



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: April 15, 2025

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2024 – 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 MAY STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies
- II. Minutes from the April 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. State Applications Judging (April 3-6, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - B. Horse Evaluation CDE (April 6, 2025) – Nina Weiland
 - C. PA Day CDEs (April 8, 2025) – William Rutherford
 - D. Retiring Address Workshop (April 9, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - E. Spring CDEs (April 10, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
 - F. Agriscience Fair (April 30, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - G. Dairy Cattle Evaluation – Abrianna Portillo
 - H. State Convention (May 21-23, 2025)
 - a. Timeline – Nina Weiland
 - b. Video Shoot – Abrianna Portillo
 - c. State Officers Candidates – Tyler Murnaghan
 - d. Nominating Committee – Allison Josielewski
 - e. Statewide Community Service Project – Nina Weiland
 - f. Delegate Issues for State Convention – Allison Josielewski
 - I. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
- XV. New Business**
 - A. HO Sampson Chapter Recognition –Allison Josielewski
 - B. Honorary American Degree Nominations – Niccolo Conte
 - C. Chapter Banquets – Abrianna Portillo
 - D. Summer CDE
 - 1. Safe Tractor Operations Event – Allison Josielewski
 - E. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – William Rutherford
 - F. Member of the Month – William Rutherford
 - G. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting – June 2, 2025
New Jersey Department of Ag Building
4:00 pm*

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the April 7, 2025 Meeting**

I. Opening Ceremonies

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The voting members in attendance were Niccolo Conte, Allison Josielewski, Tyler Murnaghan, Abrianna Portillo, Nina Weiland, William Rutherford, and Mr. Dale Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble and Ms. Allen.

II. Minutes from March'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 \$67,406.74 and the closing balance was \$56,034.88.

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

Motion passes pending audit.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

Guests present at this meeting were Kathryn Giovanelli and Tierney Lang from the Allentown FFA Chapter and Sherri Stupak, Allison Josielewski's mom.

Allison Josielewski assumed the duties of the chair.

V. Committee Reports

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

The committee discussed the National Affiliation for delegate members to debate. They talked about the HO Sampson changes and put them together in their delegate agenda.

Motion by Niccolo Conte to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

B. Membership & Chapter Review

The committee spoke about the Chapter Highlights Social Media Posts plan and guide. They formed the delegate agenda and reviewed the New Jersey FFA VOICES program.

Motion by Nina Weiland to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

C. State Leadership Activities

The committee discussed the successes of events from throughout the year and chose what to add within the delegate agenda including the MEGA-E, Next Gen, and State Officer Candidate proposed events.

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

D. State Applications

The committee discussed creating a scholarship application similar to WLC for the Next Gen Conference application. The Committee looked into increasing the accessibility of AET applications and put together their delegate agenda.

Motion by William Rutherford to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

The committee worked around regrouping CDEs to be more cohesive throughout the year. They talked about Ag Communications and reviewed the reception of the new Preliminary events putting together the delegate agenda.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

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 rescind. This can remove past motions, and it requires a majority vote if given notice.

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

No report as the next meeting will be held on April 9th directly after the Retiring Address Workshop at Rutgers EcoComplex.

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

No report as the next meeting will be held on May 21st at Monmouth University.

XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report

They met on March 12th to discuss the upcoming Gala and awards.

XII. Equine Advisory Board

On March 19th the board talked about reports from events including the April 6th therapeutic horse training. There are many organizations that need to renew their memberships. The Rutgers Animal Science Symposium had many signups and 4-H is planning for the Horse Evaluation event.

XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators

The Association met in March before Hort Expo. They sent a representative for the policy seminar awards coming up due May 1st. They are getting close to electing new officers and their next meeting is scheduled for State Convention.

XIV. Unfinished Business

A. Horticultural Exposition

The Horticultural Exposition took place from March 14th to March 15th at Mercer County Community College. There were 599 entries at the Horticultural Expo in the Horticulture, Fresh and Permanent Arrangement divisions. The Allentown FFA Chapter will be creating the stage decoration for the 96th NJ State FFA Convention.

B. National Ag Day

The hosts of National Ag Day set up virtual meetings for members and the New Jersey FFA Association sent out AG awareness posts on social media.

C. Preliminary LDEs

Preliminary LDEs were 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. State Officers were present at their respective regions. There were 97 students from 17 FFA chapters who participated.

D. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala

The Agricultural Society Gala was held on March 29th. Nicco Alli and Nina helped to set up registration, take pictures, and more. They mingled with the guests and made connections and assisted in the auction.

E. State Applications Judging

The executive board evaluated applications that came in on April 1st. Judging took place virtually from April 3rd through April 6th.

F. Horse Evaluation CDE

The Horse Evaluation CDE were held on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. Nina Weiland was the state officer in attendance with Ms. Allen. There were 32 FFA members from 9 chapters in attendance. This event is combined with the New Jersey 4-H Horse Judging Contest. Evaluations of the event were available for the State Officers to review as well as the unofficial results.

G. PA Day CDEs

PA Day CDEs will be 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 Mrs. Noble. FFA members will compete in the Food Science and Technology, Livestock Evaluation and Poultry Evaluation CDEs. This event is combined with the PA for their Eastern Region Contest.

H. Retiring Address Workshop

This event will take place on April 9, 2025 at the Rutgers Eco Complex at 5:00 pm. 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. State Officers are to be in Official Dress.

I. Spring CDEs

Spring CDEs will be 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. At the end of the event everyone is to bring their materials to the Douglas Student Center.

J. 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 and Tyler Murnaghan will be the state officers in attendance with Ms. Allen. They will meet at Rutgers EcoComplex for 2:00 pm in Official Dress. There are 26 different projects from 7 chapters.

K. Dairy Cattle Evaluation

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Spring House Dairy in Pittstown, NJ. Abrianna Portillo will be the state officer in attendance with Ms. Allen. This event is combined with the New Jersey 4-H Dairy Judging Contest.

L. State Convention

i. Timeline

There is roughly 44 days until convention. The State Officers are working on memorizing items for State Convention.

ii. Video Shoot

The officers have all of the videos completed but one. They will be selected a date to complete the last opening session video for convention.

iii. Potential State Officers/Nominating Committee

The State Officers reviewed the potential State Officer and Nominating Committee member lists.

iv. 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.

M. 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. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion

Nina shared the effects of mass deportations on farm labor. The Peterson Institute claims that deportations can affect food prices by up to 10%.

B. Member of the Month

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

Motion by William Rutherford to select Scarlett Sampino of the Freehold FFA Chapter as April's Member of the Month.

Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passes.

C. State Officer Mileage

Nina turned in their mileage for the month of March.

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm. The next meeting will be held on May 5, 2025 at 4:00 pm in the 1st Floor Conference room, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Building.

NJ FFA Association

FFA Monthly Budget Summary

March 2025

	Mar 25	Jul '24 - Mar 25	\$ Under / Over Budget	Annual Budget
Income				
P1 Dues/Memberships (Income)	2,850.00	54,210.00	-11,790.00	66,000.00
P2 CDEs (Income)	22.00	2,042.00	-598.00	2,640.00
P3 General Supplies (Income)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P4 State Officers (Income)	0.00	90.95	90.95	0.00
P5 LEAD (Income)	0.00	19,725.00	-1,525.00	21,250.00
P6 State Convention (Income)	154.00	12,548.53	-65,649.47	78,198.00
P7 National Convention (Income)	0.00	0.00	-2,460.00	2,460.00
P8 Horticulture Expo (income)	42.00	42.00	-5,838.00	5,880.00
P9 SO Continnum (Income)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P10 ALLD (Income)	3,786.79	6,223.34	-748.66	6,972.00
P11 Mission Conf (Income)	0.00	2,392.00	-1,628.00	4,020.00
P12 SOCS (Income)	0.00	0.00	-12.00	12.00
Total Income	6,854.79	97,273.82	-90,158.18	187,432.00
Expense				
P1 (Dues/Memberships-Expense)	0.00	19,508.45	1,396.95	18,111.50
P2 (CDEs - Expense)	0.00	4,849.80	-9,008.70	13,858.50
P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	0.00	5,490.52	2,116.52	3,374.00
P4 (State Officers - Expense)	0.00	11,104.34	3,777.34	7,327.00
P5 (LEAD - Expense)	0.00	17,820.32	-7,406.68	25,227.00
P6 (State Convention - Expense)	0.00	96,674.69	20,949.69	75,725.00
P7 (National Conven. - Expense)	0.00	8,440.25	514.25	7,926.00
P8 (Hort Expo - Expense)	5,288.99	7,657.33	-6,057.67	13,715.00
P9 (SO Continnum - Expense)	0.00	0.00	-6,577.00	6,577.00
P10 (ALLD-Expense)	8,434.11	8,508.81	473.81	8,035.00
P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)	0.00	4,900.29	-2,135.71	7,036.00
P 12 (SOCS-Expense)	-24.00	149.86	-370.14	520.00
Total Expense	13,699.10	185,104.66	-2,327.34	187,432.00
Net Income	-6,844.31	-87,830.84	-91,354.84	0.00



Monday, April 7, 2025

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

niccoconte@gmail.com

Committee Name

Constitution, Bylaws & POA, State Convention Evaluation

Date

Monday, May 26, 2025

Committee Members Present

Nicco Conte
Nina Weiland
Abrianna Portillo

Committee Members Absent

Mr. Rudderow, Tyler Murnaghan

Purpose of Meeting

- Discuss the changes to HO Sampson awards.
- Determine State Convention Committee Report

Recommended Actions

- Discuss changes to National Affiliation, HO Sampson changes, and State Convention Evaluation with committee at state convention.

Comments

All members are in favor of HO Sampson changes and National Affiliation. Agreed upon to bring it up at state convention.

Chairperson

Niccolo Conte

Secretary

Nina Weiland

Chairperson Signature



Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

nweilandearther@gmail.com

Committee Name

Membership & Chapter Relations

Date

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Committee Members Present

Nina Weiland, Chair

Dr. McLean, Advisor

William Rutherford, Vice Chair

Committee Members Absent

Niccolo Conte, Member

Purpose of Meeting

To review the New Jersey FFA Chapter Highlights Social Media Posts plan, the New Jersey FFA Social Media Guide, The State Officer Social Media Training, and the New Jersey FFA VOICES program one last time before State Convention. We also reviewed the Delegate Committee Meeting Agenda and edited as fit in order to prepare for State Convention.

Recommended Actions

There are no recommended actions at this time.

Comments

The committee recommends detailed and full explanation of all proposals to the members at State Convention.

Chairperson

Nina Weiland

Secretary

William Rutherford

Chairperson Signature



Friday, March 28, 2025

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

tymurnaghan@gmail.com

Committee Name

State Leadership Activities

Date

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Committee Members Present

Tyler Murnaghan
Nicco Conte
Allison Josielewski

Committee Members Absent

Daniel Delcher

Purpose of Meeting

To summarize actions and discussions had throughout the year and most crucially develop the delegate agenda members will receive at State Convention.

Recommended Actions

The committee has put forth the agenda focusing many on the proposed implementation of MegaE, Next Generation Ag Summit, and State FFA Officer Candidate Training.

Comments

The committee worked well to debate and agree on what should or should not be added to the agenda for delegates.

Chairperson

Tyler Murnaghan

Secretary

Nicco Conte

Chairperson Signature



Monday, March 24, 2025

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email wrutherford1017@gmail.com

Committee Name State Applications

Date Thursday, March 20, 2025

Committee Members Present

Nina Weiland
Ms. Tallamy

Committee Members Absent Tyler Murnaghan, did tell me ahead of time that he will be absent due to class

Purpose of Meeting
To finalize any topics we had discussed through the year and to review/develop the State Convention Agenda.

Recommended Actions
Looking into creating an application similar to WLC about NextGen. We would have to look into a solid submission date, since NextGen happens three times a year on different dates and locations.
Looking into doing an online AET training, similar to the NJ VOICES program OR looking into adding AET into SOCS curriculum, so State Officer Candidates aren't too confused when it comes to starting their State Degree application.

Comments
Nina discussed the NJ VOICES program and introduced it to Ms. Tallamy as ways to celebrate the members, and starting to think of an application to create. Talked a little bit more about ways to celebrate the members, especially with Member of the Month. Pulling something from their application to add it into the post, whether it be their SAE, leadership experience, or events they attended in or out of FFA. We discussed and approved of the convention committee agenda.

Chairperson William Rutherford

Secretary Nina Weiland (took place of Tyler)

Chairperson Signature 



Thursday, March 27, 2025

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

allijos101@gmail.com

Committee Name

Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

Date

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Committee Members Present

Allison Josielewski, Renee Stilwell, Abbey Portillo

Committee Members Absent

Billy Rutherford

Purpose of Meeting

To review most recent CDEs and create the agenda for the delegate committee meeting at State Convention.

Recommended Actions

As most of the evaluation points were based on circumstances that are not able to be controlled, only a few points were mentioned as applicable to consider.

Some of the major talking points that are to be brought up at the meeting:

Regional LDEs

Aligning with Nationals

Moving Floriculture to Hort Expo, moving CDEs to Ag Convention

Grouping Plant CDEs/Animal CDEs/Food based CDEs

Comments

With this year being the experimental year of CDE/LDE curriculum, location, and/or timing changes, I expect the delegate meeting to have much to talk about.

Chairperson

Allison Josielewski

Secretary

Abrianna Portillo

Chairperson Signature