



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education  
200 Riverview Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor | P.O. Box 330 | Trenton, NJ 08625 | 877-AgEdFFA | jerseyageducation.nj.gov

*In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education*

## NEW JERSEY FFA ASSOCIATION

*“Connected with Purpose”*

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

FROM: Kathryn Giovanelli, State FFA President  
Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist  
Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

DATE: March 4, 2026

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting  
**Monday, April 6, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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) 475-2373 and give the reason to receive an excused absence. Mr. Dale Cruzan will fill the teacher representative on the Executive Board and will have voting power at each meeting in 2025-2026.

### 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 – Kayla Romero
  - B. Membership & Chapter Relations – Abigale DiGiamberardino
  - C. State Leadership Activities – Ivelisse Pena Rivera
  - D. State Applications – Peter DeCollo
  - E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation and Review – Aaron Foote
  - F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - G. State Convention Evaluation – Breanna Rosmarin
- VI. **Parliamentary Procedure Report** – Kathryn Giovanelli
- VII. **Executive Committee Report** – Tyler Murnaghan

- VIII. Foundation Report** – Breanna Rosmarin
- IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report** – Aaron Foote
- X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report** – Kayla Romero
- XI. New Jersey Agricultural Society Report** – Kathryn Giovanelli
- XII. Equine Advisory Board** – Peter DelCollo
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agriculture Educators** – Mr. Dale Cruzan
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
  - A. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala (March 7, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - B. Horticultural Exposition (March 13-14, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - C. National Ag Day (March 24, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
  - D. Preliminary LDEs (March 24-26, 2026) – Aaron Foote
  - E. Virtual Judging Applications (April 3-9, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
  - F. Retiring Address Workshop (April 8, 2026) – Abigale DiGiamberardino
  - G. Spring CDEs (April 16, 2026) – Aaron Foote
  - H. Livestock Evaluation CDEs (April 18, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
  - I. Horse Evaluation CDEs (April 19, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
  - J. Agriscience Fair (April 29, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
  - K. Dairy Cattle Evaluation (May 2, 2026) – Kayla Romero
  - L. State Convention (May 20-22, 2026)
    - a. Delegate Issues – Breanna Rosmarin
    - b. Statewide Community Service Project – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
    - c. Timeline– Abigale DiGiamberardino
    - d. Video Shoot – Abigale DiGiamberardino
    - e. Potential State Officers/Nom Com – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - M. Chapter Visit Updates – Peter DelCollo
  - N. Team Goal Action Plan – Kathryn Giovanelli
- XV. New Business**
  - A. Agriculture/Agricultural Education Issues Discussion – Kayla Romero
  - B. Member of the Month – Tyler Murnaghan
  - C. State Officer Mileage – Abigale DiGiamberardino
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting- May 4, 2026  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
4:00 p.m.*

**New Jersey FFA Association  
Minutes from the March 2, 2026 Meeting**

**I. Opening Ceremonies**

Kathryn Giovanelli called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The voting members in attendance were Kathryn Giovanelli, Breanna Rosmarin, Kayla Romero, Ivanelisse Pena Rivera, Peter DelCollo, Aaron Foote, Tyler Murnaghan, Nina Weiland, and Mr. Dale Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen, and Ms. McCluskey.

**II. Minutes from February State Meeting**

**Motion by Kaya Romero** 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 \$59,426.00 and the closing balance was \$69,262.92.

**Motion by Nina Weiland** to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

**Motion passed pending audit.**

**IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance**

Guest Present: David McNair, Career Readiness Specialist at New Jersey Department of Education Division of Teaching and Learning Services

**Motion by Aaron Foote** to excuse the absence of Abigale DiGiamberardino.

**Seconded by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera. Motion passed.**

*Breanna Rosmarin assumed the duties of the chair.*

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program Activities**

No report.

**B. Membership & Chapter Relations**

No report. Discussion was made regarding the Chapter Membership Data form.

**C. State Leadership Activities**

No report.

**D. State Applications**

No report.

**E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review**

No report.

**F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review**

No report.

**G. State Convention Evaluation & Review**

The committee recommended potential keynote speakers: Artha Jonassaint, Thaddeus Bergschneider, and Ryan Williamson, with Artha noted as the top choice. They ruled that

keynote speakers would not be a necessity going forward because of the cost, and that the National FFA Officer address, mixed with State Officer Retiring Addresses, would be enough to replace the keynotes. As for the convention social, they are still looking into the ice cream idea, which has been referred to the Alumni and Supporters. They are comparing the costs of purchasing ice cream versus an ice cream truck.

**Motion by Aaron Foote to accept the committee report as read.  
There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

*Kathryn Giovanelli re-assumed the duties of the chair.*

**VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report**

Kathryn demonstrated the use “Parliamentary Inquiry”. Parliamentary Inquiry is an incidental motion used when a member needs clarification on the rules or the proper procedure related to what is happening in the meeting. This motion allows a member to ask the chair a question related to parliamentary procedure so they can participate correctly. It is an incidental motion and may interrupt a speaker if necessary for clarity. This is not debatable, not amendable, and requires no vote.

**VII. Executive Committee Report**

Tyler asked the State Officers what their favorite memories from FFA week are, and something new they learnt from the panelists or from the mix and mingle at ALLD.

**VIII. Foundation Report**

No report. Their next meeting will be on April 14, 2026.

**X. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report**

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, they had a meeting. Aaron gave a report on everything the officers have done since the last Alumni meeting in December. He asked the board if they would be willing to sponsor 2 WLC scholarships, and they said they would. They talked about Give FFA Day last year, which we received \$1,000, and this year they wanted 100% board participation, and this year \$2,050 was given. There will also be a sock fundraiser at State Convention in the Alumni Nation Store. They also revisited the Constitution & By Laws try to get more people to stay on the board.

**XI. Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report**

The FANR Education Advisory Council meeting was held on January 22, 2026 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 I gave a quick report on the Association’s operations throughout the year. The council spoke about Rutgers teachers programs, chapter advisory boards, and we heard from David McNair from the Office of Career and Technical Education, NJDOE. The next meeting is May 20, 2026 at the 97<sup>th</sup> NJ State FFA Convention.

**XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report**

The committee met on February 18<sup>th</sup>, the Ag Society held their meeting right before their Gratitude at the Grange event, which was a potluck dinner to give thanks to everyone who supported Farmers Against Hunger. During the meeting, Kathryn spoke about FFA involvement during the Ag Convention and upcoming events during FFA Week. They also discussed the Ag Society Gala and the Walk in the Park Event.

## **XII. Equine Advisory Board**

At the Equine Advisory Board Meeting, Ivy discussed how well the winter CDEs went and mentioned the different CDEs. She also mentioned Kathryn's Ag convention speech, the different expo booths, and that we stayed for the amazing dinner at the end. Then she spoke about SOCS and how the team is excited to see who the new team is this coming May. She talked about the upcoming event, National FFA Week, the state's social media challenges, and our different chapter requests! During the meeting, members from different clubs spoke about any events they held as well as events they had, like the Ag convention and the different equine meetings that were happening while there.

## **XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators**

Mr. Cruzan discussed the NAAE Region VI Conference will take place from March 19-21, 2026 in Maryland and the ACTE National Policy Seminar held in Washington D.C. from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. They have begun planning their summer conference, which are being held in the Northern Region in August at Essex West Caldwell. The next meeting will be on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **XIV. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Banquet Speech Workshop**

The Banquet Speech Workshop took place on February 6, 2026, at the Rutgers Eco Complex. State Officers presented the progress they had made on their Banquet Speeches to family, advisors, teammates, and supporters in order to receive valuable feedback and reflect on their success and accomplishments throughout the year.

### **B. Fuel-Up Retreat**

The State Officers spent the weekend of February 19-22, 2026 in North Wildwood. They had some team bonding activities, planned for State Convention, worked on session titles and themes, and began to plan their retiring addresses.

### **C. National FFA Week**

National FFA Week was very successful. Many people participated in the state social media challenges, and the officers held a great ALLD on Thursday. The officers also visited chapters while they celebrated FFA week with their own events.

### **D. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day**

ALLD was held on February 26, 2026 at The College of New Jersey. We had over 315 members, advisors, and guests present. Throughout the day, there was a college and career fair, legislators who spoke to us, a symposium focused on AGvocating with purpose and what that looks like for each of us, and leadership workshops that were run by the state officer team. The Teach Agriculture event was also held throughout the day, where members learned about a career in agriculture education, what a day-to-day looks like for an ag teacher, and how to create lesson plans.

### **E. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala**

All officers will be attending the gala this coming Saturday in order to assist in the event and network with other attendees.

### **F. Horticultural Exposition**

Horticultural Expo set-up will take place on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00pm. The Horticultural Exposition will take place from March 13 - 14, 2026 at Mercer County Community College. The state officers in charge of different shifts on Saturday. Members can

express their creativity and floral design abilities through their arrangements. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**G. National Ag Day**

National Agriculture Day will take place on March 24, 2026. As mentioned previously, State Officers have the ability to participate in an online session focused on agriculture during this nationwide and monumental day. It is so far undetermined whether or not we will receive any State Officer Requests for this day.

**H. Preliminary LDEs**

Preliminary LDEs are March 24-26, 2026. The Northern Region will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> with PJ, and Nina in attendance. The Central Region will be held on the March 25<sup>th</sup>, with Kathryn, Kayla, and Bre in attendance. The Southern Region will be held on the March 26<sup>th</sup>, with Abi, Ivy, Tyler, and Aaron in attendance. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**I. Virtual Judging Applications**

From April 3-9, 2026, virtual application judging will take place for all applications that come in on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Officers need to get the applications judged that are assigned to them and have them submitted by April 9<sup>th</sup>. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**J. Livestock Evaluation CDE**

Livestock Evaluation has had a date change from April 11<sup>th</sup> to April 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Allen will be there as the office representative. It is still at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, PA. Peter Delcollo and Nina Weiland will be the State Officers present. Currently there are 20 students from 5 chapters registered. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**K. Spring CDEs**

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Springs CDEs will be held at Rutgers University. The CDEs hosted are Agricultural Sales, Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems, Agronomy, Environmental & Natural Resources, Poultry Evaluation, and Veterinary Science. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**L. Horse Evaluation CDE**

The Horse Evaluation CDE will be taking place at the Gloucester County Dream Park on Sunday, April 19, 2026. Registration begins at 8:00 AM that day. This is in conjunction with the New Jersey State 4-H Horse Evaluation Event. Kathryn Giovanelli and PJ DelCollo will be in attendance along with Mrs. McCluskey. There are 28 students from 7 chapters currently registered. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**M. State Convention**

**a. Delegate Issues**

The delegates, two from every chapter, will meet during the state convention to discuss issues handed to them by our committees. Our committee chairs must plan to have committee meetings soon in order to create schedules for the delegate sessions during state convention.

**b. Statewide Community Service Project**

The team has shared their flyers on social media and started recording our promo videos for the Pawsitivecare project So far, they have recorded Aaron's, Kayla's, Abi's, and Ivy's Videos. They are only missing PJ's, Bre's, and Kathryn's videos so that they

can be posted once a week until state convention. We are also nearing the point of construction on the sensory garden from last year's statewide community service. An email has been sent asking if any chapters are willing to help with construction. Opens April 11<sup>th</sup>, while building April 1-3, 2026 in Hamilton, NJ.

**N. Chapter Visit Updates**

All Chapter Visits have been completed, and the last one has been scheduled. Everyone has kept up with sending emails out and creating their social media posts after the visit.

**O. Team Goal Action Plan**

Community service videos will be posted to hopefully boost our day of service involvement. There are a couple of things that have been turned in late this month, so Officers will be sure to stay on top of deadlines to maintain their goal. We have posted information about LDEs as well as personal stories about LDEs to work towards our regional participation goal.

**XV. New Business**

**A. Selection of the State Convention T-Shirt Design**

There were five designs that were submitted and evaluated by the executive board. The winner of this design will be recognized on stage during the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Session with a certificate, a free t-shirt and a \$25.00 gift certificate to Alumni Nation (FFA store at State Convention).

**Motion by Tyler Murnaghan** to select design E, which was designed by Payton Seamster from the Penns Grove FFA Chapter as this year's State Convention T-Shirt design winner.

**Seconded by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera. Motion passed.**

**B. Retiring Address Workshop**

The Retiring Address Workshop is hosted by the NJ FFA Alumni & Supporters. This event will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at the Rutgers EcoComplex. State Officers are to arrive by 5:00 pm in official dress. They will receive feedback from the State Alumni Board as well as past State Officers on how to improve their Retiring Addresses to get ready for State Convention. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**C. Agriscience Fair**

The Agriscience Fair will take place on April 29, 2026, at the Rutgers Eco Complex. Officers will be there from 2 pm-6 pm. The event starts at 3:30. FFA members can show off their hard work and final projects to judges. Breanna Rosmarin and Aaron Foote will be the state officers in attendance with Ms. Allen. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**D. Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE**

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE will take place on May 2, 2026, at Spring Run Dairy in Hunterdon County. Students can show off their skills and evaluate dairy cattle. The officers in attendance are Breanna Rosmarin and Kayla Romero with Ms. Allen. Registration begins at 8:30. A more detailed email will be provided from Ms. Allen.

**E. Agriculture/ Agricultural Education Issues Discussion**

Breanna discussed one agricultural issue that has been on her mind lately: how heavy amounts of snow affect agriculture. She decided to research the topic and found mixed responses. For positives, snow is an insulator and a nutrient source for soil. While researching, she found that snow protects fall-seeded crops from freezing. However, snow can also be bad for crops and for farmers. It causes structural hazards and boundaries, and also causes delays in spring planting. It creates a higher risk for greenhouse collapse and initiates higher energy costs in livestock. She also wanted to hear some personal anecdotes, so she asked Kathryn how she maintains her goats after a snowstorm, and heard from her that she has to dig them a path. Breanna said she can see how this would be difficult for agricultural producers, especially on a large scale.

**F. Member of the Month**

The executive board evaluated the member of the month applications.

**Motion by Tyler Murnaghan** to select Gianna Hart of the Cape May Tech FFA Chapter as March's Member of the Month.

**Seconded by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera. Motion passes.**

**G. State Officer Milage**

Kathryn, Breanna, Kayla, Abigale, Peter, and Aaron submitted for February. All mileage reports are due each month before the start of the state meeting.

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 6, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

**NJ FFA Association  
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**

Cash Basis

As of February 28, 2026

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
<b>FFA</b>							59,426.00
Deposit	02/02/2026		Deposit	-SPLIT-	4,071.90	4,071.90	63,497.90
Check	02/02/2026	US Bank	Staats - Hort Expo ribbons	P8 (Hort Expo - Expense)	-276.17	-276.17	63,221.73
Check	02/02/2026	US Bank	BJs - Meat CDE supplies	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-70.20	-70.20	63,151.53
Check	02/02/2026	US Bank	Shop Rite - Food Science CDE supplies	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-127.81	-127.81	63,023.72
Check	02/02/2026	Twin Oaks Caterer	MLS lunch boxes	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)	-335.80	-335.80	62,687.92
Deposit	02/10/2026		Deposit	-SPLIT-	6,545.00	6,545.00	69,232.92
Deposit	02/20/2026		Deposit	Undeposited Funds	30.00	30.00	69,262.92
Total FFA						<u>9,836.92</u>	<u>69,262.92</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>						<u><b>9,836.92</b></u>	<u><b>69,262.92</b></u>

1. Opening Balance on February 1, 2026 was \$59,426.00

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2. Closing Balance on February 28, 2026 was \$69,262.92

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3. Treasurer's report passes pending audit

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Monday, March 2, 2026

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email** bearosmarin@gmail.com

**Committee Name** State Convention Evaluation

**Date** Wednesday, February 18, 2026

### Committee Members Present

Abi DiGiamberardino  
Aaron Foote  
Mr. Liam Ryan

**Committee Members Absent** N/A

### Purpose of Meeting

To determine potential keynote speakers for State Convention

To determine whether or not keynote speakers are a necessary investment going forward

To finalize ideas for the State Convention Social

### Recommended Actions

Our committee recommended as potential keynote speakers: Artha Jonassaint, Thaddeus Bergschneider, and Ryan Williamson, with Artha noted as our top choice. We ruled that keynote speakers would not be a necessity going forward because of the cost, and that the National FFA Officer address mixed with State Officer Retiring Addresses would be enough to replace the keynotes. As for the convention social, we are still looking into the ice cream idea which has been referred to the Alumni and Supporters. They are comparing costs between purchasing ice cream versus an ice cream truck.

### Comments

N/A

**Chairperson** Breanna Rosmarin

**Secretary** Abi DiGiamberardino

**Chairperson Signature**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BR", written over a light blue background.