

The 2008 Big E FFA Scoring Plan was successful in delivering computer scored results to the awards committee in a timely manner.

With the help of Norm Hammond, we were able to electronically ship the results to his computer in the Mallory Office, as well as in the Sheriton. We still need to arrange ahead of time for computer service in the banquet hall at the Sheriton. Norm is working on a plan for 2009.

We would like to recognize Steve Gower for his help in compiling the CDEs that come to us in spreadsheet form and Elena for her cooperation in setting up the internet connection between the scoring room and Norm's computer.

We offer thanks to the CDE Superintendents for their cooperation and timely return of official keys and scan sheets to the scoring room to facilitate prompt results.

The scoring room in the Mallary is a good location and we recommend its' use for 2009.

Respectfully submitted by: Jim and Carol Ogden

BIG E FFA Coordinators Report
November 7, 2008

Statistics of Participation

CDE	CT	DE	ME	MD	MA	NH	NJ	NY	OH	PA	RI	VT	VA	WV	totals
Creed	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	9
Environmental	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	0	36
Forestry	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	0	36
S.animal	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	24
Nursery	4	4	0	4	0	e	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	24
Dairy cattle	4	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	4	4	0	44
Extemp	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	9
Horse	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	44
Parli Pro	6	6	6	6	6	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	42
Tractor	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	9
dairy foods	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	24
Business	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	0	0	28
Job interview	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	9
Poultry	4	4	0	4	0	0	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	32
Marketing	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	12
Livestock	4	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	40
Showing	1	4	0	3	0	0	1	2	4	4	0	1	1	0	21
Floriculture	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	4	4	0	4	0	40
mechanics	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	42
Prepared	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	7
Placement	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	10
Production	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	7
Business	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	7
Science	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3

Agronomy	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	0	24
Totals	64	65	31	61	40	34	25	39	69	65	8	19	52	2	583
Interns	2														
National Officer Brady Revels	1														
State Officers	92														
Floral	14 chapters														
Landscape	6														
designs	45														

Totals	64	65	31	61	40	34	25	39	69	65	8	19	52	2	583
2007 totals	60	46	26	60	43	50	36	69	72	70	5	28	49	1	615

- Interns: Two interns worked at the BIG E this year, they came from Connecticut 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. Expansion of the data on-line will be expanded next year to give more data and information for the Superintendents.
- 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.
- The floral design competition went very well and no problem reported.
- There was maximum attendance at the Sheraton this year (700) which was great, but there is no room for additional students and advisors. Banquet cost and management as well as presentation of awards remain a challenge.
- Positive comments were received from the CDE Superintendents.
- State FFA Officer Assignments: A much better job was done this year in scheduling officers at CDE events and having the assignments posted on line helped in getting the word to the officers on their assignments.

- The need for more qualified individuals to serve as CDE Superintendents and assistants is needed. A Creed assistant is needed as well for Marketing.
- An individual is needed to coordinate the Star Recognition portion in the Circus tent area. We have been fortunate with volunteers but a specific individual needs to be in charge, especially in moving the flag bearers to the parade start site and returning the flags to the Mallary Office. One concern is that many of the students in the parade need also to be at the Sheraton since their transportation is a primary concern.
- 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.
- There was a number of new staff changes in a number of states that came to the BIG E with FFA students and this may of impacted the number of students who attended.
- Need to revise and update the Stars BIG E Summary page for next year.
- Dr. Steve Brown, the new Executive Secretary, visited this year, and he gained a better appreciation for what the BIG E does for the FFA.
- 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 Mr. Revels attend the Springfield Rotary Club anniversary banquet as well as the Green Pastures Celebration banquet.
- The addition of Secretary Schafer addressing the Stars Pageant was challenging as well as exciting.
- The Ag Marketing event went very well and it was exciting to have one of the practicums scored via the internet from Iraq.

Respectfully submitted,

Milt Natusch
BIG E FFA Coordinator

2008 BIG E FFA Superintendents Reports

CDE: Small Animal

Superintendent (s): Melanie Sanborn, Wellsboro, PA

Assistant Superintendent: Cindy Chotkowksi, Storrs, CT

Budget Modifications: Would like to provide stipends for two additional judges for a team activity.

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): Rick Barker, NH

Assistant Superintendent: Janet Hammond, RI

Budget Modifications: Would like to provide stipends for the judges of the Creed event.

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

Future: The BIG E is a great opportunity to increase awareness of the FFA and the programs they offer for students. Banners, demonstrations and multimedia presentations will increase FFA visibility.

Mr. Rick Barker is not continuing as Superintendent, a replacement is needed.

CDE: Environmental and Natural Resources

Superintendent (s): Ron Fredericks, PA

Assistant Superintendent: Renee Fredericks, PA

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, water test kits, Need to make sure there are 20 tables and chairs.

CDE: Nursery/Landscape

Superintendent (s): Rebecca Rose, CT
Assistant Superintendent: David Moran, CT

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

Budget Modifications: none stated

Materials used to conduct your event: New phone number for Richard H. Baldwin, 413-271-8754

Future: Need new map and contact info on web site

CDE: Dairy Judging

Superintendent (s): Devon Keefe, CT and Brenada Mihaliak, CT

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

Materials used to conduct your event: Dairy judging sign, binders, 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

Superintendent (s): David Lewis and Greg Breene, RI
Assistant Superintendent:

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

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:
Budget Modifications: none stated

Materials used to conduct your event: 40 scoresheets, 1 clipboard, 30 harnesses.

CDE: Dairy Foods

Superintendent (s): Dave Snyder and Bob Sieving
Assistant Superintendent:
Budget Modifications: We were able to secure dairy products from Hood Dairy Plant (Donna Colburn) inside sales manager that donation will reduce next years cost. Brenda Mihaliak from CT donated mastitis milk for the contest.

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: This CDE does not have a sign to post at the site. Volunteers in Moses bldg were great. 6 long tables needed in Moses for this CDE. 8:15 a.m. should be starting time for next year. Need 5 gallon bucket of water and 2 plastic lined tubes to put expectorant into. buckruufarm@zoominternet.net is our current email address to use.

CDE: Job Interview

Superintendent (s): Juleah Tolosky, NY
Assistant Superintendent:
Budget Modifications: None stated

Materials used to conduct your event: Need results sheet in binder.

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

CDE: Marketing Plan

Superintendent (s): Gail Kiley Sanders
Assistant Superintendent:
Budget Modifications: none stated

Materials used to conduct your event: screen and stopwatch

Future: The event went well this year

CDE: Parliamentary Procedure

Superintendent (s): Janet Rosequist, NH

Assistant Superintendent: Maria VanderWoude, NH

Budget Modifications: None stated

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

Future: We should consider Ag Sales CDE at the BIG E.

Big E Planning Committee Meeting

November 6, 2008

Brooks Building, West Springfield, MA

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair David Hopson.

Members present: David Hopson, Milton Natusch, Harrison Griffin, Ken Parker, Donna Woolam, Greg Breene, David Lewis, Jim Pomeroy, Janet Hammond, Norm Hammond, Kim LaFleur, Dick Strangeway, and Elena Hovagimian.

Guest – Kevin Keith, National FFA Organization

Secretary's Report – minutes are available on the Big E website

Motion by Ken Parker

Seconded by Norm Hammond

Treasurer's Report – detailed report attached

Motion by Norm Hammond

Seconded by Greg Breene

Big E Comments by Donna Woolam – report attached

Remarks by Kevin Keith, Local Program Success Specialist, National FFA Organization

Big E Coordinator's Report

Milton discussed the successes and challenges of the 2008 event. A detailed state participation report, along with specific comments is attached to this report.

Parade Considerations – many students are not able to participate in the Saturday parade due to transportation logistics. Donna will explore the possibility of having a shuttle bus available at the end of the parade route to transport students back to the Sheraton.

CDE Superintendent's Reports

Comments submitted to Milton prior to the meeting are attached to this report. Additional comments are as follows:

Creed – A new assistant superintendent is needed, as Rick Barker will be stepping down.

Safe Tractor – additional chairs are needed to accommodate spectators. An additional bus pass is needed to bring contestants back to the fairgrounds after the completion of the event. As a side note, four parents of contestants in this year's event had participated in this event when they were FFA members.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation – a new superintendent was in place for this year. This is a complex event since there are collegiate, 4-H and FFA members participating. The event will be streamlined for next year.

Stars Program Report – report attached

Northeast Farm Credit Ag Enhancement provided \$8,000 in financial support this year. The expense of the luncheon continues to increase, even though there were fewer attendees this year. Donna has contacted the Tavern specifically regarding this year's bill, as it appears we may have been overcharged. Harrison will look into changing the menu for next year, possibly scaling back on some of the offerings.

Norm reported that the banquet went very smoothly this year. Positive changes were made to streamline the awards presentation.

Old Business

National FFA Foundation grant proposal update – there is interest from the Foundation in the concept. At this time, a policy does not exist for regional sponsorship. The proposal is on hold until the policy is developed.

New Business

Big E Summary application – Milton will work with Elena to improve the application. Some participants have had difficulty with the form, particularly with the photos

Superintendent Positions – we are in need of an assistant to work with the state officers, as well as an individual to organize the pageant.

Assistant Superintendent for Creed – Deborah Went has volunteered to fill this position

Rick Barker will be stepping down as Superintendent for the Creed CDE. Doug Butterfield, Floriculture Superintendent, has also stepped down. Motion by Janet Hammond request the Big E FFA Planning Committee draft a letter of appreciation acknowledging their years of service. David Lewis amended the

motion to have the letters sent to all future retiring superintendents. Seconded by Harrison Griffin.
Motion passed.

Agri-Science Fair – New York has requested the addition of the Agri-Science Fair program to the Big E. Kevin Keith discussed the space and logistical requirements of the event. A motion by Harrison Griffin for Milton to draft pilot event rules for 2009 -2012. The event will be reevaluated at the end of three years. The motion was seconded by Greg Breene. Motion passed.

Future Planning

Themes for Floriculture

2009 Wildflowers

Themes for Landscape Design

2009 – Currently Garden Party – changed to Heirloom Garden to match the Farm A Rama Building theme for 2009, Heritage Agriculture

The theme for 2010 will be removed from the Big E website. The theme will be decided upon at next year's planning committee meeting.

Election of Officers

Motion by Greg Breene to accept the same slate of officers for 2008-09

Seconded by Jim Pomeroy

Motion passed.

Next Meeting - November 5, 2009

Motion to adjourn by Ken Parker.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly LaFleur

Secretary

Big E Planning Committee

Livestock Judging CDE
Superintendent: Keith Shane, DE
Co-Superintendent: Laura Marek, CT

CDE went well.

Special thanks to the young lady advisor, [Becky Minton](#), from Ohio that assisted me this year. Jim – Can we see about getting her as a co-superintendent?

I am still having a hard time securing officials for the event, but have been able to get Mrs. Parsons (Matt Parsons wife) to commit to being the sheep official for the future. There has to be a group of individuals in New England that I could pull judges from – can someone put a list together?

Equipment used: neckbands, show harnesses, pencils, scantrons, llama pens

Budget Modifications: none

Recommendations for the Future: Boxed lunches for contestants would be nice. The Committee will need to find a new superintendent after 2009 – I need a break.

National FFA Organization Report – Eastern States Exposition – 2008

The National FFA Organization was represented at the 2008 'Big E' by Dr. Steve Brown, National FFA Executive Secretary; Craig Frederick, Midwest Region LPS Specialist; Brady Revels, Southern Region FFA Vice President and Kevin Keith, Northeast Area LPS Specialist. This was the first visit to the 'Big E' for Dr. Brown, Mr. Frederick and Brady and all three were very impressed with the event, so much so as to be jealous that they did not have similar activities and opportunities in their home regions of the country.

Dr. Brown, Craig and Kevin were all involved in the Star Award winner selection process as judges and Kevin was able to assist with the first annual Marketing Plan event as a judge. All three toured the Farm A Rama building and were 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 meals served by Storowton Tavern and the Sheraton.

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 for continuing to provide the tremendous activities and opportunities for our members.

The presence and address of the Secretary of Agriculture was a unique addition to this year's show and brought attention to the FFA members and organization is a very positive light.

During the past year, Kevin, Milt Natusch and Donna Woolam worked together to develop a funding proposal for consideration by the National FFA Organization, in support of the Recognition Banquet for FFA Day activities. This proposal was revised and the National Organization and Foundation are reviewing and developing policies whereby regional events could be considered for funding opportunities, but initial visits with potential regional partners have already been held. It is hoped that soon, we can move forward with an effort to gain support for the recognition banquet.

Dr. Brown will be attending future Eastern States Exposition programs, although he will likely be unable to attend each year. He is enthusiastic about the programs and opportunities presented through the Big E program for the FFA and it's members and will be a key advocate for the future of the Big E and involvement by the FFA.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Keith
LPS Specialist

Northeastern United States

Comments from the Director of Agriculture and Education
For FFA Planning Committee, November 2008

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 2008 FFA Activities. Your dedication of time and other resources is greatly valued by ESE. A special thank you to those who helped as we orchestrated the US Secy. of Agriculture visit.

As in every year the Exposition was very pleased to be able to hose 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 honoring New England's outstanding dairymen.

As in 2008 on December 1st we will remove from the website the 2008 CDE's. Changes from the Supt. Should be made in Dec., so that By Jan 1, 2009, we may begin posting the 2009 CDE information. Elena will notify you 1 week before we remove your CDE so that you will have time to get updates done. This procedure worked well last year and we would hope that we can continue it.

The Exposition suffered a few rainy weekend days this year. As a result I ask your cooperation and understanding as we maintain our 2008 spending line in 2009. At this time I have visited with one of program sponsors, First Pioneer, and they will continue to join us. Eastern States Exposition is committed to the FFA program and this commitment will continue.

Respectively submitted:
Donna G. Woolam
Director of Agriculture and Education

RE : FFA Stars Report

On September 13, 2008 the FFA Stars Program was conducted with twenty six star participants from eleven north-eastern states participating. Thirteen 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. Stars, parents, and advisors attended a delicious luncheon in Old Storowton Tavern and later in the afternoon participated in an awards ceremony before the Big E Circus audience.

A special thanks goes to the Farm Credit Associations who sponsor this event. – these 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, Ag Choice Farm Credit (Pennsylvania and West Virginia), Farm Credit of Western New York and MidAtlantic Farm Credit (Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania). 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 Dr. Steven Brown, National FFA Executive Secretary, Craig Fredrick of National FFA and Kevin Keith, Local Program Specialist of the National FFA all serving as judges.

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 and help to encourage our other Farm Credit Banks to help. Please send me an email if you need a Farm Credit address.
- We need to work to have more applicants from more states. I would encourage more participation in the Ag Science competition.
- We have a new Stars Assistant Superintendent – Eric Larsen of Cornell University.
- 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 (hgriffin@sps.suffield.org).
- Stars need coordination and direction for the Stars Pageant.
- Participating contestants were from the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia.
- 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 Ag Enhancement
2668 State Route 7, Suite 21
Cobleskill, NY 12043-9707

Sincerely,

B. Harrison Griffin, Stars Program Superintendent

BIG 'E' FFA PLANNING COMMITTEE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NOVEMBER 6, 2008

ACCOUNT
BALANCE

<u>BALANCE</u>	November 8, 2007		13,175.22
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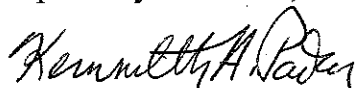
GENERAL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	Interest (Nov-Sept)	7.72		
	Participation Dues (2008- 8 States)	<u>1140.00</u>		
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>1147.71</u>		14,322.93

FARM CREDIT ACCOUNT

			BALANCE	
			(4,634.46)	
BALANCE	November 8, 2007			
RECEIPTS	Financial Partners, Inc.	<u>8,000.00</u>		
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>8,000.00</u>	3,365.54	22,322.93
EXPENSES	Big "E" Stars Luncheon 2008	3,981.25		
	Harrison Griffin Stars Exp.	81.12		
	Stars Travel (24 Individuals)	2,400.00		
	Star Winners (4 Individuals)	1,200.00		
	Discount Trophys	540.00		
	Colonial Printers of Windsor	<u>62.50</u>		
	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>8,264.87</u>	<u>(4899.33)</u>	<u>14,058.06</u>
	Check Cancelled (uncashed)			100.00
	Checkbook Balance			14,158.06
	Checks Outstanding November 6, 2008			6,054.87
	Bank Statement October 31, 2008			<u>20,212.93</u>

Respectfully Submitted,



Kenneth A. Parker, Treasurer