

Big E Planning Committee Meeting  
Brooks Building – West Springfield  
November 6, 2012

Present – Milton Natusch, Dave Hopson, Ken Parker, Harrison Griffin, Harold Mackin, Elena Hovagimian, Donna Woolam, Dustyn Neslon, Kaylyn Morrill, Kim LaFleur

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair Dave Hopson

**Big E Report**

Donna was very pleased with the results of the 2012 Big E. She thanked the interns that provided assistance for the FFA events. She also complimented National Officer, Cain Thurmond, for his valued contributions. The current CDE rules will be removed from the website on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Revisions are needed as soon as possible. 1.3 million visitors came to the Big E – the largest on record. She does not anticipate any changes to the continued support of FFA events in 2013.

**Secretary's Report** – minutes from the 2011 meeting are posted on the Big E website for review

**Treasurer's Report** – Ken Parker provided a review of the 2011-2012 finances. The account balance as of 11/6/12 is \$30,351.49. Ken announced this will be his final year as treasurer for the Planning Committee.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Ken Parker. Seconded by Harrison Griffin. Motion passed unanimously.

**Report from National FFA/Kevin Keith**

Kevin provided a written report which Milton shared with those present. National FFA would like to have a greater presence in the Farm A Rama building. They would also like to bring the new mascot, Flyte, for the two FFA days as well.

**Big E Coordinators Report**

Milton asked that all CDE Superintendents document the organizational management of their respective CDE's. A template will be developed to standardize the information collected.

Six interns were selected for 2012. One additional person, Kaylyn Morrill, was used for transportation of the interns and the National Officer.

Judgingcard.com was used for the first time this year. Given that it was the first year, there was a learning curve associated with it. Overall it worked well and saved a lot of paperwork.

There were six entries for the Landscape Design event. The floral exhibits were also well represented.

Jim and Carol Ogden will be retiring from scoring FFA events. A new individual is needed for 2013 and beyond. Milton asked that recognition awards be presented to the Ogden's, as well as other retiring Superintendents.

Milton expressed the need for back up individuals to run/organized events in the event the original Superintendent is unable to fulfill his/her duties.

### **CDE Superintendent Reports**

Milton distributed a copy of the reports received for all to review.

### **Stars Program Report**

Harrison distributed a copy of the 2012 report. There were 19 stars from 10 states. The National Farm Credit Contributions program and Farm Credit East sponsor the program. A \$10,000 grant was received from the National Farm Credit System.

Harrison stressed the need for more applications. Many of the New England States do not even apply. Photos of the winners are available on the Big E website. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the application used. Pros and cons were presented for continuing as is, or simplifying the application.

Kevin Keith joined the conversation by conference call. He suggested using the Big E application as the cover, then followed up with whatever application the student submitted at their respective state level.

### **Star Pageant Report**

Kaylyn reported that we are in need of new flags. She also said we need additional help after the pageant. Many students left afterwards leaving only one person to carry all of the flags.

### **Livestock CDE**

Moving the event to Friday was a big improvement. It made arranging for assistants and animals much easier. Oral reasons were moved to the fairgrounds as well.

### **Review of Electronic Bus Pass System**

All bus passes were sent electronically this year. Donna reported that is worked out really well, especially for last minute requests.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Agriscience Fair – This topic was originally discussed a couple of years ago. At that time, we did not have the resources to run the event. Milton suggested we do a modified National FFA event, where the students would be present for a few hours to discuss their project with the general public. Students would receive a participation ribbon for their efforts. There was discussion regarding logistics, where the exhibits would be set up, etc. The event would need a coordinator. Dave nominated Harold Mackin to serve as the chair of a newly formed subcommittee to review the process of adding an agriscience fair to the Big E. He will report by January 15<sup>th</sup> with his recommendations.

There was a motion by Ken Parker to approve the nomination. The motion was seconded by Harrison Griffin. Passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Purchasing new items** – new flags, stopwatches, etc are needed

Motion by Ken Parker requesting Milton inventory current items to create a list of what is available and purchase what is needed. Seconded by Harrison Griffin.

Discussion – Harrison requested an FFA and American flag to be used in the Farm A Rama Building for the corsage making area. These flags will be used for the parade.

Amendment by Dustyn for the amount not to exceed \$3000. Seconded by Kaylyn Morrill. Amendment passed.

Main motion passed unanimously.

Harrison suggested the funds be taken out of the Farm Credit account given that the flags are used primarily for the Stars Pageant.

### **New CDE Score person**

Motion by Ken Parker authorizing Milton to work with the proposed CDE scoring contractor. He and Donna will discuss logistics and budget with him.

### **Replacement of CDE Superintendents**

Cheryl Vest may be unable to continue as the Superintendent for Dairy Handling event. Milton will follow up with her to determine availability and a potential replacement.

### **Use of Forms for pre-certifying CDE teams**

Milton developed a form for states to pre-certify their teams in order to assist Superintendents prepare for their events.

### **Written Policy for Handling Medical Emergencies**

Donna will create a procedure document for Superintendents to use when handling medical emergencies, including reporting requirements back to ESE.

### **FFA Assistant Coordinator**

Milton would like to have a backup person for the Coordinator to help with the work load.

Motion by Kim LaFleur to include a line item in the Planning Committee budget for an Assistant Coordinator.

Second by Ken Parker. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Recognition for Retiring Superintendents**

Ken suggested ordering jackets for the retiring individuals. Donna will look into ordering them through her department. Milton suggested a small plaque and a gift. Dustyn suggested a donation in the Superintendent's name.

Motion by Kaylyn Morrill to recognize retiring Superintendents with 10 or more years of service by making a donation in their name to the National FFA Foundation in the amount of \$100 and to present them with a small gift, not to exceed \$50.

Seconded by Harrison Griffin. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ken Parker to amend the Big E Stars Recognition Program application to include:

1. Big E Stars Recognition Application
2. Certification by State Staff of qualification
3. Resume
4. Supplemental Material (maximum of 2 pages)

Seconded by Harrison Griffin. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Election of 2012 – 2013 Officers**

Motion by Harrison Griffin to move the current slate of officer. Seconded by Harold Mackin. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – November 5, 2013

Motion to adjourn by Ken Parker. Seconded by Harrison Griffin.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur

Big E Planning Committee Secretary

BIG E FFA Coordinators Report  
November 6, 2012

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. We did have Michigan participating having one team. I talked with several states and with limited staff and they indicated it is difficult to work with schools in getting them to participate. In several cases cost was a factor by local school districts.

Interns: Six interns worked at the BIG E this year, they came from Virginia, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Each did an outstanding job in executing their duties as needed. Kaylyn Morrill, an intern from last year, was instrumental in getting the interns from the airport to BIG E and hotel as well as the National FFA Officer, Cain Thurmond from Georgia.

Online registrations: We used Judgingcard.com this year for the first time. The newest created some issues but overall it worked out well.

The landscape exhibits continue to be a highlight of the Farm-A-Rama building. We had six entries this year.

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. The Ogden's indicated they will not be continuing in this role and we need to find someone else to do this computerized scoring.

State FFA Officer Assignments: A much better job was done this year in scheduling officers at CDE events.

Several opportunities exist for assistant superintendents. The Dairy Showing superintendent will not be continuing and a replacement is needed.

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.

I see the need for a procedures information sheet being developed for the Stars Program, and this could be taken down to other FFA areas.

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 (needs to happen!)

A TV monitor was placed on the wall behind the Floral Design booth for showing special presentations. I am not sure of its effectiveness or use.

The Superintendents dinner was well represented by CDE staff and guests at the new location in the Italian Pavilion.

Elena and Donna are 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 him attend the Springfield Rotary Club banquet as well as the Green Pastures banquet.

We need to review the comments from the Superintendents several months before the BIG E to make sure we are accommodating their needs. We had several students injured at the Veterinary Science CDE due to staples in the tables.

A better method of identifying judges for the various events needs to be established to ensure accuracy of judges who did participate as well as the payment process.

Thank you note cards were provided to the interns and Star applicants to thank the many sponsors of events. This really worked well and should be expanded to other CDE areas.

The interns also were provided some personalized items to assist them with their duties. These seemed to work out well.

Respectfully submitted,

Milt Natusch  
BIG E FFA Coordinator

## BIG E FFA SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS SEPTEMBER 2012

### **Forestry**

Superintendent – Rick Martineau and George Lyman

No specific information provided on updates or changes

### **Dairy Handlers**

Superintendent – Cheryl Vest

Will not continue as Superintendent, need to replace

### **Milk Quality and Products**

Superintendent – Dave Snyder & Bob Sieving

Need to send a Thank You note to Hood dairy of Agawam c/o Donna Colburn for the Dairy Products they donated for the CDE.

Comments: The FFA program should stay strong here at the BIG E as it is something special for the Eastern Region and exemplifies the proud tradition of agriculture in the northeast.

### **Creed**

Superintendents – Janet Hammond and Pat Natusch

Timers need to be purchased for this event as well as clipboards. These items may be needed for other CDE's as well.

### **Extemporaneous Speaking**

Superintendents – Philip Adam Jr & John Ewing

No specific comments provided.

### **Environmental and Natural Resources**

Superintendents – Ronald and Renee Frederick

Most materials needed for this event are provided from Pennsylvania State University. Some additional materials may be needed for next year for implementation of new skill areas for 2013.

### **Job Interview**

Superintendents – Joanne Blocker and David Hopson

Need a WiFi access at Sheraton.

### **Farm Business Management**

Superintendents – Doug Robertson and John Bradley

Please make sure the map to the CDE site is included on the website. Make sure the rules of the CDE are included in the Blue Book notebooks.

### **Dairy Cattle Evaluation**

Superintendents – Sheri Boardman and Erika Petersson

No specific comments provided.

### **Agronomy**

Superintendents – Steve Gower

May have a conflict in coordinating event at BIG E next year – will keep us informed.

### **Veterinary Science**

Superintendents – Melanie Berndtson and Cindy Chotowski

The tables that are used had many staples in them and several students were injured because of the staples. Please change the name on the website to Veterinary Science.

### **Parliamentary Procedure**

Superintendents – Maria Vanderwoude and Janet Rosequist

Need a countdown clock at the CDE site. Really need one large room at Sheraton setup classroom style and 2 presentation rooms.

### **Reports Missing:**

Prepared Speaking

Floriculture

Poultry

Livestock

Nursery/Landscaping

Safe Tractor Operation

Stars Program

Fall 2012

National FFA Report – Eastern States Exposition, September 14-15, 2012

First, may I apologize for not being able to be present to provide my annual report to the Big E/FFA Planning Committee.

In addition to National FFA Vice President, Cain Thurmond, the 2012 Eastern States Exposition was attended by Kevin Keith, Local Program Success Specialist for the Northeastern United States; Bill Fleet, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Steve Brown, National FFA Advisor, U.S. Department of Education; Julie Tesch, Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni; David Miller, Past President of the National FFA Alumni and Jenna Clark, Event Manager for Career Development Events. All were impressed with the schedule of events and enjoyed the entire Big E program and the many discussions that they had with state leaders, local agricultural education instructors and FFA members. Kevin, Steve, Julie and Dave participated as judges while Bill Fleet and Jenna Clark concentrated on the many FFA related events and exhibits throughout the two days. The group was very enthusiastic about the events and their participation in them, and have, as a result, increased interest in the Eastern States Exposition by the National FFA Organization.

As a follow-up to his experiences, Bill Fleet has suggested that the National FFA Organization investigate ways to have a greater presence with the Big E and he has asked Kevin Keith to work with the Staff of the Marketing and Communications Division and the Big E Planning Committee, to determine potential for display spaces and opportunities as well as other potential involvement to increase awareness of Agricultural Education and the National FFA Organization through the Eastern States Exposition. This is something that has been attempted in various ways, over the past several years, but marks the first time that we have had this level of interest from our Marketing and Communications Division. (This is a direct result of Bill Fleet's report and the interest of Janet Chronic, Division Director for Marketing and Communications.) Kevin will plan to meet with Milt Natusch and possibly other planning committee members and Big E staff in early 2013 to discuss the possibilities that may exist.

I also want to mention a joint effort in which I have been involved with over the past year (this was mentioned in my report a year ago). There is a committee that has been working on the possibility of establishing a CDE in the area of Agricultural Energy Systems and Technology. The group includes state leaders and local agricultural education instructors from Ohio and Pennsylvania, and includes Jim Ogden. The development efforts are being lead by Cyndi Brill, State Staff in Ohio and Cliff Day, State Staff in Pennsylvania. The group has developed a substantial amount of materials in a guide to the event and I expect that there will be an official proposal brought to the Big E/FFA Planning Meeting.

The 2012 Big E was very memorable for the tremendous weather and participation from a new state, Michigan, as well as for the participation from National FFA Organization and Alumni Staff. I am very hopeful to have an increased presence for the National FFA Organization in the Big E for 2013 and invite the planning committee to offer suggestions of how we might best support state and local agricultural education and FFA through the Big E.

I would be remiss if I did not take an opportunity to thank those who were involved in the organization of local program/chapter visits at Southington Regional Agriculture Center in Connecticut; the Killingly Regional Agriculture Center in Connecticut and the Bristol County Agricultural High School in Massachusetts for Dr. Steve Brown and myself, just prior to the Big E program. Dr. Brown was extremely impressed and has been very enthusiastic in promoting what he experienced by visiting these chapters and he has been very vocal about the need to share the great things that are occurring in Agricultural Education in New England and the Northeast! Please do let me know if I can provide any additional information and sincerest thanks to all for the wonderful experiences and opportunities offered to the National FFA and FFA Alumni representatives in attendance this year.

Sincerely,

Kevin Keith

Local Program Success Specialist, Northeastern United States

National FFA Organization

317 709 0806/kkeith@ffa.org

Comments from the Director of Agriculture and Education  
For FFA Planning Committee, November 2012

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 2012 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. In 2012 we offered several internships and we are pleased to be able to accommodate these young people as they are an intricate part of staging this program. As in previous years they represented FFA at the pre-opening ESE Media party. The National officer this year attended Springfield Rotary and The Green Pastures dinner on Friday.

This year, on December 1<sup>st</sup>, we will remove from the website the 2012 CDE information. Changes from the Supt. should be made in Dec., so that by Jan 1, 2013, we may begin posting the 2013 CDE information. Elena will notify you 1 week before we remove your CDE so that you will have time to get updates done. I cannot emphasize the need to get this information to us in a timely manner. It is our hope that Superintendents will respect this time frame and Elena's other commitment needs and get this information to her in the timeline stated.

The Exposition was attended by over 1.3 million people this year, an indication that The Big E is a premier production that, even in a challenged economy, is still a sought after venue of entertainment. It is our intention to continue to support the current FFA events in 2013.

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

Eastern States Exposition  
FFA Planning Committee  
West Springfield, MA

Nov. 6, 2012

RE : FFA Stars Report

On September 15, 2012 the FFA Stars Program was conducted with nineteen 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. Congratulations to the following winning Stars for 2012: Agricultural Placement – Samuel Dively (Pennsylvania), Agriscience – Maegan Olson (Maryland), Farmer – Kacey Reinholtz (Connecticut), Agribusiness - David Johnston (Connecticut). Star candidates submitted applications prior to August 1 and were each interviewed on September 15. Stars, parents and advisors attended a delicious luncheon in Old Storowton Tavern and later in the afternoon participated in an awards ceremony before - Big E Circus audience.

A special thanks goes to the Farm Credit National Contributions Program and Farm Credit East who sponsors 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 was Karen Murphy, VP and Director of Communication. 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.

Ms. Christina Bowen  
Director, Farm Credit Contributions  
7951 E. Maplewood Ave, Suite 225  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

James Putnam, Executive Vice President  
Farm Credit East  
174 South Road,  
Enfield, CT 06082

- 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, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.
- I would encourage more participation in the Ag Science competition.
- 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 6, 2012**

		<b>ACCOUNT</b>	
		<b>BALANCE</b>	
<b>BALANCE</b>	November 8, 2011		26,086.48
<b>GENERAL ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Cancelled Check #1366 (9-18-10)	100.00	
	Participation Dues (8 States)	1,630.00	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>1,730.00</u></b>	27,816.48
<b>EXPENSES</b>	2011 CDE EXPENSES	53.60	
	2012 CDE EXPENSES	341.10	
	2011 Exhibition Booth	1,148.92	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>1,543.62</u></b>	26,272.86
<b>FARM CREDIT ACCOUNT</b>			
			<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	NOVEMBER 9, 2010		2,701.58
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	FARM CREDIT SYSTEM	10,000.00	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>10,000.00</u></b>	12,701.58
<b>EXPENSES</b>	STARS TRAVEL (18 Individuals)	1,800.00	
	STARS WINNERS (3 Individuals)	1,200.00	
	B. Harrison Griffin 2011 Stars	549.32	
	B. Harrison Griffin 2012 Stars	649.57	
	STARS LUNCHEON	1,722.48	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>5,921.37</u></b>	<b><u>6,780.21</u></b>
	Checkbook Balance November 6, 2012		30,351.49

Respectfully Submitted;

*Kenneth A. Parker*

Kenneth A. Parker, Treasurer

## BIG E FFA CDE Totals

Ag Mechancs	41
Agronomy	19
Creed	12
Dairy showing	20
Dairy Judging	31
Environmental	64
Extemporaneoi	8
Farm Business	23
Floriculture	38
Forestry	27
Horse evaluatic	35
Job Interview	8
Livestock Judg	35
Marketing	20
Milk Quality	23
NurseryLandsc	23
Parliamentary f	47
Poultry	31
Prepared speal	10
Tractor Operati	8
Vet Science	27