

New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council
N.J. State FFA Convention, Hickman Hall Room 210,
Douglas Campus, Rutgers University, George Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey
May 24, 2011
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 February 2011 meeting**
- IV. **Report on FFA related activities**
 - A) National Officer Spotlight
 - B) State FFA Convention Update
 - C) National FFA Officer Candidate Selection
- V. **Industry Updates**
- VI. **Old Business:**
 - A) Agricultural Teacher Education Update – Mark Robson
 - B) CASE Update– Nancy Trivette
 - C) State CTE Advisory Committee representation – Bill Walker
 - D) Certified Horticultural Specialist – Jan Traynor
- VII. **New Business:**
 - A) Programs to Program of Study in AFNR
 - B) Next Meeting Date
- VIII. **Meeting Adjournment**

Minutes of May 24, 2011

Meeting Location: Douglas Campus, Rutgers University, Hickman Hall Room 210

Call to Order – By Bill Walker at 2 pm

Rutgers Agriscience Major and Ag Teacher preparation:

Introduction of Mark Robson who spoke about the Rutgers, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences Agriscience major (2 graduates this year) and The Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Summer Institute (14 registered to date, including one of the Agriscience graduates). He also mentioned that he is now a member of the Graduate School of Education faculty and that Rutgers will offer graduate credit for teachers attending the NJ CASE Summer Institute. He hopes that the new Agriscience major will attract students – it features 11 new courses. Dr. Robson credited Nancy Trivette as the catalyst for the CASE program and CASE Institute in NJ.

Articulation agreements and Programs of Study Discussion:

There was a question about providing credit to high school students completing the CASE program and some discussion about advanced placement (AP score of 4 or 5 is needed for credit); and about providing 6 AP credits for successful completion of the CASE Principles of Plant Science course. A complete CASE pathway may need to be studied before a final determination on credits is made by Rutgers. Nancy will provide Dr. Jesse the courses for a complete Rutgers' review.

Nancy Trivette specifically addressed the issue of articulation with CASE and reviewed the “**Programs of Study**” requirement for schools receiving federal Perkins funds. Every secondary institution receiving Perkins funding must have at least one Program of Study (ie. in at least one program area). Articulation agreements between secondary and post-secondary programs provide students' credit for studies completed at the secondary level and facilitates the movement of students through a well-developed educational path to a career.

JanMarie Traynor described the **CASE Assessment** component currently in development and how that will provide for verification of student mastery of competencies and knowledge.

Teacher Vacancies:

According to Mrs. Trivette there are two openings for Teachers of Agriculture in NJ (South Hunterdon and Northern Burlington high schools). There was some discussion about the alternate route to certification program.

Introductions of Advisory members and guests:

All attendees were introduced. Shannon Norris, National FFA Western Region Vice-President addressed the group. Shannon spoke about:

- The Conquer Hunger Program
- Ag Career Network (with National FFA)
- FFA Re-Connect Campaign
- FFA Beyond High School

Shannon also responded to questions.

NJ CASE Update:

Nancy Trivette reported that 10 schools received grants from the Department of Agriculture (she also reminded all that New Jersey was one of the 11 initial Pilot/funding States for CASE).

CASE is a value added Teacher Education program and does great things for both beginning and veteran teachers. The rigor of CASE is preparing students well to succeed in Biology as well as other areas. There was some discussion about the need and requirement for all CASE teachers to

receive training before they can implement any CASE course. Discussion also followed about the need for well qualified teachers and the importance of building strong educational pathways (Programs of Study).

Mrs. Trivette provided a report of the State Teach Ag Day Event held at the Essex County Technical School on March 31st. The event was well attended including local, state and federal officials from the US. Department of Education, State Department of Education, National Association of Agricultural Educators, Essex County Administrator, post-secondary institutions, professional associations as well as the New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher.

FFA State Convention update:

Mrs. Trivette announced that a FFA Veterinary Science Career Development Event is being planned for the 2011-12 school year. Professor Barry Jesse (Rutgers University) expressed an interest in helping to coordinate. He currently coordinates the Pre-Vet Club at Rutgers.

The State Alumni Association has scheduled the FFA Golf Benefit for June 21st and an FFA 5K for the fall. The 2011 FFA community service project will raise money for the American Cancer Society in honor our Andrea Lohr, this year's convention keynote speaker.

FFA Delegates will consider adopting a "*program affiliation fee*" program to replace FFA "individual" membership dues. The program affiliation fee will provide schools the opportunity to pay one fee for its agriculture program and all students will be eligible to participate and take advantage of all FFA opportunities, thus making FFA truly integral to the program. The program has three levels of participation so schools can choose the best option for each school. NJNLA will receive the FFA Distinguished Service Award and Dr. Barry Jesse will receive the Honorary State Degree this week.

Industry Input:

JanMarie Traynor provided a brief update about the activities of NJNLA including the continued support of the Nursery Landscape CDE and support for the purchase of three FFA jackets for the FFA Jacket Program where students write essays to be selected to receive an FFA jacket at Convention.

Jan Traynor asked about arranging a visit to the CASE Summer Institute for post-secondary faculty to improve their understanding of what CASE is all about. Nancy will arrange and make invites.

Bill Walker talked about the State CTE Conference and shared a handout from the May 5 meeting. Future prosperity may be more about 2 year credentialing than about 4 year degrees. He also spoke about the need for more career counseling.

There was some discussion about the CTEP grant program which funds the state ag ed and FFA activities as well as emphasizes programs of studies and the infusion of academics in CTE.

Mrs Traynor reviewed the end of program (Certified Horticultural Specialist) exam being developed by NJNLA. A suggestion was made to tweak the title.

Nancy described the DOE program re-approval process for AFNR programs this year. According to DOE website, only Hackettstown and Cape May were approved as a Programs of Study. Both have articulation agreements with the County College of Morris Landscape and Horticultural Technology Department.

Kevin Keith, National Local Program Success Specialist, discussed national Vet Tech CDE development at greater length including the note that it will include all five animal classes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

Submitted by:

JanMarie Traynor