

Revised 7 13 12

To be approved at Winter 2013 meeting

## **New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council**

2012 N.J. State FFA Convention

Hickman Hall, Room 218

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

2:00 – 4:00 pm

### **AGENDA**

- I. **Call to order** – Chairman Bill Walker
  
- II. **Introduction of members and guests**  
Special Remarks from Seth Pratt, National FFA Officer
  
- III. **Approval of minutes from May 2011 meeting**
  
- IV. **Chair's Report**
  
- V. **Old Business:**
  - A. Advisory Council Membership Reflecting representatives from all Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources pathways  
Animal Science Pathway
  
  - B. Post-Secondary Articulation Agreements – Dr. Barry Jesse
  
- VI. **New Business:**
  - A. Industry Outlook –
  - B. State Ag Education Update
    - A. Teacher Vacancies
    - B. CASE Update
  - C. Other critical issues from members

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## VII. Meeting Adjournment

### New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council

#### Minutes

May 22, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm. All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves.

National FFA Officer, Seth Pratt (Idaho) was invited to address the Council. Seth provided an outstanding message on what he has seen traveling the US as a National FFA Officer.

M. Robson asked Seth about the U of Idaho Collegiate FFA Chapter – how did they operate and how strong is that chapter. The U of I FFA is largely focused on Agricultural Education.

Minutes of the January Council meeting were reviewed.

- R. Belcher moved, D. Specca seconded to accept the minutes. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Council President W. Walker reviewed the membership of the Council and led a discussion about the need to have strong membership.

Deon Spencer, NorthStar Vet spoke about her background. N. Trivette shared that this is the first year for the Vet. Science CDE and that Deon helped judge the competition. We look forward to more input from Deon and NorthStar Vets in the future.

Jean Lonie also shared her background and the path which led to her current position at Pfizer Animal Health.

Post-secondary articulation agreements were discussed. Talks continue to develop agreements between Rutgers and community colleges and high schools. N. Trivette reviewed what is meant by an articulation agreement. There has been an increase in the number of high schools with articulation agreements. Any high school agricultural programs with DOE approved articulation agreements are designated as *Programs of Study* (POS). Annual signing of articulation agreements is mandatory.

Robson mentioned the reception being hosted by Rutgers for FFA members attending the FFA Convention who have an interest in attending Rutgers. He also mentioned wanting to work closely with County College of Morris and Burlington County College to establish in-county opportunities. He also mentioned the new 1 credit course in Agricultural Education. There are only two students majoring in agricultural education at Rutgers. They are also working on developing a collaborative project with Delaware Valley College.

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Amy Ricco (MCCC) stressed that we need to work harder on articulation agreements between County Colleges and Rutgers.

N. Trivette shared that the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) is now in 13 schools. Allentown is offering four CASE courses. Many additional schools are looking to CASE to transform programs as teachers retire. CASE is being seen as an avenue to POS status. Twenty NJ teachers of agriculture are CASE certified (this number includes two people currently not actively teaching).

Tiffany Moray (teacher of agriculture, Essex County) will be the first NJ Lead CASE teacher.

There are two vacancies (at the time of this meeting) in NJ and both are looking for a CASE certified teacher: Northern Burlington and Woodstown. Others will be announced as they become available.

N. Trivette also reported on the successful FFA Convention. Over 454 students, many more volunteers, thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded. Participation in all events is up. Sponsorship of blue jackets is up as are the number of state degrees and American degree candidates.

W. Walker announced the NJDOA Jersey Fresh Internships available for this summer.

Industry updates followed. There was some discussion about the different routes that a student in vet science could follow.

Bill Sciarappa expressed concern about the plight of the equine industry in NJ. On September 29, 2012 there will be a special event at Monmouth Park to bring more attention and raise funds to help support and promote the NJ Equine Industry. The goal is to encourage horse farms to stay in New Jersey.

D. Specca shared information about the new state master plan for bio energy. There is a lot of interest in developing partnership to make bio-digesters more economical. Much of the interest relates to urban agriculture and the "eat local/grow local" focus.

Tanya Oznowich of the NJDEP shared information about K-12 non-career oriented curriculum. There were questions about when students learn about natural systems as well as the need for a blueprint for learning about the environment. Also mentioned was the value of environmental literacy, which she can make available. In addition the NJCDEP is working with the DOE on the green building practices recognition – called green ribbon schools. This program focuses on environmental quality, environmental health, and instruction. Schools earned points with the goal of reducing the carbon footprint. Other topics which keep coming up include rooftop gardens, ponds, trails, and composting. She is trying to encourage bridges between FFA programs and other green initiatives.

The NJDOE reported on personalized student learning plans that are currently being piloted in 14 schools. The program will end this year. Also mentioned was the online career awareness program.

R. Belcher spoke about the Envirothon, which is in its 19<sup>th</sup> year. 36 teams participated this year. Budget cuts hurt participation this year. The Marine academy of Science and Technology won the overall event.

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Debbie Moyer, who is NJ's longest serving CDE coordinator (Floral Design and Floriculture), was named a Best Small Business by Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. She relayed changes in the floral industry, which include the industry becoming more standardized with more training available. This makes it easier for beginners but can hurt specialty shops. She feels that there is still room for a shop to develop a niche. She feels that it is easier to hire someone as they can more easily learn the basics and mechanics.

Liz Thompson of NJ Farm Bureau reminded all that they have a student membership. A collegiate farm bureau at SEBS has just started. She also encouraged teachers and others to use the Farm Bureau website as a source of useful information.

N. Trivette mentioned that NJ will be hosting a Chinese delegation from Beijing Agricultural College this coming fall. It was also noted that Nancy will be visiting China and speaking to Chinese educators about Agricultural Education in the US.

Submitted,

Jan Traynor