



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
200 Riverview Plaza, 3rd 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: December 12, 2025

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
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) 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 JANUARY STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies
- II. Minutes from the December 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 – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
 - D. State Applications – Peter DelCollo
 - 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. “Member Leadership Series” Conference (December 13, 2025) – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
- B. Teach Ag Recruitment Event (December 13, 2025) – Kayla Romero
- C. Holiday Party (December 17, 2025) – Abigale DiGiamberardino
- D. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (January 3-16, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
- E. New Jersey State Agricultural Convention (January 20-23, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
- F. Winter CDEs (January 22, 2026) – Aaron Foote
- G. State Officer Candidates’ School (January 31, 2026) – Kayla Romero
- H. Banquet Speech Workshop (February 6, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
- I. Fuel Up Retreat (February 19-22, 2026) – Kayla Romero
- J. National FFA Week (February 21-28, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
- K. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day (February 26, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
- L. Chapter Visit Updates – Peter DelCollo
- M. Team Goal Action Plan – Kathryn Giovanelli

XV. New Business

- A. Horticultural Exposition (March 13-14, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
- B. National Ag Day (March 24, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
- C. Preliminary LDEs (March 24-26, 2026) – Aaron Foote
- D. Statewide Community Service Project – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
- E. Agriculture/Agricultural Education Issues Discussion – Kathryn Giovanelli
- F. Member of the Month – Tyler Murnaghan
- G. State Officer Mileage – Abigale DiGiamberardino

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

*Next State Meeting- February 2, 2026
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
4:00 p.m.*

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the December 1, 2025 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, Abigale DiGiamberardino, Ivanelisse Pena Rivera, Peter DelCollo, Aaron Foote, Tyler Murnaghan, Nina Weiland, and Mr. Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen, and Ms. McCluskey.

II. Minutes from November State Meeting

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

Seconded by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the month was \$47,906.57 and the closing balance was \$57,467.57.

Motion by Abigale DiGiamberardino to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

Motion passed pending audit.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

Gianna Hart from the Cape May Tech FFA Chapter was present at this month's meeting.

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.

Motion by Aaron Foote to move to add a written exam portion to the Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management and Livestock Evaluation Career Development Events.

Seconded by Abigale DiGiamberardino. Motion passed.

F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review

No report.

G. State Convention Evaluation & Review

No report.

Kathryn Giovanelli re-assumed the duties of the chair.

- VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report**
Kathryn Giovanelli demonstrated the use of the “Commit or Refer to a Committee” motion. The motion to Commit or Refer to a Committee is used to send a pending motion to a committee for further study or recommendation. It requires a majority vote to pass. Debate is allowed, but only on the referral details.
- VII. Executive Committee Report**
Tyler asked the State Officers three questions about completing the first 6 months of being State Officers: What has been your biggest achievement, What are you most excited for, and What is one thing you can improve on.
- VIII. Foundation Report**
No report. Their next meeting will be on December 10, 2025.
- X. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report**
No report. Their next meeting will be on January 13, 2026.
- XI. Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report**
No report. Their next meeting will be during the New Jersey State Ag Convention.
- XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report**
Their last meeting was on November 12th. During this meeting there were updates from the Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, and the State Board of Agriculture. There was discussion regarding Farmer’s Against Hunger and the new acres they are going to be seeking (1,000 more in Camden County and 1,000 more in the Joint Military Base). The Department of Agriculture is going to be releasing a grant for \$5 million for agrotourism. Kathryn discussed the Leadership Experience and Development Conference and the 98th National FFA Convention.
- XII. Equine Advisory Board**
At the Equine Advisory Board Meeting, Peter discussed National Convention and what the role of State Officers was before and during convention. He also discussed Fall Career Development Events that were upcoming. During the meeting, there were discussions about dues still needing to be turned in from different clubs, fundraisers that different clubs were organizing, as well as Rutgers University events and any upcoming horse shows. They also discussed the EHV-1 Virus that is currently going around which can cause respiratory disease, neurological issues, and reproductive problems.
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators**
Mr. Cruzan reported about what will be discussed upcoming events, the summer conference details, and the book club. There will be a few representatives from New Jersey at the ACTE conference held at the end of November into early December.
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
- A. Checkpoint #2**
State Officer Checkpoint #2 was held November 14-15, 2025 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. Lindsey Augustine was the facilitator. State officers learned about team dynamics, speech writing and delivery, and relearned the magic formula. They also began the process of writing their banquet speeches.

B. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention

The New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention was held on November 17-18, 2025. Kathryn Giovanelli had the opportunity to speak at this convention. She shared her agricultural story and how small decisions can make a big impact.

C. Fall Career Development Events

Fall CDEs were held on November 20, 2025 at Rutgers University. The first-place teams include: Newton for Forestry, Monmouth County for Fruit and Vegetables, Newton for Land Judging, Bergen County Academies for Milk Quality and Products, and Allentown for Turf Management. The executive board reviewed the Event Evaluations and Results.

D. Member Leadership Series Conference

This conference is being held on December 13th at Rutgers University. State Officers are to arrive at 7:45 am to set-up in official dress and be prepared to help the National Facilitators throughout the day. There are 81 students registered to attend this year's conference.

E. Teach Ag Recruitment Event

The Teach Ag Recruitment event is held in conjunction with the Member Leadership Series Conference. At this event, FFA members and Rutgers University students will be able to learn more about the profession through workshops facilitated by State Officers and Executive Committee Members as well as having conversations with current agricultural teachers. There are currently 22 students registered to attend this year's event.

F. Holiday Party

State Officers are having a holiday party at Mrs. Noble's house on December 17th at 6:00 pm following the month's work session meeting. The officers will be bringing either a side dish or dessert based on their sign-ups at the last meeting. The state officers are also doing a secret Santa with each other.

G. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers

They have completed their final unit of the curriculum — in fact, all required coursework is now finished. We're currently waiting on an email with their final scores and details on how much funding National FFA will contribute toward the trip. As of now, Aaron is 7th on the waitlist.

H. New Jersey State Agricultural Convention

The NJ State Agricultural Convention will be held January 20-23, 2026 at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ. All state officers and executive committee members will be present and will be attending the convention dinner. Kathryn will be delivering her speech during the convention.

I. Winter CDEs

Winter Career Development Events will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ. The CDEs that are being held are Agriculture Communications, Farm and Agribusiness Management, Food Science and Technology, and Meats Evaluation and Technology.

J. State Officer Candidates' School

State Officer Candidates' School is being held on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Stone Bridge Middle School in Allentown. State Officers have begun preparing their workshops of this event and are excited to meet all the possible candidates. The state officers reviewed the list of potential State Officer Candidates before the invitations are mailed out. Tyler and Nina shared their ice breaker.

K. Banquet Speech Workshop

The State Alumni & Supporters will host the annual State Officer Banquet Speech Workshop for the state officers on Friday, February 6, 2026. This event is where the state officers read their speeches in front of Alumni, parents, state staff, executive committee members, and each other to get feedback before the banquet season.

L. Chapter Visit Updates

Most of the visits have now been confirmed. The state officers have been completing their events and posting photos on the state's social media accounts.

M. Team Goal Action Plan

The State Officers are committed to achieving the Team Goal Action Plan for 2025-2026.

XV. New Business

A. Event Cost Analysis

The Executive Board reviewed the Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day and Horticultural Exposition cost analysis as presented.

Motion by Abigale DiGiamberardino to accept the cost increase of \$2.00 for Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day.

Seconded by Aaron Foote. Motion Passes.

Motion by Abigale DiGiamberardino to keep the cost of Horticultural Exposition entries at \$7.00 each.

Seconded by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera. Motion Passes.

B. Fuel-Up Retreat

The State Officers will be spending time together on February 19th – 22nd at a beach house in Wildwood. They will be planning for State Convention and begin working on their retiring addresses.

C. National FFA Week

National FFA Week is February 21st – 28th, this is where we celebrate FFA. The chapters hold their own events and themed days, as well as invite the State Officers to be a part of their events.

D. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day

ALLD is held on February 26th at The College of New Jersey. The theme for this year is "AGvocating with Purpose".

E. Agriculture/ Agricultural Education Issues Discussion

Aaron discussed rising fertilizer and fuel costs are putting major financial pressure on U.S. farmers, especially family farms that can't simply raise crop prices to cover increasing expenses.

F. Member of the Month

The executive board evaluated the member of the month applications.

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to select Tierney Lang of the Allentown FFA Chapter as December's Member of the Month.

Seconded by Aaron Foote. Motion passes.

G. State Officer Milage

Kathryn, Breanna, Abigale, Ivanelisse, and Peter submitted for the month of November. All mileage reports are due each month prior to the start of the state meeting.

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 5, 2026, at 9:00 am.

3:04 PM

November 26, 2025

Cash Basis

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of November 30, 2025

	Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
FFA								47,906.57 1
	Deposit	11/05/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-	3,932.00	3,932.00	51,838.57
	Check	11/05/2025	American Income Life I...	state officer insurance	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-67.50	-67.50	51,771.07
	Deposit	11/07/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-	9,538.00	9,538.00	61,309.07
	Check	11/13/2025	Jenny Allen	end of year items	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-168.50	-168.50	61,140.57
	Check	11/13/2025	Amazon	LEAD supplies	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-12.74	-12.74	61,127.83
	Check	11/13/2025	Selective Insurance	supplemental event insurance	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-805.33	-805.33	60,322.50
	Check	11/13/2025	Indiana Convnetion Ce...	Welcome Breakfast	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)	-4,767.84	-4,767.84	55,554.66
	Check	11/13/2025	Crowne Plaza	LEAD lunch for state officers	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-284.00	-284.00	55,270.66
	Deposit	11/20/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-	8,933.00	8,933.00	64,203.66
	Check	11/20/2025	Crowne Plaza	LEAD breakfast for state officers	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-265.07	-265.07	63,938.59
	Check	11/20/2025	Crowne Plaza	LEAD lodging	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-732.00	-732.00	63,206.59
	Check	11/20/2025	The Westin	National Convention lodging	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)	-4,759.56	-4,759.56	58,447.03
	Check	11/25/2025	Halo Branded Solutions	thank you gifts	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-979.46	-979.46	57,467.57
Total FFA							9,561.00	57,467.57 2
TOTAL							9,561.00	57,467.57 3

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of November 30, 2025

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- 1. The opening balance on November 1, 2025 was \$47,906.57
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 - 2. The closing balance on November 30, 2025 was \$57,467.57
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 - 3. Treasurer's report passes pending audit
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