Big E FFA Planning Committee Meeting
November 5, 2009
Brooks Building

Members present: David Hopson, Milton Natusch, Kim LaFleur, Donna Woolam, Greg Breene, Jim Pomeroy, David Lewis, Harrison Griffin, Kevin Keith, Eric Larsen, Elena Hovagimian

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM by Chairman David Hopson.

Secretary’s Report - copy available on Big E website

  Motion to accept by Kim LaFleur, Second by Greg Breen, Motion passed

Treasurer’s Report – financial report distributed to all attendees

  Motion to accept by Kim LaFleur, Second by Kevin Keith, Motion passed

Communications – Donna reported that many thank you notes have been received and appreciated by Big E staff

Reports

  Big E – Donna Woolam – written report on file

    CDE website updates will be on the same schedule as in years past. Updates should be provided to Elena.

    Judy Borden will be leaving the Big E staff. The position will be filled, but with different responsibilities.

    2009 broke the all time attendance record for the Big E

  National FFA – Kevin Keith

    Kevin stressed the importance communicating with the National FFA staff about the Big E. He will continue to encourage states who have not been participating to do so.

  Big E Coordinators Report – Milton Natusch

    Milton discussed the participation levels of various states

    Interns were from VA, RI and PA. Milton complimented them for their work.

    Buses operated on schedule

    There was a discussion on how to best utilize state officers that are assigned to events. There have been reports of officers being underutilized. Milton commented that there are only so many jobs available and many officers who would like to participate. Several suggestions on broadening the jobs were made that will need to be pursued further. Milton will collect
information from event superintendents to determine specifically what needs they have for officers at their individual events.

Past state officers assisted Mr. Strangeway with the Stars Pageant. This worked out very well to keep the event organized.

Stars Application still has some problems. Some people have had problems completing parts of the application.

More participation is needed on Work Day. As an incentive, chapters participating in the Landscape Design event will be able to get a head start on their exhibit set up.

Milton encouraged a greater diversity in the pool of judges.

National FFA utilizes a Volunteerism Form – it is used to keep track of who is involved with what event (mainly to track stipends) and keeps a historical record of volunteers. The form also contains a liability statement. Donna suggested the implementation of a volunteer sign in sheet so we can track individuals who assist with events. Milton will examine the liability form to see what changes, if any, need to be made.

CDE Superintendents Reports – written reports for individual events are on file

Stipends – the stipend is determined by how the individuals are listed on the event form. Co-Superintendents are paid the same rate. The Assistant Superintendent is paid $25 less than the Superintendent.

Landscape Design & Floriculture Themes

2010 – Celebrate America

Stars Program Report – There were 22 participants from 10 states. Harrison would like to see the participation increased. He also would like the judges to come from a greater number of states. There was also a discussion about the application form that is currently being used. There have been problems with the picture and personal pages of the file. Kevin Keith recommended using the American FFA Degree Application and the performance review section of the Star Battery (two pages). Harrison and Eric will discuss the suggested options.

Old Business

Agri-Science Fair at the Big E – available space is an issue. Mallory is an option, but the building is very dusty. Kevin suggested the inside space at the bus entry pavilion for Saturday. Milton will explore the space issue further.
New Business

Milton received a request to conduct an interest survey of state level CDE. Data would be used to determine what events should be added or eliminated. General feedback would also be solicited. Elena offered to assist Milton design an on line survey.

Information from Donna - Currently FFA is about $3000 over budget ($42,000 total budget). An additional CDE costs approximately $650. She suggested if the committee consider adding an event, that we also consider eliminating one based on historical participation.

A position for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent is needed for the banquet. Currently these are not formal positions. Greg Breen motioned to create Co-Super intents for the awards banquet. Second by Dave Lewis. Motion passed.

Election of 2009-10 Officers

Dave Lewis moved to nominate the same slate of officers as 2008-09. Seconded by Kevin Keith

Dave Hopson motioned to cast one ballot for the slate. Second by Dave Lewis. Motioned passed.

Next Meeting – November 9, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly LaFleur

Big E Planning Committee Secretary
2009 BIG E FFA Superintendents Reports

**CDE: Small Animal**
Superintendent(s): Melanie Sanborn, Wellsboro, PA  
Assistant Superintendent: Cindy Chotkowski, Storrs, CT  
Available for 2010: yes

Budget Modifications: none stated

Materials used to conduct your event: Computer; practicum materials; printing of copies; need screen and LCD projector for next year.

Future: The event went well this year, we are growing!

**CDE: Creed**
Superintendent(s): Janet Hammond, RI  
Assistant Superintendent: Deborah Went, RI  
Continue next year: yes

Budget Modifications:

We don’t require materials and equipment like other CDE’s. Mrs. Hammond provides the clipboards.

Future: It would be nice if a small table and chair was outside the Moses Auditorium. The student officers were a great asset this year.

**CDE: Environmental and Natural Resources**
Superintendent(s): Ron Fredericks, PA  
Assistant Superintendent: Renee Fredericks, PA  
Continue next year: yes

Budget Modifications: May need to purchase expendable chemicals for soil and water test kits.

Materials used to conduct your event: Test, environmental analysis scenarios, all forms, soil test kits, and water test kits, need to make sure there are 20 tables and chairs. Please provide a copy of the rules of the CDE in the superintendents packets.
**CDE: Nursery/Landscape**

Superintendent(s): Rebecca Rose, CT  
Assistant Superintendent: Ryan Rose, CT  
Available next year: not checked

Budget Modifications: none stated

Materials used to conduct your event: tables, chairs, extra lighting

**CDE: Farm Business Management**

Superintendent(s): Doug Robertson, Maine  
Assistant Superintendent: John Bradley, Vermont  
Available for next year: yes

Budget Modifications: none stated

Locations booked for 2010.

Future: Poll states to see if additional CDE;s should be added.

**CDE: Dairy Judging**

Superintendent(s): Devon Keefe, CT and Brenada Mihaliak, CT  
Available for 2010: yes

Budget Modifications: Need to get boxed lunches for contestants next year.

Materials used to conduct your event: Dairy judging sign, binders, and written materials for written activities.

Future: Starting out with the cows at 7:45 am helped out so much and it allowed us to do all the paperwork starting at 7 am and joined in for the 2nd and 3rd rotation. We did reasons during 4th rotation. We were done very early!!!

**CDE: Safe Tractor Operation**

Co-Superintendent(s): David Lewis and Greg Breene, RI  
Continue for 2010: yes

Budget Modifications: OK

Materials used to conduct your event: Big E tractors: skid loader, 4 wheel wagon, manure sprader, tent, 20 chairs; mulch/jersey barrier. Bart’s trucking was great this year.
Stakes provided by CDE coordinators.

Future: Many people showed up to see event. Had over 40 people watching, but no seats available for seating.

**CDE: Dairy Handlers**  
Superintendent (s): Cheryl Vest  
Assistant Superintendent: None, need one  
Continue next year: yes

Budget Modifications: none stated

Materials used to conduct your event: 40 score sheets, 1 clipboard, and 30 harnesses.

**CDE: Dairy Foods**  
Superintendent (s): Dave Snyder and Bob Sieving  
Available for 2010: yes  
Budget Modifications: Milk and dairy products donated by Hood Dairy donated; Brenda Mihaliak donated mastitic milk.

Materials used to conduct your event: 12 quarts of milk, cups, bowls, pitchers; 11 different paddles/2 bottles of reagent/sample bottles; 20 cheese dishes; 10 cheeses for ID; 5 milk unit sets/boards/wires; 45 number units

Future: It is essential/vital that dairy foods be maintained and unchanged. It has shown constant improvement and growth since Bob and I became superintendents. All states have expressed appreciation for the complete review of results that we provide orally and on paper. We would be able to accommodate two teams per state and would be in favor of such a change.

**CDE: Job Interview**  
Superintendent (s): Eric Larson took over for Juleah Tolosky who could not attend this year.  
Assistant Superintendent: none stated  
Available next year: yes  
Budget Modifications: None stated

Materials used to conduct your event: 1 room with 1 table large enough to seat four people. Room 2 – at least 4-5 tables for students to do applications and thank you’s.

**CDE: Marketing Plan**  
Superintendent (s): Gail Kiley Sanders
Assistant Superintendent: none stated
Available 2010: yes
Budget Modifications: parking covered at Sheraton for Superintendent and judges at hotel.

Materials used to conduct your event: screen and stopwatch

**CDE: Parliamentary Procedure**
Superintendent (s): Janet Rosequist, NH
Assistant Superintendent: Maria VanderWoude, NH & Ellen Welch
Continue next year: yes

Budget Modifications: None stated

Materials used to conduct your event: Stopwatches, time cards, problem cards, tests, answer sheets, judges packets, coaches packets

**CDE: Poultry**
Superintendent (s): Bob Lauffer
Assistant Superintendent: Neil Fellenbaum
Available next year: not stated

No report provided

**CDE: Livestock**
Superintendent: Keith Shane, DE
Asst: Laura Marek, CT
Available for 2010: Mr. Shane indicated he would not be able to continue but correspondence later indicated he may reconsider

Comments:

Continue bag lunches.

Materials used this year: neckbands; scantron, index cards for class names; exhibitor harnesses (8)
The event went well.
CDE: Horse Evaluation  
Superintendent: Linda Corson, MA  
Asst: Elsie Bornstein, MA  
Available for 2010: yes

Co-superintendents should be equal stipends. Continue snacks and boxed lunches.

CDE: Forestry  
Superintendent: Rick Martineau  
Co-Superintendent: George Lyman, CT  
Available for 2010: yes

Co-superintendents should be equal stipends. Need $75 per year for consumable supplies.

Currently the Superintendents provide all the tools and equipment for the contest. There should be no changes for 2010.

CDE: Extemporaneous Speaking  
Superintendent: Tiffany Hoy, PA  
Co-Superintendent: None stated  
Available for 2010: yes

Co-superintendents should be equal stipends. None stated

Need podium and two rooms for speaking event. 1 preparation room with table and chairs. Only 4 students out of 9 showed up the day of the event.

CDE: Prepared Speaking  
Superintendent: Kim Lefleur, MA  
Co-Superintendent: Gwynne Millar, RI  
Available for 2010: yes

Budget considerations: Parking reimbursement for Sheraton parking would be greatly appreciated.

Need 2 podiums – 1 per room for public speaking. Need to run the contest in 2 rooms and students need the option of podium.

Future considerations: Ag Sales should be added.

CDE: Floriculture  
Superintendent: Charles Mavrelion, CT & Bethany Royer, CT  
Available for 2010: yes
Move 4-H judging from the middle of our CDE – new location.

**CDE: Ag Mechanics**  
Superintendent: Doug Hammond and Tom March  
Available for 2010: yes

Provided 6 laptops with service advisor and PM Pro John Deere 9.0 liter engine; EZ Steer GPS kit

**CDE: Agronomy**  
Superintendent: Steven Grower & Alyssa Grower. MI  
Available for 2010: yes

No specific comments provided. Mr. Grower provides all materials for CDE.
### Statistics of Participation

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Interns: Three interns worked at the BIG E this year, they came from Virginia, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Each did an outstanding job in executing their duties as needed.

Online registrations: Having a separate web site for each CDE coordinator to log into to review their CDE totals worked out very well. The bus vendor worked out very well and no problems were reported.

The landscape exhibits continue to be a highlight of the Farm-A-Rama building even though this year we only had five exhibits.

The floral design competition went very well and no problems reported.

There was maximum attendance at the Sheraton this year (700) which was great, but there is no room for additional students and advisors.

Positive comments were received from the CDE Superintendents at the conclusion of their events.

Many thanks to the Jim and Carol Ogden for their expertise and dedication in getting the computerized results tabulated.
State FFA Officer Assignments: A much better job was done this year in scheduling officers at CDE events in most areas but some state FFA officer are not being utilized. The need for more qualified individuals to serve as CDE Superintendents and assistants is needed. In addition to Mr. Strangeway coordinating the pageant, several past State FFA Officers assisted and were in charge of getting students to the parade. Getting floral corsage chapters to make corsages on the weekends is a continuing challenge. We also had a chapter make corsages in the evening and this worked out well. Need to revisit the Stars application and perhaps go with the American Degree format. FFA Workday the Saturday before has only had one chapter participate in the past and additional chapters are encouraged to assist. Judy, Elena, and Donna and to be commended, as well as others who provided assistance to the FFA at the BIG E. Their patience, dedication and hard work helped make FFA days a success. The Stars Superintendents need to have a greater diversity of judges in the future and encourage other states to provide a judge.

The banquet went very well this past year with the help of Norm and Janet Hammond, who coordinated this event. Having the National FFA Officer one day earlier afforded the BIG E FFA program the advantage of having Hanna Crossen attend the Springfield Rotary Club banquet as well as the Green Pastures banquet. Need to develop a volunteerism form, similar to National FFA to keep an accurate tally on who participates with the many events.

Respectfully submitted,

Milt Natusch
BIG E FFA Coordinator
# BIG "E" FFA PLANNING COMMITTEE
## FINANCIAL STATEMENT
## NOVEMBER 5, 2009

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Respectfully Submitted

Kenneth A. Parker, Treasurer
BIG E FFA PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA
NOVEMBER 5, 2009
BROOKS BUILDING

Call to Order – David Hopson, Chairman
Secretary’s Report – Kim LeFleur
Treasurer’s Report – Ken Parker
Communications if any

Reports
Donna Woolam – BIG E
National FFA Report – Kevin Keith
BIG E Coordinators Report – Milton Natusch
CDE Superintendents Reports
Stars Program Report – Mr. Griffin
Others

Old Business
Agriscience Fair Competition at the BIG E

New Business
Concern with State FFA Officers not being utilized by CDE Superintendents
Survey states to determine the viability of existing CDE’s being held at BIG E and what new ones might be added
New updated waiver form
Other concerns

Election of Officers for 2009-10
Next meeting date – November 4, 2010

Adjourn
RE: FFA Stars Report

On September 19, 2009 the FFA Stars Program was conducted with twenty two star participants from ten north-eastern states participating. Twelve knowledgeable judges from five states conducted interviews and reviewed the SAE records of applicants in four categories – Star Farmer, Star Agricultural Placement, Star Agribusiness and Star Agriscience. Congratulations to the following winning Stars for 2009: Agricultural Placement – Brittany Pestey (Connecticut), Agriscience – J. Wyatt Hall (Virginia), Farmer – Kenneth Quick (New York), and Agribusiness – Matthew VanScoy (Ohio). Star candidates submitted applications prior to August 1 and were each interviewed on September 19. Stars, parents and advisors attended a delicious luncheon in Old Storrowton Tavern and later in the afternoon participated in an awards ceremony before the Big E Circus audience. The awards were presented by James Putnam (First Pioneer Farm Credit), Wayne McCary (Big E President) and Donald Chase (Big E Board of Trustees President).

A special thanks goes to the Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program who sponsors this event – the associations include; First Pioneer Farm Credit (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island), Yankee Farm Credit (New Hampshire and Vermont), Farm Credit of Maine and Farm Credit of Western New York. The MidAtlantic Farm Credit (Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania) also sponsored this event. Special thanks also goes to the Big E for their continued support. I would like to especially thank Mr. James Putnam, Senior Vice President of First Pioneer Farm Credit for his personal involvement as a judge and representative of Farm Credit. We were very appreciative to have Kevin Keith, Local Program Specialist of the National FFA also serving as a judge.

The following are my concerns for this Big E FFA Stars Program:

I am very pleased to see the increased funding of this program by the Farm Credit System – we as consultants and teachers need to thank our Farm Credit contributors.

We need to encourage our other Farm Credit Banks to help with sponsorship.

I request some personal help from State Consultants or State FFA Coordinators from the following states:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Credit Association</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Contact Person, Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Ag Credit, ACA</td>
<td>610 W.Lytle Street, Fostoria, Ohio 44930</td>
<td>419 435 7758</td>
<td>Connie Ruth, Marketing Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS of Mid-America, ACA</td>
<td>1601 UPS Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40223</td>
<td>502 420 3700</td>
<td>Tom Schlenker, Marketing Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Ag Choice Farm Credit</td>
<td>900 Bent Creek Blvd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050</td>
<td>717 796 9372</td>
<td>Gary Hickman, Marketing Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We need to work to have more applicants from more states. Participating contestants were from the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.

I would encourage more participation in the Ag Science competition. It is important that State Consultants or other officials certify the applications. The judges indicated that the quality of applications is improving. The suggested scoring rubric worked well. More judges are needed from more states. Please send suggestions to Mr. Natusch or myself (griffinfarm@aol.com).

Thankyou addresses:

Mr. James Putnam
Senior Vice President of Marketing
First Pioneer Farm Credit
174 South Road,
Enfield, CT 06525
Mr. Robert Smith
Program Coordinator
Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement
2668 State Route 7, Suite 21
Cobleskill, NY 12043-9707

Sincerely,

B. Harrison Griffin, Stars Program Superintendent
Comments from the Director of Agriculture and Education
For FFA Planning Committee, November 2009

On behalf of the Exposition and the staff of the department I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the folks involved with the 2009 FFA Activities. Your dedication of time and other resources is greatly valued by ESE.

As in every year the Exposition was very pleased to be able to host the young people chosen as interns. These young people are an intricate part of staging this program. As in previous years they represented FFA at the pre-opening ESE Media party. It has also been conveyed to me that the Green Pastures Committee is very pleased to have a National Officer present at the dinner recognizing New England’s outstanding dairymen. Your National Officer also presented at the Springfield Rotary Luncheon during her visit.

As in 2009 on December 1st we will remove from the website the 2009 CDE’s. Changes from the Supt. should be made in Dec., so that by Jan 1, 2010, we may begin posting the 2010 CDE information. Elena will notify you 1 week before we remove your CDE so that you will have time to get updates done. We hope that all supt. will respect the need to get this information updated and that the timing of this will be critical this year for the reason we will enter the new year short a staff person.

The Eastern States Exposition Ag and Ed Department has accepted the resignation of Judy Borden as Administrative Assistant, effective November 20. Though we will miss Judy’s smile and warmth we hope you will all join us in wishing her well as she pursues her own business venture.

The Exposition got a good start on recovering the losses from last year. We were pleased that our product was well received and thus move toward the new year with anticipation and excitement. The Eastern States Exposition’s commitment to FFA programming will continue in its usual tradition of excellence.

Respectively submitted:
Donna G. Woolam
Director of Agriculture and Education
The National FFA Organization was represented at the 2009 ‘Big E’ by Kevin Keith, Northeast Area LPS Specialist and Hannah Crossen, Eastern Region FFA Vice President. Both participated in numerous events and enjoyed the event and their participation in it. In addition, National FFA Alumni Eastern Region Vice President, David Miller also attended for the first time.

Both David and Kevin were involved in the Star Award winner selection process as judges and Kevin was able to assist as a judge with the Marketing Plan event. David had the opportunity to tour the Farm A Rama building and was very impressed with the quality of displays and the number of participating chapters and states. All were complimentary of the various programs, functions, and the quality of the events at the Big E grounds and the Sheraton Hotel.

One of the most complimented (and unique) aspects of the Big E, itself, is the state houses and the featuring of the various states on the Big E grounds. The group was very impressed with the support shown to the National FFA Organization, the Eastern Region States and the chapters throughout the Eastern Region and want to compliment and thank the Big and it’s staff and volunteers for continuing to provide the tremendous activities and opportunities for our members.

I will put forth an effort to get new National FFA COO, Dwight Armstrong to attend a Big E, FFA Day Program in the near future, as well as inviting other FFA representatives to this unique event.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Keith
LPS Specialist
Northeastern United States
Landscape/Floral Design
Superintendents Report

We only had five (5) Landscape Exhibits this year. Hopefully next year we can again have six (6) participating chapters. We had three (3) very knowledgeable judges this year. All with past FFA and Landscaping experience. Chapters need to cover their names on the drawings with an easily removable tape. The Big “E” makes excellent signs for each chapter exhibit, which are placed after the judging is completed. This prevents chapter banners being subjected to water or being lost.

FFA Landscape Exhibits

Order more yellow FFA Exhibitor Cards for 2010.

Order placing ribbons for 1st thru 6th place.

Suggested Themes for:

2010 – Celebrate America

2011 – Spring has Sprung

2012 – Fall Is In the Air

We had forty-five (45) floral designs in this years’ competition. Students need to more carefully read and follow the rules of the event. Many lost points this year for using inappropriate flowers or grasses. Overall we were very pleased with the great turnout. Looking forward to filling all forty-eight (48) doors next year.

Floral Design Displays

Order placing ribbons for 1st thru 15th place.

Order participant ribbons for remainder of contestants. ( minimum 30 )

Suggested Themes for:

2010 – Celebrate America

2011 – A Day at the Beach

2012 – Good Thymes
Coordinators Report
Awards Banquet

This year’s State President Interns did a great job of labeling and distributing awards. All plaques were distributed the night of the banquet. One of the few times I can recall that we did not have awards left in the office at the end of FFA Weekend.

The Dairy Cattle Judging Superintendents need to check with the FFA Office to determine what breed awards are available so that the Ogdens can break down the scoring for individual and team breed events. We almost had a number of breed awards not given out.

State Officers applying for Awards Banquet positions need to submit their e-mail addresses with the application so the Coordinator can contact them with their assignments, directions to the banquet site, timetable of events, etc.

Getting last minute scores to the hotel still present a problem that needs to be handled by the Coordinator and the Ogdens.

Norm Hammond - RI