

# **New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council**

2013 N.J. State Agricultural Convention

Trump Taj Mahal Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Bronze Room

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

2:00 – 4:00 pm

## **AGENDA**

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairman Bill Walker
  
- II. **Introduction of Members and Guests**
  
- III. **Approval of Minutes from May 2012 Meeting**
  
- IV. **Chair's Report**
  
- V. **Old Business:**
  - A. Post-Secondary Articulation Agreements – Post-secondary educators
  - B. State Agricultural Education Update – Nancy Trivette
  - C. Chinese Agricultural Educators Visit Report – Dave Specca
  
- VI. **New Business:**
  - A. Industry Outlook
  - B. National Agricultural Education Summit Update – Nancy Trivette  
Agricultural Education Teacher Retention & Recruitment
  - C. Farm to School – NJDA, Division of Food & Nutrition, Rose Tricario  
NJ Farm to School Network, Beth Feehan
  
- VII. **Meeting Adjournment:**

Next Meeting Date – NJ State FFA Convention, May 2013

# **New Jersey Agricultural Education Advisory Council**

## **Minutes of the February 6, 2013 Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order – Chairman Bill Walker**

Bill called the meeting to order at 2:14 pm at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ.

### **II. Introduction of Members and Guests**

Members and Guest in attendance included Deon Spencer, Dominic Mondri, Dave Specca, Rich Belcher, Liz Thompson, Bill Walker, Nancy Trivette, Ernest Arians, Sue Butch, Erin Noble, Beth Feehan (guest), Chris Cirkus (guest), Mike Hlubik (guest), Rose Tricario (guest), Frank Yesalavich, and Russell Redding.

### **III. Approval of Minutes from May 2012 Meeting**

**Motion by Ernest Arians** to approve the minutes.

**Seconded by Dave Specca. Motion passes.**

### **IV. Chair's Report:**

The Chair's report will be discussed throughout the agenda. However, Bill discussed current NJ Farm to School efforts and the idea of various organizations joining forces to help teach nutrition education to students through the development of school gardens. The importance of “healthy food” in a child’s diet has dwindled over the last 35 years as obesity and diabetes have doubled in children 6-11 years old and tripled in teenagers. Food service management companies that schools contract to feed school kids are now recognizing the importance of teaching nutrition education through school gardens and are trying to assist schools in the adoption of curriculum materials which support these gardens. Agricultural education/FFA programs could help their fellow students learn nutrition education by helping to teach them how to grow fresh fruits and vegetables. This would also allow agricultural education/FFA programs to perform community outreach while also promoting their programs and the importance of local farming and food production. The inclusion of school gardens into the curriculum can also be easily adopted.

***Special Presentation:*** Ernie Arians presented Richard Belcher with his Honorary American FFA Degree, the highest honor that FFA can bestow on an individual.

### **V. Old Business:**

#### ***A. Post-Secondary Articulation Agreements – Post-secondary educators***

It is anticipated that Perkins funding in the future may be directed to schools with programs of study. Programs of study require an articulation agreement between secondary and postsecondary institutions. County College of Morris (6), Mercer County Community College (5 with 3 pending), and Cumberland County College (5) shared with Nancy their list of schools with whom they have articulation agreements. Many of the

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agreements involve credit for CASE courses in addition to some traditional ag courses.

Del Val and SUNY Cobleskill are also working with NJ schools to establish agreements for CASE courses. There is much interest from all schools in having Rutgers on this list of post-secondary institutions awarding college credit for CASE courses.

Russell Redding joined the conversation and spoke about articulation agreements happening at Del Val. A lot of the discussions have been around the CASE model and the potential for articulations with schools teaching CASE. Del Val is using standardized templates for courses looking for articulation to assist with the evaluation process. This streamlines the entire process for everyone involved. It is thought that not many students from NJ have graduated from high school with incoming college credits through CASE.

*B. State Agricultural Education Update – Nancy Trivette*

There are 17 schools teaching the CASE curriculum (from one to four courses). Allentown is offering all four courses since they were the first pilot school program. The courses are Principles of Agriculture Science – Animal, Principles of Agriculture Science – Plant, Introduction to Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, and Animal & Plant Biotechnology. There are 39 teacher certifications (25 different teachers, some with two or more). Northern Burlington High School will again host a CASE training site, this year for the new course Natural Resources & Ecology. NJ will again receive a CSX grant of \$8,500 through national FFA. We are hopeful that we can use \$5,000 of that money to cover the scholarship costs of two teachers attending the No. Burlington training this Summer.

Vineland schools were looking to get involved with CASE but a retirement and a couple of other school related issues have caused this interest to dissipate. Anyone with contacts there might want to help impart the wisdom of CASE to them since they are such an agriculturally oriented area. Bergen County Vocational School has recently hired a Rutgers graduate and is supporting him very well. They are seeking to have him and another agriculture teacher certified in CASE this Summer. Passaic County Vocational School sent a group down to Allentown to see how they run their program and seemed to be very impressed and excited. We are hopeful of their future intentions. There are no high school agricultural programs in Gloucester County, Mercer County, or Hudson County. This is a concern.

The RAM truck 2 minute commercial that was shown during the Super Bowl was done in conjunction with the FFA Foundation. This has stirred up interest in FFA.

The Office of Agricultural Education has been in discussions with a company connected with RFDTV. They are an internet based company that broadcast the National FFA Convention over the internet last Fall. They also broadcast the recent national Agricultural Education Summit. They are in discussions with them to broadcast our NJ State Agricultural Convention sessions as well. All of this is free for anyone to watch over the internet.

C. *Chinese Agricultural Educators Visit Report – Dave Specca*

Chinese educators visited the Rutgers EcoComplex for a tour of the site and discussions related to connections between production agriculture and agricultural education. They saw the connections between solid waste and the issues in their own environment with creative solutions for energy production tied back to agriculture. One of the EcoComplex's incubator companies has a Chinese owner who was willing to be an interpreter for the group. The group then went to Northern Burlington High School, Monmouth County Career Center, and Allentown High School. At each stop, chapter officer led the tours about the facilities. They were extremely impressed by the leadership and community service and development skills of all of the students. The Chinese group then spent several weeks, under the direction of Rutgers Agricultural Agents, touring the rest of the state.

**VI. New Business:**

D. *Industry Outlook*

Frank Yesalavich reported for the FFA Foundation. That group met in January and will meet again in April. They are seeking to update their website to make it more accessible to donors.

E. *National Agricultural Education Summit Update – Nancy Trivette*  
*Agricultural Education Teacher Retention & Recruitment*

F. *Farm to School – NJDA, Division of Food & Nutrition, Rose Tricario*  
*NJ Farm to School Network, Beth Feehan*

Beth spoke about the meeting held with NJDA, OAE, and NJ Farm to School Network staff and how her program can work with agricultural programs. She shared information about the new annual NJ school garden award and Farm to School efforts of reaching out to more schools. Her ultimate goal is to get the school garden initiative recognized as an important practice by the NJ Department of Education. Nancy followed up by sharing projects being conducted in ag programs throughout the state at places like Essex & Union Counties and Allentown. She also mentioned three schools, to our knowledge, that have received National FFA Organization *Food For All* grants. Bill shared materials with the group outlining Farm to School programs being conducted in West Virginia by FFA programs who are receiving CDC Community Transformation Grants. Bill will follow up on those funding possibilities. *Edible Jersey* magazine will continue to highlight farm to school efforts. Beth has been asked to write an article for their September magazine on this new partnership between Farm to School and agricultural education programs. Nancy will look for opportunities to showcase the possibilities of this new working relationship at the State FFA Convention in May. On April 3, there will be a school garden conference at Duke Farms. Beth encouraged anyone interested in attending to do so.

Rose Tricario, Food and Nutrition Division Director, joined the conversation by talking more about the farm to school initiative from her perspective as the person who oversees NJ school nutrition programs. The new federally mandated child nutrition standards require schools to feed kids more fruits and vegetables. Rose spoke about the annual late

September Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week celebration which brings publicity to the concept. It's important for the entire school community (parents, teachers, administrators, etc.) to help foodservice directors to do a better job. Rose has forwarded a link to Nancy related to grant monies available through the USDA's Farm to School program which could be solicited for related school projects.

**VII. Meeting Adjournment:**

Next Meeting Date – NJ State FFA Convention, May 21, 2013