

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

**DATE:** February 9, 2010

**PLACE:** N.J. State Agricultural Convention, Hilton, East Brunswick, New Jersey

**TIME:** 2:00 – 4:00 pm

### **AGENDA**

- I. Call to order – Chairman Bill Walker
- II. Introduction of new members and guests
- III. Approval of minutes from November 2010 meeting
- IV. Election of Officers
  - A) **Report of Nominations Committee – Richard Hartung**
  - B) **Nominations from the Floor**
- V. Report on National Council for Agricultural Education Meeting – Nancy Trivette
- VI. Report on FFA related activities
  - A) **FFA Foundation**
  - B) **Career Development Events update – Erin Noble**
- VII. Old Business:
  - A) **Agricultural Education Update - Nancy Trivette**
  - B) **Programs of Study/Articulation Agreements – Jan Traynor**
  - C) **National Quality Program Standards update – John Neyhart**
  - D) **C.A.S.E. Update**
- VIII. New Business:
  - A) **Establishing a Resource Committee with industry professionals**
  - B) **Next Meeting Date – NJ Agricultural Convention**
- IX. Meeting Adjournment

**New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council  
Minutes of the February 9, 2010 Meeting  
NJ State Agricultural Convention, Hilton, East Brunswick, NJ**

- I. **Call to order** – Chairman Bill Walker  
Bill Walker called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.
- II. **Introduction of new members and guests**  
Dave Specca, Carl Quazza, Rich Hartung, Rich Belcher, Barry Jesse, Liz Thompson, Nancy Trivette, Bill Hoey, Jan Traynor, Bill Walker, Joe Myers, Bill Sciarappa, John Neyhart, Tanya Oznovich, Erin Noble and Hanna Toft were in attendance.
- III. **Approval of minutes from November 2009 meeting**  
Meeting attendees reviewed the minutes from the November 2009 meeting.  
**Motion by Jan Traynor to accept the minutes.**  
**Seconded by Barry Jesse. Motion passes.**
- IV. **Election of Officers**
- A) **Report of Nominations Committee** – Richard Hartung  
No formal report.
- B) **Nominations from the Floor**  
Chair – Bill Walker  
Vice Chair – Liz Thompson  
2 Foundation Board – Bill Walker and Barry Jesse  
Secretary – Jan Traynor  
**Motion by Rich Hartung to elect the nominated individuals.**  
**Seconded by Dave Specca. Motion passes.**
- V. **Report on National Council for Agricultural Education Meeting**  
Nancy finished her term as President of the National Council for Agricultural Education. Jan Traynor finished her term as CASE Governance Chair. Jan and Nancy remain connected to the Council as members of the national CASE committee, with Nancy serving as chair.
- VI. **Report on FFA related activities**
- A) **FFA Foundation**  
The Foundation is seeking individuals to serve on the board representing industry. The Foundation recently received a \$50,000 memorial endowment for the Goff Scholarship, which will benefit the Allentown FFA Chapter. The State FFA Alumni Association established an endowment scholarship of \$15,000 as a result of proceeds from the last several golf tournaments
- B) **Career Development Events (CDEs) update – Erin Noble**  
At the last meeting Erin mentioned she was seeking help for a Meats

Evaluation CDE and an Agronomy CDE. She has since secured help and both of those events will be held this year in April via the electronic assessment tool in “MyCAERT” (Center for Agricultural, Environmental Research and Training) website where each student will logon independently from their school to compete in the state competition.

Spring CDEs are scheduled for April 15 at Rutgers, SEBS. The spring events include Ag Sales, Nursery/Landscape, Environmental/Natural Resources, Ag Mechanics and Floriculture.

Erin discussed piloting the Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET ) record book system in New Jersey. She will be working with three schools during the pilot to see if this system is something we should purchase statewide. The system will allow students to keep records on their Supervised Agricultural Experiences, leadership activities and other important SAE information. The system also allows a student to automatically fill out the National FFA applications such as American FFA Degree (and eventually the State FFA Degree).

All CDEs hosted by the New Jersey FFA Association are now being scored electronically using Judging Card.com., a system using scan-tron answer sheets and scanner to score. Results are ‘live’ on the internet upon completion of the event and scoring. Students can view their individual score card and compare their answers to the official answers. This system allows for an extension of learning.

Erin discussed the use of Facebook to connect with FFA members and important stakeholders. The New Jersey FFA Association’s Facebook account provides updates, information about upcoming events, photos and discussions.

## **VII. Old Business:**

### **A) Agricultural Education Update**

The Office continues to keep FFA up to date with technology by providing thousands of online lessons, PowerPoint’s, assessments, and e-textbook, for teachers and students through [www.mycart.com](http://www.mycart.com) .

The NQPS (National Quality Program Standards) and National Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Content Standards are also available through the state and national ag ed websites.

We continue to be concerned about the teacher supply. Several retirements are on the horizon and we have a few student teachers at various institutions. We have room for growth in the Rutgers program. Frank Yesalavich, current ag teacher at Essex County Vocational School,

has been hired by Rutgers to teach pre-service agricultural education classes.

**B) C.A.S.E. Update**

CASE (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education) is a national initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education. It is a rigorous program with specific sequences of courses all aligned with national academic and agricultural industry content standards. The CASE program also includes teacher professional development, assessments for students at the lesson, course and program levels as well as student, teacher and program certifications. CASE is modeled after the Project Lead the Way pre-engineering curriculum. Nancy shared a CASE overview via PowerPoint.

CASE is a comprehensive package that provides teachers with everything that they need to teach a course. Teachers are trained to deliver these lessons. The lessons are organized into a full-year delivery format and include activity-, project-, and problem- based learning modalities all aligned with national content and academic standards. Principles in Agricultural Science-Plant and Principle in Agricultural Science- Animal courses are available to all schools this fall after the required professional development for teachers and class/lab equipment upgrades. These courses are full-year, 175 day, courses. They include all three components that we are already know well; FFA, experiential learning, and classroom/lab instruction.

Every teacher that will teach a CASE course is required to participate in an 80 hour, two-week training program. The teachers experience every lesson and activity in that course that they will be teaching.

Allentown HS is a field test site this year for the course in Animal Science. Nancy has had discussions with additional schools interested in incorporating CASE next year.

The Plant and Animal Science courses have been reviewed by the math and science content staff at the NJ Dept. of Education and early indications suggests the courses coordinate extremely well with the state's core content standards in science.

Rutgers will be a host CASE Institute this summer in Plant Science (July 26-August 5).

In terms of assessment, we are still in the development phase nationally. The plan is that after every lesson, unit, and course end, students will be assessed. This will be extremely helpful as agricultural doesn't have a lot of data related to achievement. CASE will provide this data.

**C) Programs of Study/Articulation Agreements**

Jan Traynor reported on programs of study and articulation agreements. Programs of study are essential for federal Perkins funding. Perkins funding helps support quality programs by updating equipment, increasing professional development and materials for teachers, students and programs. Programs of Study and articulation agreements are important to transition students from secondary, to post secondary, to career.

Articulation agreements can also be between post-secondary schools such as colleges and universities. County College of Morris has recently completed an articulation with Delaware Valley College where graduates of the CCM program will enter DVC with full junior status. These agreements are easier to facilitate between transfer programs as academic courses match up easier.

**D) National Quality Program Standards (NQPS) update**

John Neyhart reported that NQPS was rolled out to all agriculture teachers in September. NQPS addresses seven standards including Program Planning, Partnerships, Marketing, Professional Development, Experiential Learning, Leadership Development and Class/lab Instruction. The local agricultural education program is evaluated by a team of three – (ag teacher, administrator and advisory committee member) allowing the team to seek improvement in areas that may need it. It is simply a local tool for self evaluation. Resources are provided by the state and national level staff to help programs in areas of need. NQPS is a living document, meaning that the team of three can continue to use the tool, reference previous evaluations, and monitor improvement and growth.

John's program was part of the pilot and he feels like his program is doing a better job of educating their students in areas. He hopes that, in the future, all agricultural programs in New Jersey will be following the NPQS.

NJAAE Report – National Teach Agriculture Day is February 25, 2010 and New Jersey will be celebrating it at the FFA Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day at the College of New Jersey. This initiative addresses the nationwide shortage of qualified agricultural education teachers. About a 1/3 of NJ's agriculture teachers will be retiring in the next 10 years and we need to get a new 'crop' of teachers prepared to fill these positions.

**VIII. New Business:**

**A) Establishing a Resource Committee with Industry Professionals**

The OAE started a resource center on the state Ag Ed website to provide information for teachers to access agricultural professionals such as county agents. Bill Sciarappa, Monmouth County Agent, told of his recent involvement with the local Freehold chapter and a rain garden project that he was involved with.

Liz Thompson mentioned that the NJ Farm Bureau has started a pilot student membership program to connect students with their industry and educate them on the importance of professional associations in their career development. John Neyhart wondered if the nursery, turf grass, and landscape industries have considered a similar program. Jan said that she knows that the nurserymen have a student membership. She'll ask a contact of hers if the sports turf industry has a program like that but she'll reach out to him to find out.

**B) Next Meeting – NJ State FFA Convention – New Brunswick, May 25, 2010**

**IX. Meeting Adjournment**