



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
“CHALLENGE ACCEPTED”

TO: State Executive Board Members, NJ FFA Chapter Advisors, Officers and Members

FROM: State FFA President
Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist
Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

DATE: September 28, 2026

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, October 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 2026-2027.

AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies**
- II. Minutes from the September State Meeting**
- III. Treasurer’s Report**
- IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance**
- V. Committee Reports**
 - A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program of Activities – Kai Wilson
 - B. Membership & Chapter Relations – Jacob Bramble
 - C. State Leadership Activities – Kayla Romero
 - D. State Applications – Elizabeth Noreen
 - E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation and Review –
 - F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review – Peter DelCollo
 - G. State Convention Evaluation – Grace Campbell
- VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report – Kai Wilson**
- VII. Executive Committee Report – Kathryn Giovanelli**
- VIII. Foundation Report – Peter DelCollo**
- IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report – Kai Wilson**

- X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report** – Grace Campbell
- XI. New Jersey Agricultural Society Report** –
- XII. Equine Advisory Board** – Elizabeth Noreen
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agriculture Educators** – Mr. Dale Cruzan
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Association Budget – Elizabeth Noreen
 - B. Eastern States Exposition (September 18-19, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
 - C. Fall Ag Ed Conference (September 25, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
 - D. FFA in the USA Reporter Program – Grace Campbell
 - E. Cultivating Careers (October 9, 2026) – Grace Campbell
 - F. 99th National FFA Convention (October 21-24, 2026)
 - a. Delegates – Peter DelCollo
 - b. Flag Bearer – Jacob Bramble
 - c. State Suite – Elizabeth Noreen
 - d. Recognition Program – Grace Campbell
 - G. Delegate Process Written/Oral Testimony – Peter DelCollo
 - H. Checkpoint #2 (November 13-14, 2026) – Kai Wilson
 - I. Fall Career Development Events (November 19, 2026) – Kayla Romero
 - J. Mega “E” Conference (February 5-6, 2027)
 - 1. I AM Conference – Kai Wilson
 - 2. “Member Leadership Series” Connect Conference – Abigale DiGiamberardino
 - a. State Greenhand Conference – Kathryn Giovanelli
 - b. Leadership and Opportunity Conference – Grace Campbell
 - c. Chapter Officer Leadership Training – Jacob Bramble
 - d. State Officer Candidates School – Kayla Romero
 - 3. Timeline – Peter DelCollo
 - K. Calendar of Events – Kayla Romero
 - L. Chapter Visits – Jacob Bramble
 - M. Team Goal Action Plan – Peter DelCollo
- XV. New Business**
 - A. Chapter Chartering
 - B. New Jersey State Grange Annual Meeting (October 16-18, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
 - C. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention (November 16-17, 2026) – Peter DelCollo
 - D. Holiday Party (December 14, 2026) – Kai Wilson
 - E. Agriculture/Agricultural Education Issues Discussion – Grace Campbell
 - F. Member of the Month – Kathryn Giovanelli
 - G. State Officer Mileage – Elizabeth Noreen
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

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

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the September 14, 2026 Meeting**

I. Opening Ceremonies

Peter DelCollo called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The voting members in attendance were Peter DelCollo, Kayla Romero, Elizabeth Noreen, Grace Campbell, Jacob Bramble, Kai Wilson, Kathryn Giovanelli, Abigale DiGiamberardino, Aaron Foote, and Mr. Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen, and Ms. McCluskey.

II. Minutes from August State Meeting

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

Seconded by Jacob Bramble. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the month was \$132,327.14 and the closing balance was \$4,141.66.

Motion by Elizabeth Noreen to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

Motion passed pending audit.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

Paula Sprunge, mother to Abigale DiGiamberardino
Logan Seger

Motion by Kayla Romero to unexcuse the absence of Breanna Rosmarin.

Seconded by Kai Wilson. Motion passed.

Motion by Kai Wilson to send a resignation letter request to Breanna Rosmarin.

Seconded by Elizabeth Noreen. Motion passed.

Kathryn Giovanelli assumed the duties of the chair.

V. Committee Reports

A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program Activities

No report. Committee meeting has been scheduled.

B. Membership & Chapter Relations

No report. Committee meeting has been scheduled. Discussion was made regarding the Chapter Membership Data form.

C. State Leadership Activities

No report. Committee meeting has been scheduled.

D. State Applications

No report. Committee meeting is being scheduled.

E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

No report.

F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review

No report. Committee meeting has been scheduled.

G. State Convention Evaluation & Review

No report. Committee meeting has been scheduled.

Peter DelCollo re-assumed the duties of the chair.

VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report

Kai Wilson demonstrated the use of Lay on the Table. This is used to temporarily set aside a pending motion to move onto something deemed more important/urgent. This inquiry does require recognition from the chair and a second. To be used, one would raise their hand, wait to be recognized, and say, "Mdm/Mr. Chair, because of _____, I move to lay the pending motion on the table".

VII. Executive Committee Report

Kathryn Giovanelli asked the State Officers, "How are you going to accept the challenge and make it the best year you can?"

VIII. Foundation Report

On August 18th, the New Jersey FFA Foundation held its first-quarter board meeting to discuss finances, scholarships, and upcoming opportunities. The Foundation reviewed and approved its financial reports along with donations that will support scholarships and other FFA programs. The board also discussed a proposed donation from Farm Credit East that would help fund the Joshua Geary Scholarship for years to come. They approved funding to help cover lodging expenses for individuals attending the ACTE/NAAE Conference and National FFA Convention. The Foundation also began discussing ways it could support and celebrate the New Jersey FFA Association's upcoming 100th anniversary. Finally, the board discussed its current finances and ways to continue growing its funds so it can support New Jersey FFA members and programs in the future.

X. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report

The NJ FFA Alumni & Supporters meeting took place on August 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. NJ FFA Alumni & Supporters will be hosting a Line Dancing Fundraiser on November 7, 2026, from 6:00–9:00 p.m. at 250 McArthur Avenue. NJ Alumni extends an invitation to State Officers to attend and assist during the event. The 2027 Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, June 28, 2027. During the National Convention, Aaron Foote and Nina Weiland will be present as NJ FFA Alumni Representatives. The new board members are Nina Weiland, Social Media/Member at Large, and Aaron Foote, Gianna Hart, and Karen Dauphers, Members at Large. The next NJ FFA Alumni & Supporters meeting will take place on October 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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

No report. The meeting will be virtual in November.

XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report

No report. The Fall Farm-to-Table Event will be held on September 19th in Somerset County. Four State Officers will be assisting at the event.

XII. Equine Advisory Board

The Equine Advisory Board meeting was held on August 19 at 10:00 a.m. During the meeting, it was mentioned that the majority of agricultural fairs in New Jersey have finished for the summer, aside from one that will take place in September. Most summer races have also concluded. Rutgers is hosting a new event that will feature a Q&A with a farrier at a few wineries in and around the Cream Ridge area. The NJ Horse Trials will take place on September 26 and 27, with the championship taking

place in November. Screwworm is primarily in Texas, and additional precautions are being implemented for horse transportation. It was also discussed that Saratoga recently experienced a major barn fire in which 17 horses were lost. It was recommended that horse owners reach out to their local fire departments to learn how to properly handle animals during a barn fire and to understand their instincts, such as potentially attempting to return to the barn. It was also recommended that horse owners have their barns inspected for potential fire hazards they may be unaware of.

XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators

Mr. Cruzan discussed their next meeting which will take place after the conclusion of the Fall Ag Ed Conference.

XIV. Unfinished Business

A. Association Budget

Not finalized for this meeting.

B. Cost Analysis

a. Mega “E” Conference

The Executive Board was provided a copy of the Mega “E” Conference cost analysis.

Motion by Elizabeth Noreen to set Mega “E” registration cost at \$220 per person.

Seconded by Jacob Bramble. Motion passed.

b. Advocacy & Legislative Leadership Day (ALLD)

The Executive Board was provided a copy of the Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day cost analysis.

Motion by Elizabeth Noreen to set the ALLD registration cost at \$32.00 per person.

Seconded by Jacob Bramble. Motion Passed.

C. Chapter Visit Boot Camp

The officers were informed on how to properly deliver a chapter visit and got to try out their new skills at a local high school chapter.

D. Eastern States Exposition

The Big E FFA events will take place this weekend, September 18-19, 2026 in Springfield Massachusetts. Kayla Romero - State Secretary, Peter DelCollo - State VP, & Breanna Rosmarin - State President will be attending the Big E to represent New Jersey FFA. While there Peter DelCollo is participating in the Big E State President Internship and Kayla will be the Flag Holder during the parade. Additionally, they will all be helping out at various CDE/LDEs. The Central Region Vice President Claire Woeppel will be at the Big E this year. Allentown plans to participate in Extemporaneous Public Speaking, and Safe Tractor Operations. Buena plans to participate in Star Agricultural Placement Program. Hunterdon County ESEA plans to participate in Parliamentary Procedure and Prepared Public Speaking. Hunterdon County Polytech plans to participate in Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management.

E. Fall Ag Ed Conference

This is an opportunity for the ag teachers to go through professional development, and Peter will provide words to the teachers and highlighting the State Theme.

F. FFA in the USA Reporters Program

FFA in the USA features vibrant stories from nearly 250 FFA reporters representing every corner of the country, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Dive in to uncover the incredible journeys of FFA members and chapters as they explore life-changing agricultural experiences. Applications were due in the beginning of August, and Results came out September 12th. Known New Jersey FFA, FFA in the USA Reporters are Grace Campbell (Middlesex East Brunswick/State Association), Peter DelCollo (Cumberland Regional/State Association), and Lily Myers (Salem Tech).

G. 98th National FFA Convention

a. Delegates

i. Delegate Process

New Jersey has three allotted delegates.

ii. National Board of Directors Dues Recommendation

National FFA Organization membership dues and program affiliation fees remain the same as the previous year for the 2027 – 2028 school year. They are as follows: A. Individual student national dues will remain at \$7.00, B. The flat middle school chapter program fee will remain at \$300 per chapter for 5-8 grade students in self-identified National FFA Chartered Middle School programs, and C. The National FFA Program affiliation fee remains the same.

b. Flag Bearer

Jacob Bramble will serve as the New Jersey flag bearer at National Convention.

c. State Suite

New Jersey FFA uses the state suite for all general sessions at the National Convention. The state suite gives members the opportunity to sit with the state officers and build meaningful connections with one another.

d. Recognition Program

On Wednesday of the National Convention, we will be holding a state breakfast. During the breakfast, we will recognize members who are receiving their Honorary Degrees and American Degrees, as well as the Agriscience Fair finalists and CDE/LDE winners. We will also provide members with additional information about the National Convention during this time. I'm pleased to say that everyone has completed their recognition piece. They are currently being reviewed and will be ready for memorization soon.

H. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers

International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) will take place in Spain from January 4–17, 2027. Emails have been sent out to those who applied to know if they were accepted or not. Jacob, Bre and Kayla applied and at this time, they have all been placed on the waiting list.

I. MegaE Conference

a. I AM Conference

The I AM Conference will take place Friday February 5 - Saturday February 6, 2027 at the Westin Mt Laurel. This conference will be available to 11th & 12th grade FFA members, the NJ FFA State Officers will be facilitating the "I AM" Conference.

b. “Member Leadership Series” Connect Conference

The “Member Leadership Series” Connect Conference will take place Friday, February 5–Saturday, February 6, 2027. This conference will be available to ninth- and tenth-grade FFA members and will be facilitated by National facilitators.

i. State Greenhand Conference

The Executive Board will facilitate the conference.

ii. Leadership and Opportunity Conference

Leadership Opportunities Conference, also known as LOC, is geared for members who are not first-year members and not chapter officers.

Participants will explore opportunities available to them in FFA and gain additional leadership skills.

iii. Chapter Officer Leadership Training

COLT will have two breakout sessions during the MEGA E Conference facilitated by State Officers. Additional information, including chapter officers in attendance will be shared once registration has been opened to advisors. Topics will include Define a Program of Activities (POA) and explain its purpose within an organization, Identify the purpose and importance of organizational documents, Analyze the use of parliamentary procedure in various meeting situations, and Create a plan to recruit and retain members.

iv. State Officer Candidates’ School

SOCS will be held at Mega E this year for Part 1. During this portion of SOCS, members will: Examine purposeful behaviors that contribute to positive morale and culture within an organization, Evaluate facilitation and presentation strategies that encourage appropriate social interactions and build a positive learning environment, Identify strategies for speaking with clarity, logic, purpose, and professionalism, and Explore the role and responsibilities of New Jersey State FFA Officers.

Part 2 of SOCS will be held on Saturday, March 20th. Members who are interested in becoming State Officers will have the opportunity to participate, gain experience, and develop a better understanding of what it is like to serve as a State Officer. Please take a moment to review the Potential State Officer Candidate List provided in the folders. Are there any names that do not currently appear on the list that should be included? We will review the list again at our next planning meeting.

c. Timeline

The timeline for the Mega E has been updated, and we each have a printed copy in our folder.

XV. New Business

A. Team Goal Action Plan

The Team Goal Action Plan is completed and is in our google drive. Make sure we are looking over it to know what we have to accomplish for our specific goals.

B. Calendar of Events

This is where you can find all the events happening at the state level.

C. Chapter Visits

Chapter visit assignments have been announced. All State Officers have emailed the advisors of their assigned chapters with possible dates for their chapter visits. State Staff have challenged us to complete at least one chapter visit before the National Convention.

D. Cultivating Careers

Cultivating Careers will give high school students the opportunity to explore careers in the horticulture industry while earning an industry-recognized credential. Hosted at Mercer County Community College - West Windsor Campus, this hands-on career development experience is designed to help students turn their interest in plants into real-world skills and career opportunities. Students will select one of four specialized tracks and, through a combination of required pre-work and hands-on coursework completed during the summit, leave the event with a credential they can add to their résumé and use as they pursue employment, further education, or careers in the plant industry. Who: NJ High School Agriculture Students & FFA Members What: Cultivating Careers: Plant-Based Skills and Credentials Summit (Educational Sessions that lead to credentials and Career Fair) Four tracks to choose from: Storm Water Management (Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Associate Certificate); Junior Certified Nursery Landscape Professional (NJNLA credential); Beekeeping Essentials (beekeeping certificate); Lessons in Hydroponics (certificate of completion). When: Friday, October 9, 2026 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Where: Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, NJ Why: Gain Skills, Earn Credentials, Grow a Career. How: Registration is due September 18, 2026

E. Checkpoint #2

Checkpoint 2 will take place on November 13–14, 2026, at the Rutgers EcoComplex. During this training, we will work on our Banquet Speeches and submit them to Ms. Allen on Saturday before departing. Additional information will be provided by Ms. Allen via email.

F. Fall Career Development Events

The Fall CDEs will be held at Rutgers University on November 19th. Peter and Elizabeth will assist with Forestry; Kayla and Grace will assist with Fruits & Vegetables; Aaron will assist with Land Judging; Kathryn and Kai will assist with Milk Quality & Products, and Abigale and Jacob will assist with Turf Management.

G. Agriculture/ Agricultural Education Issues Discussion

Elizabeth led a discussion on the expenses of farming and age statistics. The growing cost of farming is taking a toll on current farmers but specifically is making it increasingly difficult to get into the industry. The average age of the new jersey farmer is 58 years old. The number of farmers in New Jersey that are under 25 years old is 1.7% and from 25-35 is 6%. This is mainly due to the cost of a farm. Having to pay for the land, equipment and labor as well as relying on sales is especially difficult for young people to achieve without being born into one.

H. Member of the Month

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

Motion by Kathryn Giovanelli to select Elizabeth Mooney from the Allentown FFA Chapter as the New Jersey FFA September's Member of the Month.

Seconded by Elizabeth Noreen. Motion passed.

I. State Officer Milage

August Milage was due on August 27th. September milage will be due at the beginning of October. Officers are encouraged to submit their monthly mileage.

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

2:10 PM

September 1, 2026

Cash Basis

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

	Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
FFA								132,327.14 1
	Check	08/03/2026	Davison, Eastman & M...	additional legal	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-189.00	-189.00	132,138.14
	Check	08/07/2026	US Bank	Shoprite - Basecamp lunch supplies	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-176.97	-176.97	131,961.17
	Check	08/07/2026	US Bank	Chili's - Basecamp dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-192.51	-192.51	131,768.66
	Check	08/07/2026	US Bank	China Buffet -Basecamp dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-214.64	-214.64	131,554.02
	Deposit	08/07/2026	US Bank	Allstate REFUND - motorclub	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	169.86	169.86	131,723.88
	Check	08/07/2026	US Bank	convention t-shirts - final payment	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-214.25	-214.25	131,509.63
	Check	08/07/2026	US Bank	Davison, etc - additional legal work	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-795.57	-795.57	130,714.06
	Check	08/14/2026	American Income Life I...	State Officer supplemental insurance	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-75.00	-75.00	130,639.06
	Check	08/17/2026	US Bank	Basecamp lodging	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-979.82	-979.82	129,659.24
	Check	08/27/2026	Davison, Eastman & M...	additional legal	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-2,952.00	-2,952.00	126,707.24
	Check	08/27/2026	Monmouth University	convention expenses	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-120,630.22	-120,630.22	6,077.02
	Check	08/28/2026	US Bank	Checkpoint 1 lodging	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-1,935.36	-1,935.36	4,141.66
Total FFA							-128,185.48	4,141.66 2
TOTAL							-128,185.48	4,141.66 3

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

- 1. Opening Balance on August 1, 2026 was \$132,327.14
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- 2. Closing Balance on August 31, 2026 was \$4,141.66
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- 3. Treasurer's report passes pending audit
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