



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: February 9, 2026

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting  
**Monday, March 2, 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 MARCH STATE MEETING

- I. **Opening Ceremonies**
- II. **Minutes from the February 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. Banquet Speech Workshop (February 6, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
  - B. Fuel Up Retreat (February 19-22, 2026) – Kayla Romero
  - C. National FFA Week (February 21-28, 2026) – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
  - D. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day (February 26, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
  - E. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala (March 7, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - F. Horticultural Exposition (March 13-14, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - G. National Ag Day (March 24, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
  - H. Preliminary LDEs (March 24-26, 2026) – Aaron Foote
  - I. Virtual Judging Applications (April 3-9, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
  - J. Livestock Evaluation CDEs (April 11, 2026) – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
  - K. Spring CDEs (April 16, 2026) – Aaron Foote
  - L. Horse Evaluation CDEs (April 19, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
  - M. State Convention (May 20-22, 2026)
    - a. Delegate Issues – Breanna Rosmarin
    - b. Statewide Community Service Project – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
  - N. Chapter Visit Updates – Peter DelCollo
  - O. Team Goal Action Plan – Kathryn Giovanelli
- XV. New Business**
  - A. Selection of the State Convention T-Shirt Design – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
  - B. Retiring Address Workshop (April 8, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - C. Agriscience Fair (April 29, 2026) – Kayla Romero
  - D. Dairy Cattle Evaluation (May 2, 2026) – Aaron Foote
  - E. Agriculture/Agricultural Education Issues Discussion – Breanna Rosmarin
  - F. Member of the Month – Tyler Murnaghan
  - G. State Officer Mileage – Abigale DiGiamberardino

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting- April 6, 2026  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
4:00 p.m.*

**New Jersey FFA Association  
Minutes from the February 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, Kayla Romero, Ivanelisse Pena Rivera, 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 January 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 \$58,428.99 and the closing balance was \$59,426.00.

**Motion by Tyler Murnaghan** to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

**Motion passed pending audit.**

**IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance**

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

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

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

**Motion by Aaron Foote** to excuse the absence of Breanna Rosmarin pending a doctor's note.

**Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.**

**V. Committee Reports**

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

No report.

**B. Membership & Chapter Relations**

Discussion was made regarding the Chapter Membership Data form. The Committee met to discuss where membership stood, how things were going with the Chapter Highlights, and how social media was progressing in terms of member involvement. They also talked about ideas for more social media posts, a post with specifics on the Chapter Highlights, and a post sharing information about state convention and other upcoming events.

**Motion by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera** to accept the committee report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

**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**

No report.

### **VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report**

Kathryn demonstrated the use “Question of Privilege”. This action is used to address a matter affecting the rights, comfort, or privileges of the members or the assembly. This motion allows a member to request immediate attention to an issue such as room temperature, noise, personal comfort, or the ability to hear proceedings. This is not debatable, not amendable and a second is not required.

### **VII. Executive Committee Report**

Tyler asked the State Officers about potential state officers from S.O.C.S and how to continue to reach out to them and the members.

### **VIII. Foundation Report**

At the last State FFA Foundation meeting, the discusses financial decisions, as well as scholarships.

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

No report. Their next meeting will be on February 11, 2026.

### **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 and talked about Ag convention, the Agricultural Society Gala, and other events. They also discussed the awards that will be distributed during the event, and nominations were made. They heard updates from the Secretary of Agriculture and the Board of Agriculture President. Kathryn discussed FFA events that have happened since the last meeting, as well as what will be happening in the upcoming months. They voted to donate towards Peters’ ILSSO trip as well as sponsor the 3-5 and 6-8 Minute Public Speaking Event awards that will be presented at State Convention.

### **XII. Equine Advisory Board**

At the Equine Advisory Board Meeting, Peter discussed his adventures on the ILSSO trip to Spain, as well as the upcoming CDEs we were holding at Ag Convention. During the meeting, members from different clubs spoke about any events they held as well as events upcoming, the Ag convention and any equine meetings that were happening while there, and the horse gala that they hold each year, and choosing a new location.

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

They recapped the NAAE convention, which took place in Nashville, TN. The committees are still meeting and working on various pieces. A delegate was present during the Ag Convention. They have begun planning their summer conference, which are being held in the Northern Region in August at Essex West Caldwell.

## **XIV. Unfinished Business**

### **A. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers**

From January 3 – 16, 2026, Peter was on the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers with National FFA in Spain. While there, they toured many different agricultural businesses such as a beef farm, a red fruit farm, a family-run dairy farm, an oil and cork factory, bull fighting farm, and much more. While in Barcelona, Seville, Toledo, Cordoba, and Madrid, they got a panoramic tour of each city, and had time to explore the rich history of each one and see many amazing places such as the Real Alcazar Palace, the mosque cathedral, a real-time bull fighting arena, and so much more. This trip was the opportunity of a lifetime, and Peter is very grateful that he got to experience it and be a part of it.

### **B. New Jersey State Agricultural Convention**

The NJ State Agricultural Convention will be held January 21-23, 2026 at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ. Kathryn spoke at the Ag convention to advocate for agricultural education with the hopes that the delegates will that action after hearing her speech. Officers also had the opportunity to meet many industry representatives and interact with agricultural ambassadors.

### **C. 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 first-place teams include: Union County for Ag Communications, Newton for Farm and Agribusiness Management, Bergen County Academies for Food Science & Technology, and Woodstown for Meat Evaluation and Technology.

### **D. State Officer Candidates' School**

State Officer Candidates' School was held on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Stone Bridge Middle School in Allentown. With an amazing theme of Dino-Mite, there were 42 FFA members in attendance to learn more about the process of becoming a state officer and being a part of the nominating committee process.

### **E. 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. State Officers read their speeches to Alumni, parents, advisors, state staff, and fellow officers to receive feedback to be prepared for chapter banquets.

### **F. Fuel-Up Retreat**

The State Officers will be spending time together on February 19–22, 2026 in Wildwood. They will be planning for State Convention and begin working on their retiring addresses. They discussed the meals they will be having to develop the grocery list.

### **G. National FFA Week**

National FFA Week is February 21-28, 2026, this is where we celebrate FFA. The State Officers have been requested for various chapter functions to celebrate National FFA Week. They are excited to visit their respective chapters and participate in their events.

**H. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day**

ALLD is held on February 26, 2026 at The College of New Jersey. The theme for this year's event is "AGvocating with Purpose." There will be legislators, guest speakers, and a panel of individuals from diverse areas who work with different career areas in the agricultural industry. We will be presenting a large group workshop as well as being in pairs and facilitating our small group workshops. The objectives for the workshops are learning how to advocate effectively, understanding the importance of proper advocacy, identifying how to use your voice for advocating, identifying when to advocate, and demonstrating how to use the advocacy model.

**I. Horticultural Exposition**

The Horticultural Exposition will take place from March 13 - 14, 2026 at Mercer County Community College. FFA members can participate in creating arrangements for the Horticultural Exposition, participate in the Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape CDEs, attend industry-based workshops, and take a campus tour. State Officers will set up on March 12, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

**J. National Ag Day**

The National Ag Day is March 24, 2026. There is an Ag Day Essay. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to enter the National Ag Day Video Essay Contest. Participants are encouraged to explore the future of agriculture and present their thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

**K. Preliminary LDEs**

Preliminary LDEs will be held in each region: Northern – Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at Voorhees High School, Central – Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at Allentown High School and Southern – Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Salem County Vocational Technical 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.

**L. Statewide Community Service Project**

The Pawsitive Care Project is this year's Statewide Community Service Project. Chapters will be asked to collect items for the animal shelter. A Day of Service grant was received for the project.

**M. Chapter Visit Updates**

All Chapter Visits have been completed except for one, and everyone has kept up with sending emails out and creating their social media post after the visit.

**N. Team Goal Action Plan**

The officer team was very close to meeting their chapter visit goal, but not far off. They have been keeping up with fun fact Friday and there has been a posting schedule in place. Plans to promote CDEs more have been made.

**XV. New Business**

**A. Honorary State Degree and Distinguished Service Recipients**

Selection of Honorary State Degree and Distinguished Service Recipients. The executive board evaluated the 2026 Honorary State Degree and Distinguished Service Award application.

**Motion by Nina Weiland** to select Beth Murphy, Darcy Perenhinys, Jeremy Posluszny, Hanna Toft, Secretary Ed Wengryn, and Dr. Christina Wilson to receive the Honorary State Degree.

**Seconded by Aaron Foote. Motion passed.**

**Motion by Aaron Foote** to select Bullock Farms, Crofter's Fields, Cherry Knoll Apiaries, and Monmouth University Conference Services to receive the Distinguished Service Award.

**Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.**

**B. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala**

The Gala will take place on March 7, 2026 in Moorestown, NJ and will be starting at 6:00 pm. There will be legislators, business leaders, and agricultural leaders in attendance to support farmers against hunger, agricultural education, and the NJ Agricultural Leadership Program.

**C. Virtual Applications Judging**

From April 3rd to 9th, virtual application judging will take place for all applications received on April 1st.

**D. Livestock Evaluation CDE**

Livestock Evaluation CDE will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, NJ. Peter Delcollo and Nina Weiland will be the State Officers in attendance with Mrs. Noble.

**E. Spring CDEs**

Spring CDEs are being held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Rutgers University. Events include Agronomy, Agricultural Mechanics and Technology, Agricultural Sales, Environmental and Natural Resources, Poultry Evaluation, and Veterinary Science. State Officers are responsible for helping with registration, organizing students and teachers, proctoring, and taking pictures of the event.

**F. 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 Peter DelCollo will be the State Officers in attendance with Ms. McCluskey.

**G. State Convention**

**i. Cost Analysis**

Cost analysis sheets were provided for State Convention. The board looked at the cost analysis. There has been an increase in the price of the full package to \$204 and the partial package to \$65.

**Motion by Nina Weiland** to adopt a \$9 increase to the full package and a \$5 increase to the partial packages for State Convention.

**Seconded by Aaron Foote. Motion passed.**

**ii. Delegate Issues**

The executive board went over the delegate issues for State Convention and items that have to be prepared for the delegates.

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

Nina spoke about publishers paying writers to write inauthentic papers and source other articles written by publishers, so they make more money.

**I. Member of the Month**

The executive board evaluated the member of the month applications.

**Motion by Tyler Murnaghan** to select Izabella Jaramillo of the Allentown FFA Chapter as February's Member of the Month.

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

**J. State Officer Milage**

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

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 2, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

10:26 AM

January 29, 2026

Cash Basis

**NJ FFA Association**  
**Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**  
**As of January 31, 2026**

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
<b>FFA</b>							58,438.99 <b>1</b>
Deposit	01/06/2026		Deposit	-SPLIT-	2,832.00	2,832.00	61,270.99
Check	01/06/2026	US Bank	Home Depot - storage totes	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-319.78	-319.78	60,951.21
Check	01/06/2026	US Bank	Ewell Judging Card - scantrons	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-395.00	-395.00	60,556.21
Check	01/06/2026	Vegetable Growers Ass...	State Ag Convention	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-680.00	-680.00	59,876.21
Check	01/07/2026	National FFA Org	programming fee	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)	-2,200.00	-2,200.00	57,676.21
Check	01/09/2026	Upper Freehold School	SOCS room rental	P 12 (SOCS-Expense)	-72.76	-72.76	57,603.45
Deposit	01/09/2026		Deposit	P10 ALLD (Income)	30.00	30.00	57,633.45
Deposit	01/12/2026		Deposit	Undeposited Funds	90.00	90.00	57,723.45
Check	01/12/2026	US Bank	facilitator lodging	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)	-238.42	-238.42	57,485.03
Check	01/12/2026	US Bank	facilitator lodging	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)	-238.42	-238.42	57,246.61
Check	01/16/2026	National FFA Org	Hort Expo plaques	P8 (Hort Expo - Expense)	-1,863.00	-1,863.00	55,383.61
Check	01/16/2026	Rutgers, The State Uni...	MLS room rental	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)	-2,606.00	-2,606.00	52,777.61
Deposit	01/20/2026		Deposit	-SPLIT-	6,717.00	6,717.00	59,494.61
Check	01/23/2026	Erin Noble	reim for Food Science CDE supplies	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-68.61	-68.61	59,426.00
Total FFA						987.01	59,426.00 <b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>987.01</b>	<b>59,426.00 <b>3</b></b>

10:26 AM

January 29, 2026

Cash Basis

**NJ FFA Association**  
**Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**  
**As of January 31, 2026**

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1. Opening Balance on January 1, 2026 was \$58,438.99

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2. Closing Balance on January 31, 2026 was \$59,426.00

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3. Treasurer's Report passes pending audit

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Tuesday, January 6, 2026

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email** Swimmerabu11@gmail.com

**Committee Name** Membership & Chapter Relations

**Date** Monday, December 29, 2025

### Committee Members Present

Kathryn G.  
Ivy P.  
Nina W.

**Committee Members Absent** Dr. Robin Mclean

### Purpose of Meeting

To see where membership was standing and how things were going with "Chapter Highlights."

How Social media was going with member involvement

### Recommended Actions

More social media posts  
A post specific to where they can get to the highlights form.  
Posts sharing information about states and other upcoming events.

### Comments

N/A

**Chairperson** Abigale DiGiamberardino

**Secretary** Kathryn Giovanelli

### Chairperson Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abigale", written over a horizontal line.