



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
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In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education

NEW JERSEY FFA ASSOCIATION

"Grow Beyond"

TO: State Executive Board Members, NJ FFA Chapter Advisors, Officers, and Members

FROM: Niccolo Conte, State FFA President
Jenny Allen, State FFA Specialist
Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

DATE: March 13, 2025

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025 – 4:00 pm.
1st Floor NJDA Conference Room, Trenton, NJ

All State Executive Board Members must attend this meeting. If these individuals cannot attend, they should call Ms. Allen at (609) 457-2373 and give the reason for receiving an excused absence. Mr. Dale Cruzan will fill the teacher representative on the Executive Board and have voting power at each meeting in 2024-2025.

AGENDA FOR THE APRIL STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies
- II. Minutes from the March State Meeting
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance
- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program of Activities and State Convention Evaluation – Niccolo Conte
 - B. Membership & Chapter Relations – Nina Weiland
 - C. State Leadership Activities – Tyler Murnaghan
 - D. State Applications – William Rutherford
 - E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation and Review – Allison Josielewski
 - F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review – Abrianna Portillo
- VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report – Niccolo Conte
- VII. Executive Committee Report

- VIII. State FFA Foundation Report – Allison Josielewski**
- IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report – Tyler Murnaghan**
- X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report – William Rutherford**
- XI. New Jersey Agricultural Society Report – Niccolo Conte**
- XII. Equine Advisory Board Report – Nina Weiland**
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators Report – Mr. Dale Cruzan**
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Horticultural Exposition and Floriculture CDE (March 14-15, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - B. National Ag Day (March 18, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
 - C. Preliminary LDEs (March 25-27, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - D. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala (March 29, 2025) – Niccolo Conte
 - E. State Applications Judging (April 3-6, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - F. Horse Evaluation CDE (April 6, 2025) – Nina Weiland
 - G. PA Day CDEs (April 8, 2025) – William Rutherford
 - H. Retiring Address Workshop (April 9, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - I. Spring CDEs (April 10, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
 - J. Agriscience Fair (April 30, 2025) – Nina Weiland
 - K. Dairy Cattle Evaluation (May 3, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - L. State Convention (May 21-23, 2025)
 - a. Timeline – Nina Weiland
 - b. Video Shoot – Abrianna Portillo
 - c. Potential State Officers/Nom Com – William Rutherford
 - d. Statewide Community Service Project – Tyler Murnaghan
 - M. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
- XV. New Business**
 - A. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – Nina Weiland
 - B. Member of the Month – William Rutherford
 - C. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting – May 5, 2025
New Jersey Department of Ag Building
4:00 pm*

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the March 3, 2025 Meeting**

I. Opening Ceremonies

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. The voting members in attendance were Niccolo Conte, Allison Josielewski, Abrianna Portillo, Nina Weiland, William Rutherford, and Mr. Dale Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble and Ms. Allen.

II. Minutes from February's State Meeting

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to dispense with the reading of the meeting minutes and approve them as distributed.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the month was \$58,814.80 and the closing balance was \$67,406.74.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

Motion passes pending audit.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

There were no guests present at this month's meeting.

Allison Josielewski assumed the duties of the chair.

V. Committee Reports

A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program Activities and State Convention Evaluation

No report.

B. Membership & Chapter Review

No report. There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th.

C. State Leadership Activities

No report.

D. State Applications

No report.

E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

No report. There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th.

F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review

No report.

Niccolo Conte re-assumed the duties of the chair.

VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report

Niccolo and the state officers demonstrated the use of suspending the rules. This motion allows members to do things otherwise outside the concepts within a meeting or event. It is not debatable, not amendable and requires a 2/3 vote.

VII. Executive Committee Report

No report.

VIII. Foundation Report

No report as the next meeting will be held on April 8th at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 6:00 pm.

IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report

The Alumni & Supporters met on February 12th to discuss the Blue Corduroy Connection that is happening on Saturday, April 12th. The Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Cream Ridge Golf Course on Tuesday, June 24th, encouragement to start spreading the word about this event. They also discussed their role at the State Officer's Retiring Address Workshop that will be held on Wednesday, April 9th.

X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report

The FANR Education Advisory Council meeting was held on February 5th at the Agricultural Convention at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City. Many board members spoke about issues and plans for the future and William gave a synopsis of the FFA Association's operations throughout the year. The council spoke about Rutgers teachers programs, the relaunching of SAE For All by National FFA, as well as the CASE Plant Science training held at Allentown High School this summer.

XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report

No report as the next meeting is on March 12th.

XII. Equine Advisory Board

They are getting ready for their upcoming events such as Horse Shows and 4-H events, specifically Horse Judging that will take place on April 6th at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. Tyler shared with the board the events the FFA Association has been doing.

XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators

A meeting will be held on March 11th via Zoom. NJAAE hosted an A.L.L.D. booth to entice members to learn more about the organization. There was a Professional Development for the teachers during ALLD where they learned more about the Ag Communications event that is being offered this year as well as National Chapter enticement for chapters. The ACTE National Policy Seminar will be held in Arlington, VA on March 16-19, 2025. The NAAE Region VI conference will be held from March 21-23, 2025 in Mechanicsburg, PA.

XIV. Unfinished Business

A. Winter Career Development Events

Winter Career Development Events were held in person for the first time on February 5th at the Harrah's Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. The first-place teams include: Allentown for Farm and Agribusiness Management and Woodstown for Meat Evaluation and Technology.

B. New Jersey State Ag Convention

The NJ State Ag Convention was held on February 5th at the Harrah's Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. All state officers were present and explored the Trade Show meeting new people. Niccolo Conte delivered his speech. Four officers attended the banquet.

C. Fuel Up Retreat

The State Officers will be spending time together on February 15th – 18th in Wildwood. They planned for State Convention, worked on session titles and began to plan their retiring addresses.

D. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day

ALLD was held on February 20th at The College of New Jersey, the theme for this year's event is "IT'S ALL AG." There were 306 members, advisors and guests present this year. The members heard from three legislators, a panel of industry professionals, and participated in a large group workshop presented by the State Officers. From there members were broken up into three break out groups (Advocacy Online, Advocating in Your Community and Professional Advocacy) and those who registered for the Teach Ag Event learned more about the Teach Ag LDE and how to write lesson plans.

E. National FFA Week

National FFA Week took place during February 15th – 22nd, this is where we celebrate FFA. The State Officers had a week of chapter visits from attending chapter breakfasts to Ag Olympics to luncheons. The events they attended showed how chapters throughout the state celebrate their stakeholders and supporters. The State Officers shared about the chapters they visited with.

F. Horticultural Exposition

The Horticultural Exposition will take place from March 14th to March 15th at Mercer County Community College. FFA members can participate in creating arrangements for the Horticultural Exposition, participate in the Floral Design CDE, attend industry based workshops and take a campus tour. Set up will take place on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 3:30 pm. A schedule of the Hort Expo flow was provided and it was suggested they bring a lunch for Friday.

G. National Ag Day

The National Ag Day is March 18, 2025. This year's theme is Agriculture: "Together We Grow." There is an Ag Day Essay students in grades 9-12 are invited to enter in the National Ag Day Video Essay Contest. Participants are encouraged to explore the future of agriculture and present their thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

H. Preliminary LDEs

Preliminary LDEs will be held in each region: Northern – Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at Voorhees High School, Central – Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at Allentown High School and Southern – Thursday, March 27, 2025 at Cumberland Regional High school. The LDEs that are being held are 3-5 and 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking, Creed

Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Conduct of Chapter Meeting and Parliamentary Procedure. State Officers will be present at their respective regions in Official Dress.

I. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala

This event will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza in Princeton.

J. Horse Evaluation CDE

The Horse Evaluation CDE will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ. Nina Weiland will be the state officer in attendance with Ms. Allen.

K. PA Day CDEs

PA Day CDEs are being held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Lebanon Expo Center in Lebanon, PA. Niccolo Conte and William Rutherford will be the state officers in attendance with Ms. Allen.

L. Spring CDEs

Spring CDEs are being held on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at Rutgers University. Events include Agronomy, Agricultural Mechanics and Technology, Agricultural Sales, Environmental and Natural Resources, Nursery Landscape and Veterinary Science. State Officers are responsible for helping with registration, organizing students and teachers, proctoring and taking pictures of the event.

M. State Convention

i. Delegate Issues

The executive board discussed adding in the proposals from the National FFA Board of Directors & 2024-2025 National FFA Officers. Proposal A: Modifications of the National FFA Constitution as related to shifting from individual member dues to universal chapter affiliation fees. Proposal B: Modifications of the National FFA Bylaws as related to shifting from individual member dues to universal chapter affiliation fees. Both will be in the delegate packet.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to recommend the amendments of the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws to the delegates at State Convention.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.

ii. Statewide Community Service

A Sensory Garden will be constructed with the Miracle League of Mercer County through the efforts of FFA members including raised garden beds, putting together gardening kits, and designing tiles, murals, and art to celebrate agriculture. A grant was received for the operation and bracelets will be used as an additional fundraiser. A flier was shared with the teachers and on social media.

N. Chapter Visit Updates

The State Officers have been completed all 38 chapter visits.

O. Team Goal Action Plan

The State Officers reflected on their goals they have set to continue to complete for the remainder of their year of service.

XV. New Business

A. Selection of the State Convention T-Shirt Design

There were seven designs that were submitted and evaluated by the executive board. This year's winner is Leila Hagins from the Middlesex East Brunswick FFA Chapter. She will be recognized on stage during the 2nd General Session with a certificate, a free t-shirt and a \$25.00 gift certificate to Alumni Nation (FFA store at State Convention).

B. State Applications Judging

The executive board will evaluate applications that come in on April 1st. Judging will take place virtually from April 3rd through April 6th. All applications must be judged by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

C. Retiring Address Workshop

This event will take place on April 9, 2025 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. State Officers will be evaluated on their retiring address and will be paired up with an Alumni member to receive feedback on their retiring address.

D. Agriscience Fair

The Agriscience Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. FFA members can show off their projects to judges. Allison Josielewski, Tyler Murnaghan and Nina Weiland will be the state officers in attendance with Ms. Allen.

E. Dairy Cattle Evaluation

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Spring Run Dairy in Pittstown, NJ. Abrianna Portillo will be the state officer in attendance with Ms. Allen.

F. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion

Abrianna Portillo spoke about the importance of "Natural Capital", the resources we have in water, land, lumber, livestock, crops, and more. Overconsumption of these resources can be stopped through efforts to promote moderation of consumption and recycling where possible.

G. Member of the Month

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

Motion by William Rutherford to select Rafferty Burden of the Allentown FFA Chapter as March's Member of the Month.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passes.

H. State Officer Mileage

Abrianna, Nina, and William turned in their mileage for the month of February.

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 7, 2025 at 4:00 pm in the 1st Floor Conference room, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Building.

11:52 AM

February 27, 2025

Cash Basis

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of February 28, 2025

	Type	Date	Name	Memo
FFA				
	Check	02/03/2025	Vegetable Growers As...	donation for CDE room uesage
	Check	02/05/2025	Vegetable Growers As...	State Officer meal registration at Ag Conv...
	Check	02/05/2025	Bank of America	Via Roma - pizza lunch
	Check	02/05/2025	Bank of America	ShopRite-breakfast & lunch items
	Check	02/05/2025	Bank of America	Ewell Educational-Hort Expo registration
	Deposit	02/13/2025		Deposit
	Deposit	02/13/2025		Deposit
	Deposit	02/13/2025		Deposit
	Deposit	02/25/2025		Deposit
Total FFA				
TOTAL				

11:52 AM

February 27, 2025

Cash Basis

NJ FFA Association

Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger

As of February 28, 2025

Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
			58,814.80 ¹
P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-200.00	-200.00	58,614.80
P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-225.00	-225.00	58,389.80
P 12 (SOCS-Expense)	-188.59	-188.59	58,201.21
P 12 (SOCS-Expense)	-129.27	-129.27	58,071.94
P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-100.00	-100.00	57,971.94
-SPLIT-	4,946.00	4,946.00	62,917.94
-SPLIT-	448.41	448.41	63,366.35
Undeposited Funds	30.00	30.00	63,396.35
-SPLIT-	4,010.39	4,010.39	67,406.74
		8,591.94	67,406.74 ²
		8,591.94	67,406.74 ³

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of February 28, 2025

- 1. Opening Balance on February 1, 2025 was \$58,814.80
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- 2. Closing Balance on February 28, 2025 was \$67406.74
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- 3. Treasurer's Report passes pending audit
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