State Officers, 3 Executive Committee Members, and 433 members, advisors, and guests present.

Public Speaking Awards

FFA Creed

- 1st Place: Jill Scrivana, Newton
- 2nd Place: James Nardelli, Cumberland Regional
- 3rd Place: Jessica Robinson, Northern Burlington Middle

3-5 Minute Public Speaking

- 1st Place: Eric Nunn, Newton
- 2nd Place: Alexandra Ruthkawski, Hackettstown
- 3rd Place: Sarah Baker, South Hunterdon

6-8 Minute Public Speaking

- 1st Place: Eric Nelson, Newton
- 2nd Place: Allison Karr, Freehold
- 3rd Place: Tom Spain, Northern Burlington

Extemporaneous Speaking

- 1st Place: John Nehrings, Newton
- 2nd Place: Keely Weinberger, Cape May Tech
- 3rd Place: Matt Chambergo, Phillipsburg

Agriculture Awareness Awards

- 1st Place: Penns Gove

Chapter Scrapbook Awards

- 1st Place: Allentown
- 2nd Place: Woodstown
- 3rd Place: Hackettstown

Portable Exhibit Event Awards

- 1st Place: Woodstown
- 2nd Place: BCIT Westampton
- 3rd Place: Cape May Tech

Retiring Address Desiree Beam

Desiree Beam gave her retiring address entitled "I Found a Way" and thanked her parents for their support by presenting them with their Honorary State FFA Degree.

New Jersey FFA Treasurer of the Year Award

The 2008 NJ FFA Treasurer of the Year is **Bridgette Nelson** from the **Woodstown FFA Chapter**.

New Jersey FFA Secretary of the Year Award

The 2007 New Jersey FFA Secretary of the Year is **Justine Sherer** from the **Allentown FFA Chapter**.

Public Relations Awards

- 1st Place:* BCIT Westampton
- 2nd Place:* Middlesex Piscataway
- 3rd Place:* Penns Grove
- 4th Place:* Allentown

Presentation of the First Place 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaker

Eric Nelson of the Newton FFA Chapter presented his speech, “Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease: The Perfect Storm?”

Career Development Event Awards

Agricultural Mechanics

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Place Jacob Way, Northern Burlington
- 2nd Place Kyle Pribell, Northern Burlington
- 3rd Place Kyle Abbot, Allentown
- 4th Place John Lawrence, Northern Burlington
- 5th Place Levi Wainwright, Northern Burlington

Medals

- Gold: Kyle Pribell, Northern Burlington
- Silver: John Lawrence, Northern Burlington
- Bronze: Levi Wainwright, Northern Burlington

The first place team was the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter.

Agricultural Sales

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Place Annaliese Gancarz, Northern Burlington
- 2nd Place Scott Petrie, Newton
- 3rd Place Matt Carney, Allentown
- 4th Place Matt Mooney, Newton
- 5th Place Clint Benson, Newton

Medals

- Gold: Scott Petrie, Newton
- Silver: Annaliese Gancarz, Northern Burlington
- Bronze: Matt Carney, Allentown

The first place team was the Newton FFA Chapter.

Dairy Cattle

H.O. Sampson Certificates

1st Place: Mikayla Fulper, South Hunterdon

2nd Place: Tyler Herb, Belvidere

3rd Place: Gillian Armstrong, Northern Burlington

4th Place: Eric Nelson, Newton

5th Place: Seth Honsell, Woodstown

Nick Ricci Northern Burlington

Medals

Gold: Gillian Armstrong, Northern Burlington

Silver: Tyler Herb, Belvidere

Bronze: Mikayla Fulper, South Hunterdon

The first place team was the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter.

Environmental and Natural Resources

H.O. Sampson Certificates

1st Place: Matt Hamer Cape May Tech

2nd Place: Adam Day Cape May Tech

3rd Place: Brandon Nitschmann Allentown

4th Place: Reich Rinehart Phillipsburg

Ashley Frazell, Newton

5th Place: Hanna Toft Cape May Tech

Medals

Gold: Matt Hamer Cape May Tech

Silver: Adam Day Cape May Tech

Bronze: Brandon Nitschmann Allentown

The first place team was the Cape May Tech FFA Chapter.

Floriculture

H.O. Sampson Certificates

1st Place: Corey Rader BCIT Westampton

2nd Place: Jennifer Anema Warren Hills

3rd Place: Melissa Whoeler Monmouth County

4th Place: Laura Arboleda Freehold

5th Place: Jenny Allen Warren Hills

Medals

Gold: Corey Radar BCIT Westampton

Silver: Laura Arboleda Freehold

Bronze: Abby Estevez Newton

Jennifer Anema Warren Hills

The first place team was Warren Hills FFA Chapter.

Livestock Judging

H.O. Sampson Certificates

1st Place: Chris Weir Cumberland

2nd Place: Ondrea Sickler Woodstown

- 3rd Place: Matthew Manetas Cumberland
4th Place: Desiree Clark Woodstown
5th Place: Emma Williams Woodstown

Medals

- Gold: Matthew Manetas Cumberland
Silver: Ondrea Sickler Woodstown
Bronze: Chris Weir Cumberland

The first place team was the Woodstown FFA Chapter.

Nursery and Landscape

H.O. Sampson Certificates

- 1st Place: Shawn Cusack Monmouth County
2nd Place: Michael Rivera BCIT Westampton
3rd Place: Jeremy Miller BCIT Westampton
4th Place: Patrick Fantasia Monmouth County
5th Place: Caitlin Venezia Monmouth County

Medals

- Gold: Michael Rivera BCIT Westampton
Silver: Jeremy Miller BCIT Westampton
Bronze: Shawn Cusack Monmouth County
Alex Lauf Bergen County Tech

The first place team was the BCIT Westampton FFA Chapter.

National Event Sweepstakes Award

Congratulations to the Allentown FFA Chapter for placing in the top 10 in the Agricultural Issues at National Convention. The National Sweepstakes award is presented to the chapter that places the highest in a National Event.

National Sweepstakes Award for an Individual

This award is given to the individual with the highest individual placing in a national event. This year's national career development event sweepstakes winner is Mike Ziner of the Allentown FFA Chapter for placing 22nd in the Farm business Management Career Development Event.

Princeton Agricultural Society Leadership Award

The Princeton Agricultural Society Leadership Award was presented to Ruddy Catala of the Piscataway FFA Chapter and Ryan Rocco of the South Hunderton FFA Chapter.

Retiring Address- Stacey Daniels

Stacey Daniels gave her retiring address entitled "Beyond Perception: Reality." Stacey Daniels thanked her parents and gave them their Honorary State Degree.

H.O. Sampson Award Program Recognition

Gold Rating: Allentown
Buena
BCIT Westampton

Cape May CVTS
Hackettstown
Monmouth County
Newton
Northern Burlington
Phillipsburg
Union County
Warren Hills
Woodstown

Silver Rating: BCIT Medford
Cumberland Regional
Freehold
Middlesex Piscataway
Monmouth County
Penns Grove
South Hunterdon

Bronze Rating: Belvidere
Bergen Paramus
Biotechnology HS
Camden Tech East
Middlesex East Brunswick
North Warren
Northern Burlington Middle School
Ocean County
Salem Vo-tech
South Hunterdon Middle School
Sussex Tech
West Essex

Closing Ceremonies

2008 State Convention Banquet

Desiree Beam 2007-2008 State Sentinel presided

Opening Ceremonies

Official Ceremonies were presented by the first place official ceremonies team from the Allentown FFA Chapter.

Introduction of Guests

There were 6 State Officers, 3 Executive Committee Members, and 451 members, advisors, and guests present.

Welcome

Desiree Beam 2007-2008 State Sentinel delivered the welcome.

Greeting From the Office of Agricultural Education

Mrs. Nancy Trivette, Program Leader for Agricultural Education and State FFA Advisor, addressed the banquet on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Office of Agricultural Education.

FFA Creed Presentation

The FFA Creed was presented by the first place Creed Speaker, Jill Scrivana of the Newton FFA Chapter.

Invocation

The invocation was delivered by Tyler Tenbarge, National FFA Eastern Region Vice President.

2007-2008 New Jersey Member of the Month/Member of the Year Awards

The Member of the Month recipients for 2007-2008 were honored

May: Cassandra Schulze, Buena

June: Karis Byram, Allentown

September: Danny Arocho, Piscataway

October: Courtney J. Clair, Penns Grove

November: Corey T. Radar, BCIT Westampton

December: Bridget C. Levine, Allentown

January: Rachel E. Dey, Allentown

February: Mark Boyko, Piscataway

March: Vickie Rodriguez, Piscataway

April: Ashely Selfridge, Penns Grove

The 2007-2008 New Jersey FFA Member of the Year was awarded to Rachel Dey of the Allentown FFA Chapter.

New Jersey Agri-Entrepreneurship Award

This award is designed to increase the amount of entrepreneurship being taught in local agriculture programs across the country. The 2008 New Jersey Agri-Entrepreneurship award goes to Mark Boyko of the Middlesex-Piscataway FFA Chapter.

Distinguished Service

Congratulations to those who received a Distinguished Service Award: The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, the Stewartsville Grange, and Godlewsky's Farms and Greenhouses.

New Jersey FFA Advisor of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Patricia Thorne, Buena FFA Advisor, for being named the 2008 New Jersey Advisor of the Year.

Outstanding Alumni Member

This recognition is awarded to an alumni member who provides service to the State FFA Alumni Association and the New Jersey FFA Association. Congratulations to Ms. Susan Butch!

Superior Teacher Recognition Program

Bronze: Ms. Robin Mclean- Northern Burlington Middle

Silver: Ms. Bonnie Baldasare-Union County

Gold: Mr. Jacque Roszel
Mrs. Cyndee Roszel
Mrs. Kim Szulecki
Ms. Katie McKee
Mr. John Neyhart
Ms. JoAnn Sopchak
Mr. John Petronglo

Closing Ceremonies

Session IV

Karis Byram, 2007-2008 New Jersey State FFA Secretary, presided.

Opening Ceremonies

Introduction of Guests

There were six State Officers, three Executive Committee Members, and 451 members, advisors, and guests present.

Greetings from the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources

Ms. Monique Purcell, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources Director, brought greetings on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources. As a token of appreciation, she was presented with an FFA block.

Charles C. Drawbaugh Parliamentary Procedure Event Awards

- 1st Place: Phillipsburg FFA Chapter
- 2nd Place: Penns Grove
- 3rd Place: Hackettstown FFA Chapter

Keynote Address- Tyler Tenbarge, 2007-2008 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President- “Live What You Believe”

Tyler Tenbarge, 2007-2008 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President presented his keynote address “Live What You Believe.”

Honorary State Degree Ceremony

The following people were presented the New Jersey Honorary State FFA Degree:

Lisa Ann Chernigovets- Teacher of Agricultural Education Middlesex County Vocational Technical School-East Brunswick Campus

Michael Day-Cape May County Technical High School

Madeline Flahive Dinardo- County Agriculture Extension Agent Union County Rutgers’ Cooperative Extension

William P. Hoey- Superintendent, Ocean County Vocational Technical School District

Michele Mattioli Landew- Special Education Teacher, Penns Grove High School

Brian D. McAndrew- Superintendent Monmouth County Vocational School District
Gwendolyn Miller-Supervisor of Math and Science Hackettstown School District
Sue Ellen Moore- Elementary School teacher, FFA Alumni Member Mary Shoemaker School, Woodstown-Pilesgrove School District
Alfred W. Murray-Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Division Director, Marketing and Development New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Sharice Richardson- Assistant Dean for Academics, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers' University, The state University of New Jersey
Lynne Richmond-Public Information Officer, Office of the Secretary New Jersey Department of Agriculture

American FFA Degree Candidate Recognition

New Jersey's American FFA Degree candidates include the following:

Warren Hills:	Adam Kimble Alison Keggan
Phillipsburg:	Alyssa Mottram
Cumberland:	Zachary Gihorski
Penns Grove:	Matthew DiTizio
BCIT Westampton:	Eric Hilgendorff
Woodstown:	Amanda Hall

Retiring Address- Joshua Alster "Life is a Highway"

Joshua Alster delivered his retiring address and thanked his parents for their support by presenting them with the Honorary State FFA Degree.

National FFA Officer Candidate Introduction

Alison Keggan of the Warren Hills FFA Chapter introduced herself as the National FFA Officer Candidate and detailed why she would like to serve as a national officer.

Tractor Driving Event

H.O. Sampson Certificates

1st Joey Fogg, Salem County
2nd Ryan Pribell, Northern Burlington
3rd Tyler Herb, Belvidere
4th Corey Hymer, Cumberland Regional
5th Jason Canadara, Bergen Tech

Medals:

Gold: Joey Fogg, Salem County
Silver: Ryan Pribell, Northern Burlington
Bronze: Tyler Herb, Belvidere

Job Interview Event

1st Place: Morgan Taylor, Phillipsburg

2nd Place: Tyler Bill, Woodstown
3rd Place: Kylie Smith, Cape May Tech

Demonstration

Individual Awards

1st place: Leevon Lacy, Woodstown
2nd Place: Jimmie Ferguson, Cape May Tech
3rd Place: Jonathan Wendeborns, South Hunterdon

Team Awards

1st Place: Cape May Tech
2nd Place: Woodstown
3rd Place: Freehold

Annual Report of the New Jersey FFA Association

Joshua Alster, 2007-2008 State FFA Reporter, and Alyssa Mottram, 2007-2008 State FFA President, presented the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the New Jersey FFA Association, highlighting events throughout the year.

Closing Ceremonies

Session V

Stacey Daniels, 2007-2008 State Parliamentarian and Kari Scholenlank 2007-2008 State Treasurer presided

Official Ceremonies

Introduction of Guests

There were 7 State Officers, 3 Executive Committee Members, and 463 members, advisors, and guests present.

Greetings from the Office of Career and Technical Education

Mrs. Barry the Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education gave greetings from her office.

Delegate Business Session II

Standing Committee Reports

State President Alyssa Mottram presided and called the Delegate Business Session II to order. Mrs. Lowe, Woodstown FFA Advisor served as official Parliamentarian.

There were 50 delegates present, 11 executive committee members.

Horticultural Exposition Review and Evaluation

Motion by Samantha Schnorrbusch of the Warren Hills FFA Chapter to accept the Hort Expo Review and Evaluation committee report be accepted as read. There is an implied second. **Motion passes.**

CDE Review and Evaluation

Motion by Rachel Dey from the Allentown FFA Chapter to accept the Career Development Event Review and Evaluation committee report as read. There is an implied second. **Motion passes.**

Constitution and Bylaws/Program Of Activities

Motion by Bridget Levine from the Allentown FFA chapter to accept Constitution and Bylaws/POA committee report as read. There is an implied second. **Motion passes.**

State Leadership Activities

Motion by Sara Behnke from the Cumberland Regional FFA chapter to accept the State Leadership Activities committee report as read. There is an implied second. **Motion passes.**

State Applications

Motion by Courtney Clair from the Pens Grove FFA chapter to accept the State Applications committee report as read. There is an implied second. **Motion passes.**

Membership and Chapter Relations

Motion by Marta Mychak from the Hackettstown FFA chapter to accept the Membership and Chapter Relations committee report as read. There is an implied second. **Motion passes.**

State Convention Evaluation

Motion by Jeff Bray from the Phillipsburg FFA Chapter to accept the State Convention Evaluation committee report as read. There is an implied second. **Motion passes.**

Superior Chapter Awards

Allentown	Northern Burlington Middle
Buena	Penns Grove
BCIT Westampton	Ocean County
Belvidere	South Hunterdon
Cape May Tech	South Hunterdon Middle
Hackettstown	Union County
Monmouth County	Warren Hills
Newton	West Essex
Northern Burlington	Woodstown

National Chapter Award

Gold: Allentown – 1st
Cape May Tech – 2nd
Penns Grove – 3rd
BCIT Westampton – 4th
Silver: Woodstown
Hackettstown
Newton

Bronze: Buena
Belvidere
Ocean County
Warren Hills
Union County

Most Improved Chapter

Congratulations to the Ocean County FFA Chapter for being named the 2008 Most Improved New Jersey FFA Chapter.

State Officer Advisor and Administrator Recognition

Alyssa Mottram, Desiree Beam and Kari Schoenlank

Advisors- Mr. Mike Butler and Mr. Greg Babbitt
Administrator- Dr. Jane Deutsch and Mr. Bill Nixon
Mentor- Rebecca Schentzer

Stacey Daniels

Advisors- Mr. John Petronglo
Administrator- Dr. Dolores Szymanski

Karis Byram and Joshua Alster

Advisors- Mr. Jacque Roszel, Mrs. Cynthia Roszel, and Mrs. Noble
Administrators- Dr. Christopher Nagy and Dr. Richard Fitzpatrick

Amanda Hall

Advisor- Mrs. Cheryl Lowe
Administrator- Dr. Scott Hoopes

Proficiency Awards

Agricultural Education: Victoria Rodriguez, Middlesex Piscataway
Landscape Management Entrepreneurship: Mark Boyko, Middlesex Piscataway
Outdoor Recreation Placement: Hanna Toft, Cape May Tech
Diversified Livestock Production Entrepreneurship: Kristina Tillou, Hackettstown
Turf Grass Management Placement: John Humphrey, Monmouth County
Equine Science Placement: Ashley Selfridge, Penns Grove
Small Animal Production and Care: Allison Karr, Freehold
Nursery Operations: Tricia Swider, Hackettstown

Best Dressed Chapter

Congratulations to the Allentown FFA Chapter for being the 2008 Best Dressed Chapter.

Special Recognition

Mr. Grey Vanaman, Sound and Lights Technical Coordinator
Mr. Dale Cruzan III, Sound and lights
Mr. Chris Nnadi, Courtesty Corps Coordinator
Mr. Leon Delcher, Registration Coordinator
Ms. Rebecca Schnetzer, Nominating Committee Coordinator
Mr. Dustin Zukus, Video Production

Convention Stage Decorations Recognition

A stipend was given to the Cumberland FFA Chapter for the flower arrangements.

Courtesy Corps Recognition

Allentown: Matt Carney, Ed Struck, Rob Welle and Dan Wolek
BCIT Westampton: Corey Rader
Buena: Danyel Krupski, Megan Wright, Michael Bohren, and Moncia Rivera
Camden Pennsauken: Gina Marie Aponte and Jewels Mantire
Camden Tech East: Blanca Pascual and Taina Rodriguez
Cumberland Regional: Vernon Lee
Hackettstown: Brittany Harris, Jenine O'Dell and Marlana Tate
Middlesex East Brunswick: Ryan Hanrahan and Ryan Kantor
Monmouth County: Amanda Pierce
North Warren: Joe Haberle and Kevin Kitchen
Northern Burlington: Nick Ricci and Heather Shinn
Ocean County: Amanda Cobb
Penns Grove: Obinna Nnadi, Andrew Willadsen, Jennifer Tressler and Shelby Roberts
Warren Hills: Frank D'Astoli, Joey Brylall and Jon McConnell

Congratulations to **Danyel Krupski** of the **Buena FFA Chapter** and **Heather Shinn** of the **Northern Burlington FFA Chapter** as the 2008 Outstanding Courtesy Corps Members.

State Executive Board Recognition

Mrs. Nancy Trivette, Ms. Sue Butch, and Mrs. Erin Noble presented the State Officers with their retiring officer pins and plaques and the Executive Committee with certificates of appreciation for serving the New Jersey FFA Association.

Garden State Degree Ceremony

Allentown: Rachel Dey
Bridget Levine
BCIT Westampton: Jeremy Miller
Stephen Polak
Corey Rader
Buena: Danyel Krupski
Kasha Tucker
Camden Tech East: Jasmin Jimenez
Jessica Jimenez
Cape May Tech: Tom Conover
Frank Conway
Adam Day
Chelsea DiAntonio
Matthew Franco
Matthew Hamer
Hanna Toft
Haley Tomlin
Keely Weinberger
Freehold: Gabrielle Ritzer
Jacklene Oakes
Hackettstown: Brianne Scholl

	Matthew Armstrong
	Tricia Swider
Middlesex-Piscataway:	Robert Sciarillo
Monmouth County:	Megan Anderson
	Shawn Cusack
Newton:	Ashley Frazell
Northern Burlington:	Sarah Hubert
	Bryan Beaver
	David Specca
	Thomas Hlubik
	Ryan Pribell
Penns Grove:	Alison Butterer
	Ashley Selfridge
	Chukwuemeka Nnadi
	Courtney Clair
Phillipsburg:	Jeffrey Bray
	Jessica Voll
	Kathleen Cunningham
	Shannon Tyrrell
	Tara Weller
Union County:	Natalia Lopez
West Essex:	Jessica Feder
	Katherine Kears
Woodstown:	Tyler Bill
	Kevin Coombs

State Star Award Recognition

State Star in Agriscience: Matthew Hamer, Cape May Tech FFA Chapter
State Star in Agricultural Placement: Kevin Coombs, Woodstown FFA Chapter
State Star Farmer: Rachel Dey, Allentown FFA Chapter
State Star in Agribusiness: Ashley Selfridge, Penns Grove FFA Chapter

Alyssa Mottram’s Retiring Address- “Learning to Fly”

Dan Delcher delivered her retiring address and thanked her parents for their support by presenting them with a certificate of appreciation

Nominating Committee Report

Jenny Allen of the Warren Hills FFA Chapter presented the Nominating Committee Report as follows:

Teacher Representative:	Mr. David Pede
Executive Committee:	Alyssa Mottram, Kari Schoenlank, Desiree Beam, and Stacey Daniels
State Parliamentarian:	Brianne Scholl
State Sentinel:	Gabrielle Ritzer
State Reporter:	Mark Boyko
State Treasurer:	Hanna Toft
State Secretary:	Keely Weinberger
State Vice President:	Annaliese Gancarz
State President:	Karis Byram

Motion by Jenny Allen from the Warren Hills FFA Chapter to accept the Nominating Committee report as read. **The motion carried an implied second. Motion passes.**

Motion by Rachel Dey from the Allentown FFA Chapter to approve the 2008-2009 slate of State Officers. **Motion passes.**

Past State Office Power Point

A Power Point was presented as a tribute to all the past state officers.

Installation of 2008-2009 State Officers

The newly elected State FFA Officers were installed into their respective offices.

Convention in Review

The 2008 State Convention in Review Power Point was shared with the audience highlighting events of convention.

Passing of the Gavel

2007-2008 State FFA President Alyssa Mottram passed the gavel to 2008-2009 State FFA President Karis Byram, who brought closing remarks.

Closing Ceremonies



2007-2008 State FFA Executive Board

State President	Alyssa Mottram
State Vice President	Amanda Hall
State Secretary	Karis Byram
State Treasurer	Karoline Schoenlank
State Reporter	Joshua Alster
Sentinel	Desiree Beam
Parliamentarian	Stacey Daniels
Executive Committee	Eric Hilgendorff Alison Keggan, Dan Delcher
State Advisor	Mrs. Nancy J. Trivette
State FFA Specialist	Mrs. Erin E. Noble
State Executive Treasurer	Ms. Susan R. Butch

78TH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT AND HORTICULTURAL EXPOSITION

Committee Chair: Rachel Dey, Allentown

Committee Secretary: Devon Forman, Northern Burlington

Committee Members Present:

Rachel Dey, Allentown; Devon Forman, Northern Burlington; Rickey Esposito, South Hunterdon; Sara Behnke, Cumberland Regional; Soma Paglia, Middlesex-East Brunswick; Jessica Jennings, Penns Grove; Lauren McEllen, Belvidere; Stephanie Matheson, HO Sampson Collegiate; Melissa Bennett, Biotechnology; Ashley North, Bankbridge Regional; Ashlee O’Neal, Bankbridge Regional; Linwood Donelson, SCVTS; Katherine Kear, West Essex.

Executive Board Member: Alyssa Mottram

Advisors: Mr.V. Jacque Roszel, Allentown; Mrs.Nichol Carroll, Cumberland Regional; and Mrs. Nan Hamilton, Northern Burlington

Purpose of Meeting:

Review the CDEs and Horticultural Exposition to provide suggestions for improvement and positive comments.

Recommended action to be taken:

Horticultural Exposition:

- To increase the size of the nursery plants container
- To include 3 gallon with appropriate sizing.
- After review continue with present categories.

Floral Design:

- Propose lowering of Floral Design CDE entry rate.
- Review cost analysis, investigate alternate ways to attain supplies.

CDE’s:

- After review of CDE’s team numbers, recommend continuing present contests.
- Investigate the possibilities of sending a dairy handler team to Big E. (combined NJ team)

Comments:

- Positive change in Floriculture CDE, test and problem solving combined into one rotation.
- For CDE’s, possibility of an A-team and B-team.
 - B-team watches and has a learning experience
- Environment and Natural Resource CDE, keep during spring CDE’s.

78TH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT
CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND POA

Committee Chair: Kasha Tucker, Buena Regional

Committee Secretary: Pam DeVito, Allentown

Committee Members Present:

Elizabeth Costiera, West Essex; Jeanette Bakan, Penns Grove; Kasha Tucker, Buena; Amanda Macomber, Belvidere; Pam DeVito, Allentown; Jenson Hornbeek, BCIT-Medford; Rob Lavelle, Middlesex-Piscataway; Edgar Martinez, South Hunterdon; Jennifer Moss, Union County.

Executive Board Member: Dan Delcher

Advisors: Patty Fanella, Buena and Mike Griffith, Cumberland Regional

Purpose of Meeting:

To discuss possible changes to the by-laws, Constitution and the program of activities.

Recommended action to be taken:

- No changes to the constitution and by-laws.
- We suggest the following changes to the POA:
 - Area 2 Section B- Calendar of events: Change start of each school year to end of each school year.
 - Area 2 Section J- Promote chapter communication, add multiple forms of before increase in goals.
 - Area 1 Section D and Area 2 Section E- Recommend appropriate committees develop plans to increase 3 +1 membership and National Band and Choir.

Comments:

- A correction to the spelling of “advisor” in Article 4 section A in the By-laws.

78TH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT STATE FFA LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES/STATE FFA APPLICATIONS

Committee Chair: Jennifer Macri, North Warren

Committee Secretary: Chelsea Bratsis, Hackettstown

Committee Members Present:

Holly Gilbert, Buena; Chelsea Bratsis, Hackettstown; Keely Weinberger, Cape May Tech; Charlene Colon, Union County; Kevin Coombs, Woodstown; Lindsey Horvath, Middlesex-Piscataway; Jen Macri, North Warren; Julia Whitbeck, BCIT- Medford; Andrew Wisinewski, South Hunterdon; Joe Feclor, chapter unknown.

Executive Board Member: Alison Keggan

Advisors: Ms. Katie McKee, Hackettstown and Mr. Joel Rudderow, Penns Grove

Purpose of Meeting:

Discuss Leadership Experience and Development, Advocacy and Legislative Leadership day, State Officer Candidates' school, and state FFA applications.

Recommended action to be taken:

- Leadership Experience and Development:
 - At LEAD make sure ALL members are respectful and more recreation time.
 - Too many things on agenda and not enough time
 - Rooming at LEAD needs to be fixed so members can stay together
- Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day:
 - Speakers at all were better this year as well as facilities
- Take guidance counselors to FFA events to promote FFA within the school.
- Provide a graph or something numeric to see application numbers for next year
- Workshops for advisors (add a session to COLT)
- Adding a slot for email on the state application or on registration form

Comments:

- Different FFA events and community service projects fit under LEAD
- State officer schools had good facilities, was organized, etc
- If members go through filling out the state degree, maybe more members would apply so consider adding a course to LEAD on how to fill out the state FFA degree

78TH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER RELATIONS

Committee Chair: Caitlyn Conklin, Monmouth County

Committee Secretary: Ted Melancon, Woodstown

Committee Members Present:

Nick Yates, Ocean County; Caitlyn Conklin, Monmouth County; Cassie Halpin, Freehold; Kristina Tillou, Hackettstown; Katie Parr, Warren Hills; Huyen Trang Ha, Camden- Pennsauken; Ted Melancon, Woodstown; Peter Furfaro, North Warren; Haley Tomlin, Cape May Tech; Lisa Hoff, South Hunterdon Middle; Rebecca DePhillippo, BCIT-Westampton

Executive Board Member: Eric Hilgendorff

Advisors: Mr.Petronglo, BCIT- Westampton; Mrs.Szulecki, Ocean.

Purpose of Meeting:

Ways to increase membership and improve relations with chapters
To review the chapter requirements of chapters

Recommended action to be taken:

- Place Somerset County on One year probation for 2007-2008 school year.
- State assigns two delegates if chapter does not designate them.
- Ways to increase membership- announcements, PALS, open houses.
- Mentoring middle school chapters to get them involved.
- State officers should send letters to schools with science classes to tell them about FFA.

Comments:

78TH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT STATE CONVENTION EVALUATION

Committee Chair: Gabrielle Ritzer

Committee Secretary: Amanda Marino

Committee Members Present:

Jenny Allen, Warren Hills; Gabrielle Ritzer, Freehold; Corey Saxe, Monmouth County; Tiffany Snit, Ocean County; Amanda Marino, BCIT-Medford; Gloriajean Stanton, East Brunswick; Adam Wainwright, Northern Burlington; Rich Mead, Cumberland Regional; Brianna Maloe, Biotechnology High School; Ms.Marilyn Patterson; Warren Hills Advisor; Yasmin Salores, Camden Pennsauken; Joe Frogg. Salem Vo-Tech; Mrs.Kristina Guttadora, Freehold.

Executive Board Member: Matthew Hood

Advisors: Ms. Marilyn Patterson and Mrs. Kristina Guttadora

Purpose of Meeting:

Review and discuss State Convention and make suggestions for improvement.

Recommended action to be taken:

- Recreation time house to be available in the evening before lights out and during ice cream social.
- Check-in and registration at earlier time
- Separate space at Hickman Hall for students committed to activities to register
- Have advisors more aware of roommate selection being available
- Move registration date to the end of April for convention to allow for school spring breaks
- Create activity at LEAD/COLT to create a calendar for registration/applications due dates and activities for chapter officers.
- Quiz bowl teams A and B compete at same time with the same questions, create holding room for participants not participating at that time.

Comments:



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