

# 2015 FFA Planning Committee Meeting

November 8, 2015

## Attending

Jim Pomeroy  
Andrew Zamora  
Dave Hopson  
Milton Natusch  
Elena Hovagimian  
Norm Hammond  
Janet Hammond  
Donna Woolam  
Jon Tumolo  
Dr Ken Parker  
Harrison Griffin

**Meeting called to order** - 9:35am

**Secretary's Report** – skipped

**Treasurer's Report** – Dr Parker Report. Virginia CDE fees paperwork not filled correctly. Milton to email paperwork for them getting paid. Motion Approved. Norm Hammond. Jim Pomeroy Second.

Communications if any

## Reports -

**Donna Woolam – The Big E** – This year there was a new intern breakfast. We would like to remind all FFA Superintendents to please get in their CDE updates in a timely manner. Electronic bus passes needs to come in on time. 1.3 million Attendance which is a new record. Looking forward to our centennial year. Report Attached.

**National FFA Report** - Karen Hutchison – National Officer did well and will return. Karen will continue to work with us as needed.

Ffa demo booth committee will keep moving if you want to join contact

**Intern Report** – Jon Tumolo - The intern presence is increasing. Intern while there were here helped ESE staff setup the Show Ring and their Retail Stores; prepared CDEs and did general assistance as needed. The Networking the biggest value to interns. 9 were allowed to experience the Fair. The Media party allowed for FFA Interns a real life experience allowing the use of people skills along with the promotion of FFA.

**Big E Coordinators report** - Milton Natusch – Rules will be changing this year. Stipend is not covering people's travel expenses. Question is how are we going to keep cde s going? Staff no longer works for the state. Volunteers are on limited funds. Question about switching the meeting to a conferecnce call. Is there a way we can supplement with FFA planning committee Funds. Participation in cdes is holding their own.

Harrison Griffin spoke about FFA booth in Farm-A-Rama

### **CDE Superintendents Report**

Stars program report – Harrison Griffin - There was discussion about FFA photos on the Flickr account being hard to access. ESE will look into and create a separate folder.

Safe Tractor – Andrew and Jim – Reported the contest went well.

Floral design and landscape –Norm Hammond - Landscapes we had a problem with last minute cancellation. Someone was on the waiting list and could have filled it. 5 will be the number of landscapes. There were departure problems with one chapter. Floral Design was all set. Norm Hammond is requesting an assistant.

Awards Banquet – Norm Hammond - Kudos to the interns that helped with this event. They made everything go smoothly. Norm Hammond is requesting an assistant for this event as well.

Farm business Management - has a new name in 2016.

## **Old Business**

**Agri-Science Fair** – need to evaluate the online entry process. Otherwise all is ok.

**Food Science CDE** – Good response from FFA Chapters. PJ Adams reported to continue through into 2016. Milton Natusch motion. Dr Parker second. Motion Approved

**Equipment expenditure for Forestry ID Tools.** Milton investigated and what they need are replacement kits and canopy. Milton Natusch motion. Dr Parker second. Motion Approved

**FFA Demo Booth** - Committee will keep moving forward on ideas. If you want to join contact Harrison Griffin or Elena Hovagimian.

## **New Business**

**Recognition procedures** - Long standing Superintendents retiring should receive a Thank You note from the FFA Planning Committee and Eastern States Exposition. Additional gift cards may come from a place like LL Bean and should be in the range of \$50. Dr Parker motion. Second by Norm Hammond. Motion Approved

**Stipend Evaluation for superintendents** -Travel expenses for retired superintendents and assts superintendents. They can be reimbursed up to \$200 for travel and lodging per CDE. All reimbursements to be submitted to the Ffa treasurer. Receipts must be provided. Motion Carried.

**Request for Assistant for floral design and landscape and banquet.** Norm and Milton to work on. Motion Approved.

### **Selection of Theme for 2018 (Landscape and Floral Design)**

2018 - Floral - futuristic design Landscape - garden of the future. Motion Approved.

**Evaluation of Landscape last minute cancellation** – It was discussed to ban for the missing landscape from future competition as no reason was provided to Volunteers and Staff. Norm and Dave second. Motion withdrawn.

**Livestock CDE.** There was discussion about including collegiate and making improvements to the CDE. Donna Woolam added that there was discussion going on between Keith and Donna. Motion was made to include Collegiate if possible. Motion Approved.

**Adding Ag Issues- pilot.** Can be done can be done at the Sheraton or on the fairgrounds. Milton to see if he can find someone to run a pilot program. Consideration needs to be given to time and space and superintendent by Jan 1. Motion approved.

**Election of officers** - Elena voted secretary of planning committee meeting . Rest of Officers retained. Unanimously passed.

**Next meeting date** - November 8, 2016 9am

Meeting Adjourned 11:56 pm

BIG E FFA Coordinators Report  
November 10, 2015

- The FFA member participation this year was similar to last year. I talked with several states and many states had staff changes which impacted participation. The states having changes are Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland and New York.
- Interns: Nine interns worked at the BIG E this year, they came from Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia and for the first time Ohio.. Each did an outstanding job in executing their duties as needed. Kaylyn Morrill from Connecticut was instrumental in getting the interns from the airport to BIG E and hotel as well as the National FFA Officer, Victoria Maloch from Arkansas. The National Officer spoke at the Rotary Club luncheon at the Basketball Hall of Fame and then at the Green Pastures dinner.
- Online registrations: We continue to use Judgingcard.com for registration and slowly issues are being resolved.
- The landscape exhibits continue to be a highlight of the Farm-A-Rama building.
- The floral design competition went very well and the most effective way to receive entries needs to be addressed for this year.
- 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.
- Doug Cottrill was hired again to run the computerized scoring process. Overall, the results were available for the banquet and things worked out just fine.
- State FFA Officer Assignments: A much better job was done this year in scheduling officers at CDE events.
- Several opportunities exist for superintendents and assistant Superintendents: Environmental and Natural Resources and Job Interview.
- We had the following states participating in the BIG E FFA events: Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, West Virginia and Ohio.
- FFA Workday the Saturday before has only had one chapter participate in the past and additional chapters are encouraged to assist. The chapter was Northwestern Regional FFA, Winsted CT.
- The Superintendents dinner was well represented by CDE staff and guests and was moved back to the Storrowton Inn.

- 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.
- We need to review the comments from the Superintendents several months before the BIG E to make sure we are accommodating their needs.
- A better method of identifying judges for the various events needs to be established to ensure accuracy of judges who did participate as well 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.
- Laminate names tags were provided with lanyards to all CDE Superintendents, Asst Superintendents, state FFA Officer assistants and judges so they could be easily identified by students, spectators and others.
- Agriscience displays seemed to be a crowd pleaser and many general public people were observed looking at the displays and talking with the students.
- Kaylyn Morrill served as assistant to the BIG E FFA Coordinator and did a fantastic job!
- The first ever Food Science and Technology CDE was held this year and we had 8 teams – which was a fantastic start.

Respectfully submitted,

Milt Natusch  
BIG E FFA Coordinator

Eastern States Exposition  
FFA Planning Committee  
West Springfield, MA

Nov. 6, 2015

RE : FFA Stars Report

On September 19, 2015 the FFA Stars Program was conducted with twenty-three star participants from eleven north-eastern states participating. Eleven knowledgeable judges from five states conducted interviews and reviewed the records of applicants in four categories. Congratulations to the following winning Stars for 2015: Agricultural Placement – Ethan R. Smith, Connecticut , Agriscience – Karen Luong, New York , Farmer – Michael Long Jr., Pennsylvania, Agribusiness - Andrew Fletcher, New York. 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 Storowton Tavern and later in the afternoon participated in an awards ceremony before The Big E Circus audience.

Special thanks go to the Farm Credit Northeast Ag Enhancement and Farm Credit East who sponsors this event. Special thanks also go to the Big E for their continued support. I would like to especially thank Roger Murray, Bobbie Jo Thibault and Chris Laughton of Farm Credit East for serving as 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 we applied and have received a grant contribution from the Farm Credit Northeast Ag Enhancement 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 A. Smith  
Farm Credit Northeast Ag Enhancement  
Farm Credit East  
240 South Road,  
Enfield, CT 06082

- The new format using the Big E Star Application, Copy of Applicant's State Winning Application, Resume and Supplemental Material at applicant's discretion (maximum 2 pages) seemed to work well.

- We need to work to have more applicants from more states. Participating contestants were from the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Vermont.
- 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. There has been some confusion obtaining these pictures on the Big E website.

Sincerely,

B.Harrison Griffin, Stars Program Superintendent

Comments from the Director of Agriculture and Education  
For FFA Planning Committee, November 2015

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 2015 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. This year we had several state presidents join us as interns. As it is often hectic in the Ag Office upon their arrival, Milton and I discussed a solution and I met them for breakfast off site on Thursday morning to give a history of ESE and make sure that they had assignments for the day that were close to their fields of interest. This worked very well and I look forward to hosting them again in the future. 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 2015 CDE information. Changes from the Supt. should be made in Dec., so that by Jan 1, 2016, we may begin posting the 2016 CDE information. Elena will notify you 1 week before we remove your CDE so that you will have time to get updates done. Changes that come out of National can be made on the web as we are notified by the Supt. 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. This was accomplished with great success last winter and we would like to continue it. I can not stress the importance of this. Several schools this year called in frustration as updates were late in coming to the office.

Cindi feels that the electronic van and bus passes are working well, but it is difficult to be efficient with people that are tardy with request. There was some misunderstanding on Friday as the admissions department had started some new procedures but they were worked out and should not be a problem in the future. PLEASE work at getting these in on time.

The Exposition was attended by over 1.3 million people this year. With rain the second week attendance slowed down but was tracking to be ahead of last year. We are confident that The Big E is in a good position moving forward. It is our intention to continue to support the current FFA events in our Centennial year of 2016,

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