



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

*"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: January 15, 2025

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting  
**Monday, February 3, 2025 – 4:00 pm.**  
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 2024-2025.

### AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies
- II. Minutes from the January 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. 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 Agriculture Educators Report – Mr. Dale Cruzan**
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Banquet Speech Workshop (January 17, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
  - B. State Officer Candidates' School (January 25, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
  - C. Winter CDEs (February 5, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
  - D. New Jersey Agricultural Convention (February 5-6, 2025) – Niccolo Conte
  - E. Fuel Up Retreat (February 13-16, 2025) – William Rutherford
  - F. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day (February 20, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
  - G. National FFA Week (February 15-22, 2025) – Nina Weiland
  - H. Horticultural Exposition (March 14-15, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
  - I. National Ag Day (March 18, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
  - J. Statewide Community Service project – Nina Weiland
  - K. Chapter Visit Updates – William Rutherford
  - L. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
- XV. New Business**
  - A. Selection of Honorary State Degree and Distinguished Service Recipients – William Rutherford
  - B. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala (March 29, 2025) – Niccolo Conte
  - C. Horse Evaluation CDE (April 6, 2025) – Nina Weiland
  - D. PA Day CDEs (April 8, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
  - E. Spring CDEs (April 10, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
  - F. State Convention (May 21-23, 2025)
    - 1. Cost Analysis – Abrianna Portillo
    - 2. Delegate Issues – Tyler Murnaghan
  - E. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – Tyler Murnaghan
  - F. Member of the Month – William Rutherford
  - G. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting – March 3, 2025  
New Jersey Department of Ag Building  
4:00 pm*

**New Jersey FFA Association  
Minutes from the January 13, 2025 Meeting**

**I. Opening Ceremonies**

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 10:53 am. The voting members in attendance were Niccolo Conte, Allison Josielewski, Abrianna Portillo, Nina Weiland, and William Rutherford. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble and Ms. Allen.

**II. Minutes from December's State Meeting**

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

**Seconded by Allison Josielewski. Motion passed.**

**III. Treasurer's Report**

The opening balance for the month was \$54,910.61 and the closing balance was \$62,551.54.

**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 January 22, 2025.

**C. State Leadership Activities**

The State Executive Board received feedback from chapter advisors regarding changes to New Jersey FFA Leadership Conferences. This committee will meet soon to discuss the proposed proposal to maximize leadership opportunities while recognizing the changing school landscape, understanding transportation costs, and respecting teacher's time outside the classroom. This will then be brought to the delegates at State Convention.

**D. State Applications**

There is a meeting scheduled for January 14, 2025.

The State Executive Board received feedback from chapter advisors regarding state applications. New Jersey FFA Association continues to explore ways to utilize AET to enhance efficient of record-keeping, simplify workloads, and ensure consistent data management for reporting. Applications already being used in AET can help us do just that. Eliminating standalone FFA applications and combining them with an existing application streamlines the process, reducing redundancy, and making for more efficient for chapters.

**Motion by Niccolo Conte** to accept the New Jersey FFA Applications proposal and add the Grow Beyond award to take the place of the Most Improved Chapter Award for chapters who completed National Chapter Form I but moved up to Form II.

**Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passed.**

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

No report.

**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 proper opening ceremonies.

**VII. Executive Committee Report**

No report.

**VIII. Foundation Report**

No report as the next meeting is on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm via zoom.

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

The State FFA Alumni & Supporters met on December 11, 2024. They discussed the annual golf tournament location for June 24, 2025. The Blue Corduroy Connection dinner that will take place at O'Connors in Mount Holly on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The State Officer Banquet Speech Workshop will be on Friday, January 17, 2025 at the Rutgers EcoComplex starting at 6:00 pm to help prepare the state officers for chapter banquet season in May and June.

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

No report as the next meeting is on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the New Jersey State Ag Convention.

**XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report**

No report as the next meeting is on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**XII. Equine Advisory Board**

No report.

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

The NJAAE has been busy with the New Crop, Who Dis series, which includes lessons on FFA Resources by FFA Ambassadors, and the Book Club. NJAAE also had a productive discussion with Mrs. Noble at the Member Leadership Series conference about the NJ FFA Award Program and how we can improve it. The next meeting of the NJAAE will be held on Tuesday, January 21 through Zoom/Google Meet. All are welcome. If anyone is interested in attending to learn about NJAAE, please let me know and I can share the link.

**XIV. Unfinished Business**

**A. Connect Conference "Member Leadership Series"**

This conference was held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers University. The conference was facilitated by national facilitators, and state officers acted as hosts/participants during the event. Students at the Member Leadership Series Connect Conference evaluate their role in helping others feel connected and analyze why an effort to

connect with others must be made. We discovered tools and processes to cultivate healthy relationships and examined the relationship between trust and influence. Students left the conference motivated to create change and build stronger, healthier relationships. The State Executive Board reviewed the evaluations from the conference.

**B. Teach Ag Recruitment Event**

The Teach Ag event was for FFA members interested in becoming Agriculture Teachers. At this event Chase Sherburne and William Rutherford presented a workshop called “Why Teach Ag” to cover what it's like to be an ag teacher, Ms. Miller as the President of the NJAAE presented a workshop on teacher professional organizations and why it benefits them when they become teachers. Abrianna Portillo moderated the Ag Teacher Networking session, where students in attendance had the opportunity to speaking with five current agricultural educators about their journey to teaching, what they teach and where they teach at. Nina Weiland presented a workshop called “College 101”. Niccolo Conte moderated a question-and-answer panel with the members on how to balance FFA and college. The State Executive Board reviewed the evaluations from the event.

**C. Holiday Party**

The State Officers and State Staff had a great time at their Holiday Party. They had a cookie decorating competition, potluck dinner and exchanged gifts.

**D. Banquet Speech Workshop**

The State Officers will be attending the banquet speech workshop being hosted by the Alumni to give the State Officers feedback on their speeches. This will be held at the Rutgers Eco Complex on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**E. State Officer Candidate School**

State Officer Candidates’ School will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at Stone Bridge Middle School in Allentown. State Officer Candidate School is for members interested in becoming state officer and for those who would like to serve on the nominating committee. Niccolo, Allison, Tyler, Nina, and William will set up on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.

**F. New Jersey State Ag Convention**

The NJ State Ag Convention will be held February 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at the Harrah’s Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. All state officers will be present, and Niccolo Conte will be delivering his speech.

**G. Winter CDEs**

Winter Career Development Events will be held in person on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Harrah’s Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. The CDEs that are being held are Meat Evaluation and Technology and Farm and Agribusiness Management.

**H. Fuel Up Retreat**

The State Officers will be spending time together on February 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood. They will be planning for State Convention and begin working on their retiring addresses.

**I. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day**

ALLD will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at The College of New Jersey, the theme for this year's event is "It's all Ag." There will be legislators, guest speakers, and a panel of individuals from diverse areas who work with different career areas in the agricultural industry. The state officers will be presented a large group workshop and their own individual workshops.

**J. National FFA Week**

National FFA Week is February 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, this is where we celebrate FFA. The chapters can create their own themed days and take part in the National FFA themed days on their social media. Chapters have been submitting their requests to have a state officer.

**K. Chapter Visit Updates**

The State Officers have been completing their chapter visits accordingly and only have a few visits to complete. Before the meeting, Middlesex Piscataway was charted as the 38<sup>th</sup> FFA Chapter in New Jersey.

**L. 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. Horticultural Exposition**

The Horticultural Exposition will take place from March 14<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> at Mercer County Community College. FFA members can participate in creating arrangements for the Horticultural Exposition, participate in the Floriculture CDE, attend industry-based workshops and take a campus tour. State Officers will set up on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

**B. 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.

**C. 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.

**D. Statewide Community Service Project**

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.

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

Allison Josielewski spoke about the problems facing agriculture across the continental United States because of blizzard conditions, snow, and ice in the east and wildfires in California.

**F. Member of the Month**

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

**Motion by William Rutherford** to select Paige Conroy of the Allentown FFA Chapter as January's Member of the Month.

**Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passes.**

**G. State Officer Mileage**

Abrianna turned in her mileage for the month of December.

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm. The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2025 at 4:00 pm in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference room, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Building.

2:18 PM

September 3, 2024

Cash Basis

**NJ FFA Association**  
**Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**  
As of August 31, 2024

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
<b>FFA</b>							148,840.78
Check	08/01/2024	National FFA Org	second batch of new SO Team jackets	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-255.00	-255.00	148,585.78
Check	08/01/2024	Davison, Eastman ...	additional legal work	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-200.00	-200.00	148,385.78
Check	08/06/2024	National FFA Organ...	National CDE registration	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)	-960.00	-960.00	147,425.78
Check	08/07/2024	National FFA Org	SO jacket for W. Rutherford	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-94.00	-94.00	147,331.78
Check	08/08/2024	Bank of America	Allstate - J. Moreno motorclub renewal	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-179.00	-179.00	147,152.78
Check	08/08/2024	Bank of America	Shoprite - Checkpoint 1 lunches	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-221.49	-221.49	146,931.29
Check	08/08/2024	Bank of America	Checkpoint 1 Tues dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-177.06	-177.06	146,754.23
Check	08/08/2024	Bank of America	Checkpoint 1 Wed dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-173.68	-173.68	146,580.55
Check	08/08/2024	Bank of America	Checkpoint 1 Thurs dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-64.16	-64.16	146,516.39
Check	08/14/2024	Bank of America	LEAD hotel deposit	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-2,000.00	-2,000.00	144,516.39
Check	08/21/2024	National FFA Org	handbooks	P1 (Dues/Memberships-Expense)	-2,145.00	-2,145.00	142,371.39
Total FFA						-6,469.39	142,371.39
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>-6,469.39</b>	<b>142,371.39</b>