

## **Big E Planning Committee Meeting**

**November 9, 2010**

**Brooks Building**

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

Members Present: David Hopson, Milton Natusch, Kim LaFleur, Ken Parker, Norm Hammon, Janet Hammond, Harrison Griffin, Deborah Went, Rick Martineau, Jim Pomeroy

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** - minutes of the 2009 meeting are posted on the Big E website. There were no comments, additions or corrections.

Motion to accept was made by Greg Breene

Seconded by Jim Pomeroy

Motion passed unanimously

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion to accept by Norm Hammond

Seconded by Greg Breene

Motion passed unanimously

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Milton has not received written correspondence

### **REPORTS**

**Donna Woolam** – Elena read a statement from Donna Woolam. The report has been placed on file. Overall comments included her thanks to all involved with the 2010 Big E. She also reminded superintendents to submit their event changes to Elena by January 1<sup>st</sup> for inclusion on the website

**Kevin Keith** – Milton distributed a report from Kevin. The report is placed on file. Dr Dwight Armstrong, Alumni President, David Miller and Partner Services Director, Tony Small were in attendance and served as judges for the Stars Program, Creed Speaking and Marketing Plan CDE's.

**Big E Coordinators Report** – The full report has been placed on file. General comments included:

Milton thanked the 7 State Presidents who served as Big E interns. There were 7 entries in the Landscape Design event, which again proved to be a big hit for all in attendance. The awards banquet was filled out to capacity. There are a couple of CDE's that are in need of an assistant superintendent. There was difficulty filling the floral design booth on the weekends. The National FFA Alumni booth was used a backdrop for the floral booth. The Superintendent's dinner was moved to the Italian pavilion due to the size of the group. Other

than the noise factor, the venue worked well, as well as being a more cost effective option than the Tavern. Milton suggested a slide show of Big E CDE photos be assembled for the banquet.

Harrison suggested expanding the FFA exhibit in the Farm A Rama building to increase FFA awareness to the general public. Milton suggested forming a committee to explore the options.

### **CDE Superintendents Reports**

Forestry – Rick Martineau reported that the event went well. He would like to purchase a couple of EZ UP tents for use during the event. He also suggested connecting the Environmental/Natural Resources CDE to Forest Park as well.

Safe Tractor – Greg reported that there were 40-45 people in attendance to observe the event. There were 10 contestants.

Awards Banquet – Norm reported that since the implementation of placing stickers with state names on the back of the plaques, the distribution of awards has gone much smoother. Milton suggested adding a backdrop with the Big E logo and FFA emblem for members to take team photos. This may be best suited elsewhere on the fairgrounds.

Creed Speaking – Janet reported that the event went off without a hitch. She requested a table and chairs for use during contestant registration.

General Comments – space at the Sheraton is an issue. All available rooms are being used. The Superintendent of the Poultry Committee expressed concern over the decreasing number of participating teams. This is an expensive event to run for so few teams (6 in 2010).

### **Landscape & Floral Displays**

Landscape Design – there were 7 entries this year. Greg suggested clarifying the rules to reflect the actual size of the exhibit to 14' X 9'.

Future themes

2011 - Xeriscape

2012 – Conservation Gardens

Floral Exhibits – Norm suggested mantle pieces as the exhibit style for 2011 and 2012. All we in agreement.

Future themes

2011 – Winter Holidays

2012 – Under The Harvest Moon

**Stars Program** – there were 24 participants this year. Harrison's written report has been placed on file. Highlights include: A \$10,000 grant has been awarded from the National Farm Credit System. There was a glitch with the electronic application this year. That issue is being worked on for the 2011 forms. Harrison encourages more submissions in the Agri-Science category. Photos of all participants are on the Big E website. The pictures are loaded at low resolution. If higher resolution photos are needed, please contact Elena.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Co-Superintendent for Awards Banquet – Norm will ask Alison Toles to determine if she is interested and available.

Interest Survey – there are some outstanding questions that the committee could use some feedback on, such as awards, program offerings, etc. If you have questions regarding your specific event that you would like to have answered, please send them to Milton and Elena to aide in development of the survey.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Expenditures of resources for new item/replacements – There was discussion surrounding the reimbursement requests that have been received for event supplies and materials.

Motion by Ken Parker to establish an incidental expense allotment of \$75 for each event, to be approved by the Big E FFA Coordinator. Any expenses above and beyond the incidental amount must be approved by the Big E FFA Coordinator and the Executive

Second by Norm Hammond.

Motion passed unanimously

Harrison moved that we create a committee to develop and interactive booth in the Farm A Rama building with a budget of \$4000. Elena confirmed with Donna that the Big E will match the Planning Committees financial commitment and labor.

Seconded by Greg Breene

The suggested committee members are Milton, Elena, Donna, Harrison, Kevin Keith, and an FFA member.

Motional passed unanimously.

Dave appointed Milton as the Committee Chair.

**Judges Checks** – there have been some payments that have gone out in error based on outdated information. Elena asked for a new policy to request payments for judges.

Motion by Rick Martineau that judge's checks will be awarded after the completion of the event, and receipt of the superintendent's report.

Seconded by Greg Breene

Motion passed unanimously

## **Election of Officers**

Dave Hopson – Chair, Jim Pomeroy – Vice Chair, Kim LaFleur – Secretary, Ken Parker – Treasurer

Motion by Greg Breene to nominate the slate above. Seconded by Norm Hammond. Motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Harrison presented a thank you card from the New England Grange in acknowledgement of the flowers received for their stage.

**Next Meeting Date**

November 8, 2011 9:30 AM

Motion to adjourn by Ken Parker. Seconded by Greg Breene.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly LaFleur

Big E Planning Committee Secretary

BIG E FFA Coordinators Report  
November 9, 2010

The FFA member participation this year was similar to last year and need to continue work in getting other states not represented at least participate in the Stars Program.

Interns: Seven interns worked at the BIG E this year, they came from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey 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. We had seven entries this year one of which was Pennsylvania.

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 and it appears.

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.

Several opportunities exist for assistant superintendents.

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 some issues with the Excel/Word program working properly for Star applicants to complete, and so they had to resort to doing it by hand.

FFA Workday the Saturday before has only had one chapter participate in the past and additional chapters are encouraged to assist.

There is a need to purchase some additional replacement flag poles to be used in the pageant.

The National FFA Alumni let us borrow their display for use in the floriculture booth. We need to look at having something developed for our own use.

The Superintendents dinner was well represented by CDE staff and guests at the new location in the Italian Pavilion. The location worked out very well except for the noise from the adjacent pedestrian walkway and the parade which went by. Cindi, 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 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 her attend the Springfield Rotary Club banquet as well as the Green Pastures banquet.

Respectfully submitted,

Milt Natusch  
BIG E FFA Coordinator

## BIGE FFA SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS 2010

### **Nursery Landscaping**

Superintendent: Rebecca Rose

No comments provided.

### **Dairy Foods**

Co-Superintendents: Dave Snyder and Bob Sieving

Comments: Things went well this year and see no changes for next year. Special thanks to the BIG E and Hood, Inc. for all their support.

### **Floriculture**

Co-Superintendents: Chas Mavrelion and Bethany Royer

Comments:

None Provided.

### **Livestock Judging**

Superintendent: Keith Shane and Laura Marek

Comments: None provided

### **Dairy Handlers**

Superintendent: Cheryl Vest

Comments: None provided

### **Dairy Cattle Evaluation**

Co\_superintendents: Brende Wildes and Erik Giampaalo

Comments: none provided

### **Safe Tractor Operation**

CoSuperintendents: David Lewis and Greg Breene

Comments: Thanks for 50 chairs and could use two tables.

### **Poultry Judging**

Co-Superintendents: Bob Lauffer and Neil Fellerbaum

Comments: Would like to see more participate, lots of work for just 5-6 teams.

### **Agricultural Mechanics**

Co-Superintendents: Tom March and Douglas Hammond

Comments: Thanks to SUNY and Housatonic Valley High School for supplying supplies, equipment and other resources for this event.

### **Prepared Public Speaking**

Superintendents: Kim LeFleur and Gwynne Millar

Comments: None Provided

### **Environmental and Natural Resources**

Superintendents: Ronald Frederick and Renee Frederick

Comments: Need to purchase soil and water kits and replacement chemicals. Approx. Cost \$100.00 for next year.



**Creed**

Superintendents: Janet Hammond and Deb Went

Comments: Need to have two tables in the Moses auditorium and several chairs.

**Small Animal**

Co-Superintendents: Melanie Berndtson and Cindy Chotowski

Comments: This CDE is up for approval as a National CDE and when approved on that level the events rules will be updated to coincide with National rules.

**Job Interview**

Superintendents: David Hopson and Joanne Blocker

Comments: Could use additional room at Sheraton.

**Marketing Plan**

Superintendent: Gail Kiley Sanders

Comments: None provided

**Parliamentary Procedure**

Superintendents: Jane Rosequist and Maria VanderWoude

Comments: Need two countdown clocks for event. Need rooms available at 12:30 p.m. Would like one room with table seating for 60 people if possible. Need two podiums. The event this year took 7 hours to conduct.

**Horse Evaluation**

Co-Superintendents: Linda Corson and Elsie Bornstein

Comments: Judges should be paid a higher rate. Moving to UCONN next year for this event.

**Forestry**

Co-Superintendents: Rick Martineau and George Lyman

Comments: Need two pop-up canopies (10'x10') to use at CDE site. Estimated \$125 each. Need \$100 per year for supplies and materials.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Superintendent: Tiffany Hoy

Comments: Two rooms with podium in one room was great this year.

Agronomy:

Report missing

Comments from the Director of Agriculture and Education  
For FFA Planning Committee, November 2010

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 2010 FFA Activities. Your dedication of time and other resources is greatly valued by ESE. We were especially pleased that so many FFA national office representatives were able to join us.

This year the Exposition was very pleased to be able to expand the number of young people chosen as interns. These young people were very helpful during their tenure with us. 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 previous years on December 1<sup>st</sup> we will remove from the website the 2010 CDE's. Changes from the Supt. should be made in Dec., so that by Jan 1, 2011, we may begin posting the 2011 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 as it is not beneficial to anyone when this information is obsolete.

The Exposition continues to provide a quality event and exposition for its visitors. 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

Eastern States Exposition  
FFA Planning Committee  
West Springfield, MA

Nov. 9, 2010

RE : FFA Stars Report

On September 18, 2010 the FFA Stars Program was conducted with twenty four star participants from ten 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. Congratulations to the following winning Stars for 2010: Agricultural Placement – Samuel Cross (Virginia), Agriscience – Chelsea Gusler (Virginia), Farmer – Leah DiGioia (Connecticut), and Agribusiness – Joy Powers (Virginia). Star candidates submitted applications prior to August 1 and were each interviewed on September 18. 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. The awards were presented by James Putnam (Farm Credit East), 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; Farm Credit East (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island), Yankee Farm Credit (New Hampshire and Vermont) and Farm Credit of Maine.. 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 Farm Credit East for his personal involvement as a judge and representative of Farm Credit. Also judging from Farm Credit East were Karen Murphy, VP and Director of Communication and Emili Ponte, Credit Representative. We were very appreciative to have Kevin Keith, Local Program Specialist of the National FFA and David Miller, President Elect of National FFA Alumni also serving along with our other fine judges. I would also give a special thanks to The New England Grange for the use of their facility and great refreshments.

We are very pleased to have an assistant Stars coordinator - Harold Mackin, Connecticut Ag Education Consultant.

I am very pleased to announce that with the coordination and support of Farm Credit East and the Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program we applied and have received a grant contribution from the National Farm Credit System in the amount of \$10,000.

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.

Robert Smith, Program Coordinator  
Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement  
2668 State Route 7, Suite 21  
Cobleskill, NY 12043-9707

James Putnam, Senior Vice President of Marketing  
Farm Credit East  
240 South Road,  
Enfield, CT 06525

- There are concerns regarding the application and a difficulty in entering information electronically. The new format using the Big E Star Application, American Degree Application and Resume seemed to work well.
- We need to work to have more applicants from more states. Participating contestants were from the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.
- I would encourage more participation in the Ag Science competition.
- I will include a scoring rubric for the judges use next year.
- More judges are needed from more states. Please send suggestions to Mr. Natusch or myself ([griffinfarm@aol.com](mailto:griffinfarm@aol.com)).
- Great pictures of the Star candidates and Stars are available on the Big E website – please use them for State publicity.

Sincerely,

B.Harrison Griffin, Stars Program Superintendent

**BIG "E" FFA PLANNING COMMITTEE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
NOVEMBER 9, 2010**

		<u>ACCOUNT BALANCE</u>
<b>BALANCE</b>	November 5, 2009	12,940.27
<b>GENERAL ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Agrimark (Banquet) 1000.00	
	Participation Dues (2009-10 =16 States) <u>2300.00</u>	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b> <u><b>3300.00</b></u>	<b>16,240.27</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Big "E" Sat. Eve Banquet 1000.00	
	Robert Seiving (Dairy Foods) <u>57.50</u>	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> <u><b>1057.58</b></u>	<b>15,182.69</b>
<b>FARM CREDIT ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>BALANCE</b>	November 5, 2009	<b>BALANCE (7460.31)</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Farm Credit Northeast 6,500.00	
	Ag Choice Farm Credit 750.00	
	Mid Atlantic Farm Credit <u>750.00</u>	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b> <u><b>8,000.00</b></u>	539.69 <b>23,182.69</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Big "E" Stars Luncheon 2010 3293.75	
	Harrison Griffin Stars Exp. 98.64	
	Stars Travel (22 Individuals) 2400.00	
	Star Winners (4 Individuals) 1200.00	
	Discount Trophy <u>520.00</u>	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> <u><b>7512.39</b></u>	<u><b>(6972.70)</b></u> <b>15,670.30</b>
	Checkbook Balance November 9, 2010	15,670.30
	Checks Outstanding November 5, 2009	5,312.39
		<u><b>20,982.69</b></u>
	Less Bank Deposit 11/3/10	720.00
	Bank Statement October 29, 2010	<u><b>20,262.69</b></u>

Respectfully Submitted

*Kenneth A. Parker*

Kenneth A. Parker, Treasurer