



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

“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: October 16, 2025

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2025 – 4:00 p.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 NOVEMBER STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies
- II. Minutes from the October 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. Agricultural Development Forum (October 17, 2025) – Kathryn Giovanelli
- B. New Jersey State Grange Annual Meeting (October 17-19, 2025) – Aaron Foote
- C. 98th National FFA Convention (October 29 – November 1, 2025) – Breanna Rosmarin
- D. Checkpoint #2 (November 14-15, 2025) – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
- E. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention (November 17-18, 2025) – Kathryn Giovanelli
- F. Fall Career Development Events (November 20, 2025) – Aaron Foote
- G. “Member Leadership Series” Conference (December 13, 2025) – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
- H. Teach Ag Recruitment Event (December 13, 2025) – Kayla Romero
- I. ILSSO (January 3-16, 2026)– Peter DelCollo
- J. Chapter Visit Updates – Peter DelCollo
- K. Team Goal Action Plan – Kathryn Giovanelli

XV. New Business

- A. Holiday Party (December 15, 2025) – Abigale DiGiamberardino
- B. New Jersey State Agricultural Convention (January 20-23, 2026) – Kathryn Giovanelli
- C. Winter CDEs (January 22, 2026) – Aaron Foote
- D. State Officer Candidates’ School (January 31, 2026) – Kayla Romero
- E. Banquet Speech Workshop (February 6, 2026) – Breanna Rosmarin
- F. Agriculture/Agricultural Education Issues Discussion – Peter DelCollo
- G. Member of the Month – Tyler Murnaghan
- H. State Officer Mileage – Abigale DiGiamberardino

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

*Next State Meeting- December 1, 2025
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
4:00 p.m.*

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the October 6, 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 September 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 \$50,380.33 and the closing balance was \$51,421.91.

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

Motion passed pending audit.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

No guests were present at this 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.

C. State Leadership Activities

No report.

D. State Applications

No report.

Motion by Aaron Foote to move the application due date for the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) Scholarship from April 1st to February 1st.

Seconded by Peter DelCollo. Motion passed.

E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

No report.

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 Previous Question. Previous questions is used to end debate and bring the assembly to an immediate vote on the pending motion. It requires a 2/3 vote to pass and debate on the previous question itself is not allowed. This subsidiary motion does require a second.
- VII. Executive Committee Report**
Tyler asked the State Officers to share two things they remembered from LEAD: one professional takeaway about how it can inform their future work and one personal or funny story.
- VIII. Foundation Report**
No report. Their next meeting will be on October 14, 2025.
- X. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report**
No report. Their next meeting will be on October 8, 2025.
- 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**
Kathryn discussed the Department of Ag, Farm Bureau, and the State Board of Agriculture reported what events they had upcoming and what was currently going on in each of those groups. Kathryn had reported events the State Officers participated in over the Summer. She also mentioned there were several individuals were representing New Jersey at the Big E. The State Officers were preparing for L.E.A.D., chapter visits, and National Convention. Upcoming events with Farmer's Against Hunger were discussed as well as the Ag Society's Farm to Table Dinner.
- XII. Equine Advisory Board**
No report. Their next meeting will be on October 15, 2025.
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators**
Mr. Cruzan reported the Fall Ag Ed conference was held September 26th at the Rutgers EcoComplex. Where Agricultural Educators across the state come to participate in various professional development activities throughout the day. At their meeting, they began working on activities for the future as well as deciding on their delegates for the NAAE conference in December, New Jersey Agricultural Convention in January, and National Policy Seminar in March. They are continuing with Book Club and this year's book is "Visual Thinking:.. The next meeting is virtual on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
- A. Eastern States Exposition**
Kayla Romero will be attending as an event assistant. Representing New Jersey will be the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter in Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Aaron Foote in Star Farmer, and Codey Fleetwood in Safe Tractor Operations.
- B. Fall Ag Ed Conference**
Agricultural teachers from across the state came together for a day of professional development activities on September 26th. Kathryn Giovanelli had the opportunity to attend and deliver a speech about the state theme, "Connected with Purpose". She tasked the teachers by how they can embody its message in and out of the classroom through the year. Kathryn also participated in several workshops and interacted with the teachers.

C. Leadership Experience and Development Conference

a. Impact Conference

i. Chapter Officer Leadership (COLT)

The State Officers conducted sessions at LEAD for sixty-three FFA chapter officers. They went over chapter and officer responsibilities in large and individual group workshops and taught the members about team building. The executive board reviewed the evaluation results from this conference.

ii. Leadership Opportunities Conference (LOC)

Forty-one FFA members participated facilitated by Executive Committee Chair, Tyler Murnaghan. The executive board reviewed the evaluation results from this conference.

b. State Greenhand Conference (SGC)

Tyler Murnaghan, Nina Weiland, and William Rutherford facilitated the State Greenhand Conference for eighteen FFA members. This is where new FFA members learned about the FFA history, the opportunities that FFA has to offer them as well as sample a few CDEs. The executive board reviewed the evaluation results from this conference.

c. Timeline

The timeline was completed.

D. 98th National FFA Convention

a. Delegates

Kathryn Giovanelli, Breanna Rosmarin, and Kayla Romero are the delegates for National Convention. Peter DelCollo is an alternate delegate.

b. Flag Bearer

Aaron Foote will be the New Jersey flag bearer at National Convention. He is awaiting more information from National FFA.

c. State Suite

We have secured a suite, and teachers have been submitting ticket requests. This is also an opportunity to get to know the members and build relationships with those attending the National FFA Convention.

d. Recognition Program

The breakfast recognition is almost complete, final revisions are due to Ms. Allen by Monday, October 20, 2025. We will be recognizing those who are receiving their Honorary American and American Degrees, CDE winners, provide inspiring remarks and encourage members to engage with all of the convention's offerings while enjoying a breakfast sponsored by Rutgers University.

E. Delegate Process Written/Oral Testimony

The state officers are expected to prepare written testimony for all of the committees and prepare oral testimony for the committees that NJ is not represented on. They are due to Ms. Allen by October 16th. State Officers are to complete the Delegate Experience Primer by October 9th.

F. Checkpoint #2

Checkpoint 2 will be held at the Rutgers EcoComplex on November 14th and 15th for State Officers to conduct banquet speech writing workshop facilitated by Lindsey Augustine. A schedule and a suggested packing list was provided to the State Officers.

G. Fall Career Development Events

The fall CDE's will be held at Rutgers University on November 20th. The day will consist of Milk Quality and Products, Fruits and Vegetables, Land Judging, Turf Management, and Forestry. More details will follow as the event approaches.

H. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers

ILSSO this year is being held in Spain from January 3-16, 2025. Peter has been working on the assigned coursework and his partner for this is from Mississippi. Aaron is currently 8th in line on the waitlist.

I. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events has been finalized and can be found on the state website under the section titled calendar of events. It has the dates of all the events and meetings being held this year.

J. Chapter Visit Updates

The state officers updated the chapter visit spread sheet. Officers were reminded to send follow-up emails to teachers who have not responded. The State Officers are also expected to send a thank you email containing the chapter visit evaluation form, take photos while at their visits, and follow up with the chapter, the member and the advisors throughout their year of service.

K. Team Goal Action Plan

The action plan has been created, and the State Officers are making progress towards their goals.

XV. New Business

A. SOCS Cost Analysis

The cost analysis for the 2026 State Officer Candidates' School (SOCS) was presented to the executive board.

**Motion by Abigale DiGiamberardino to accept the proposed SOCS cost of \$12.00.
Seconded by Aaron Foote. Motion passed.**

B. Agricultural Development Forum

Kathryn has been invited to the joint forum on Agricultural Development that will be taking place at Sussex County Community College. This event will bring together local leaders in farming, technology, business, and education to discuss the future of agriculture in the region. Kathryn will be participating in a panel called "Vision 2035" about the future of agriculture.

C. New Jersey State Grange Annual Meeting

The Annual State Grange Meeting is scheduled for October 17-19, 2025 in Swedesboro, NJ. Aaron Foote has been invited to attend and will be a speaker at their meeting.

D. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention

Member of the Farm Bureau will be discussing different agricultural topics in the State. They will also be preparing for the National Farm Conference, and Kathryn will be speaking at the State meeting.

E. Member Leadership Series Conference

This conference is being held on December 13th at Rutgers University. The conference will be facilitated by two national facilitators. The state officers are responsible for being a host for the members, getting them excited and being a helping hand for the facilitators. Officers are to arrive at 7:30 am to set up. The executive committee and a few state officers will be assisting with the Teach Ag Recruitment Event. More details will follow as the event approaches.

F. Agriculture/ Agricultural Education Issues Discussion

Ivanelisse discussed major loss of global food security. She shared one of the major threats to this is the rapid loss of agricultural biodiversity, where the variety of crop species, livestock breeds, and associated wild organisms is shrinking sharply. The FAO has reported that out of thousands of cultivated plant species, only a few dozen dominate global food supply, and many locally adapted breeds are at risk of extinction. This decline undermines resilience, making crops and livestock more vulnerable to pests, diseases, and changing environmental stresses; while also narrowing farmer's options for adaption and weakening long-term sustainability.

G. Member of the Month

The executive board evaluated the member of the month applications.

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to select Paige Conroy of the Allentown FFA Chapter as October's Member of the Month.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passes.

H. State Officer Milage

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

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm. The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

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

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
FFA							50,380.33 1
Check	09/04/2025	US Bank	Checkpoint 1 lunch items	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-159.12	-159.12	50,221.21
Check	09/04/2025	US Bank	checkpoint 1 dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-137.30	-137.30	50,083.91
Check	09/04/2025	US Bank	checkpoint 1 dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-141.40	-141.40	49,942.51
Check	09/04/2025	US Bank	checkpoint 1 dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-66.60	-66.60	49,875.91
Check	09/04/2025	Davison, Eastman & M...	additional legal	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-668.00	-668.00	49,207.91
Deposit	09/10/2025		Deposit	Undeposited Funds	814.00	814.00	50,021.91
Deposit	09/16/2025		Deposit	Undeposited Funds	1,850.00	1,850.00	51,871.91
Check	09/17/2025	DJ Nebbs Entertainment	DJ services for LEAD Conference	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-450.00	-450.00	51,421.91
Total FFA						1,041.58	51,421.91 2
TOTAL						1,041.58	51,421.91 3

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

- 1. Opening Balance on September 1, 2025 was \$50,380.33
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- 2. Closing Balance on September 30, 2025 was \$51,421.91
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- 3. Treasurer's report passes audit
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