

## 2022 FFA Planning Committee Minutes

November 8, 2022

### **Treasure Report:** Kenneth Parker

Account: \$30,801.41

Planning Committee purchased scantron Machine- it is staying at Eastern States Mallary office.

Milton agreed to take over as treasurer and ask whose name is on the account. Kenneth responded that David and Ken (himself) are on the FFA Account.

Waiting on FFA Stars Luncheon- Emily and Elena will check on this.

Kenneth mentioned that he would like to retire once he has all the paperwork/ invoices. He also mentioned that he can write a check for the amount in the account and Milton can put the money in another account if needed.

There has not been any donations coming from Farm Credit East. Milton mentioned that Harrison should have gotten a donation this year.

- Kenneth mentioned that he does not believe Farm Credit is not paying their way. Milton said we would take note of this.

### **FFA Interns:**

Six inters were selected for the Big E. All the interns did very well

Robert Eselby was one of the interns. He was also the intern Superintendent of the circus tent. He helped organized what order the flags, timing, and much more. Milton was very impressed on how well he did. Milton mentioned that he helped to guide them on how things have been done in the past.

While at the circus tent-, Gene Cassidy presented an Award for Best of Fair to National FFA. An engraved cutting board was presented. The cutting board is currently hung in a stairway that goes to their archive room. The CEO marked he had a great time; this was his first time at the Big E.

## **Karen Hutchison Report:**

### National FFA Big E Planning Committee Report

#### **2022 Review**

It was great to be back, in person, at The Big E. National FFA was represented by southern region vice president, Eric Robinson, CEO Scott Stump, and state relations specialist, Karen Hutchison. This was the first time visiting for Eric and Scott, both had a great time connecting with members and supporters.

Eric enjoyed meeting so many members and advisors as well as reconnecting with ones he visited during his year of service. He was excited and impressed with the uniqueness of the event including the inclusion of so many states. Eric also enjoyed and appreciated the Stars events and was impressed with the support of sponsors.

Scott arrived early Friday afternoon. This provided time for a quick tour of the fairgrounds before attending the superintendent's dinner. Saturday started out early for both Scott and me. I, again, enjoyed serving as a judge for one of the Star's areas. While I was in interviews, Scott had the opportunity to tour, with interns, some of the CDEs taking place as well as visiting with many involved with the Big E. The day also included participation in the Stars luncheon, the Stars pageant, and a special presentation to National FFA (now prominently displayed at the National FFA Center), ending with the awards banquet at the Sheraton.

I was very pleased that Scott and Eric had such a great experience and the opportunity to connect with so many members, advisors, state staff, and supporters. They both were impressed with the event and agree that it is important for the National FFA to have a presence at The Big E. I believe National FFA understands the importance of having a national officer and staff attend.

Personally, I have had the opportunity to attend The Big E many times, as a teacher, state staff person, and now as National FFA staff. I applaud the time and dedication so many volunteers and staff put into this event. So many teachers and members look forward to participating in this special event each year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C Hutchison

Karen Hutchison

National FFA State Relations Specialist

## Eastern States Exposition- Agriculture Director's Report:

Comments from the Director of Agriculture and Education  
For FFA Planning Committee, November 2022

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 2022 FFA Activities.

Bringing back the Eastern Regional programming to The Big E and hosting over 2800 participants is no small feat. After a two year break in programming it was great to see two days of blue jackets here on the Fairgrounds.

All of the superintendents and assistants dedication of time and other resources is greatly valued by ESE. Milton, you did an amazing job this year and surrounded yourself with great people to get thru this.

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 in previous years, they represented FFA at the pre-opening ESE Media party. This was a great opportunity for them to see how the Exposition is working with local and regional agriculture producers to market their value added product. The interns had a great visit with our agriculture retail specialists who explained the history of the new Farmer's Market and what our goals are with the building. The national officer also participated in the Green Pastures banquet as their Master of Ceremonies.

This year, the ESE Ag and Ed Department went through many changes throughout the course of the year and in 2022, we will be looking at evaluating our processes moving forward. We will do our best to make sure that communication is flowing. One of the things to be looking for is a new way on how to submit information for stipends.

On December 1, we will begin emailing superintendents a notification to please review your CDE and make any new changes required for 2023. Realizing that we have some Supt. changes coming this year it is important that those changes get to us soon. Changes from the Supt. should be made in the month of Dec., so that in January 2023, we may begin posting the 2023 CDE information. Emily Fleury will be sending out notifications regarding making updates to your CDE. 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.**

Electronic van and bus passes are continuing to be developed. Our staff works diligently to get these out. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO** work at getting these in on time. Emily will be revisiting this process with our admissions department this year, to further streamline the process.

Over 1.6 million people attended the Exposition this year, setting a record for attendance.

All of us here in the Agriculture Department express thanks to all of you who serve on this committee for your dedication to this program.

Respectively submitted:  
Elena Hovagimian  
Director of Agriculture and Education

**Milton's Statistics Report:** FFA Statistics

15 out of 18 states participated (not attending IL, IN and MI)

100 plus FFA Chapters was involved

26 CDE/LDE's were held – approx. 550 students

BIG E FFA Stars Program – 19 Stars competed. One Virginia applicant cancelled due to COVID

Three Landscape displays in Farm A Rama building

35 Floral Design displays in Farm A Rama building

17 Days of fair covered with FFA Chapters making corsages and interacting with public – approx. 425 students

Six Big E FFA Interns working out of Mallery Ag Office (PA, RI, MA, CT, VA, MD);

Thirty other State FFA Officers from across region attended and assisted with various activities

1750 Other FFA Members/teachers/alumni and others from various states assisted with activities

Two National FFA staff attended from National FFA Organization: Karen Hutchison, Regional Representative and CEO Scott Stump

National FFA Recognized by BIG E with special presentation at Stars pageant for BEST OF FAIR recognition

Two events were not run because of no Superintendent (Agronomy and Environmental and Natural Resources CDE

Six LDE is run at Sheraton on Friday, Sept 16 (Prepared, Extemporaneous Speaking, Creed, Marketing Plan, Employability Skills, and Parliamentary Procedure)

700 FFA Members and guests at Awards Banquet held at Sheraton hotel.

National FFA Officer Erick Robinson attended the BIG E from the Southern Region (attended Green Pastures Dinner as keynote speaker)

Maine Potato Board donated six 50lb potato bags for banquet Saturday night at Sheraton.

Cabot Cheese provided cheese samples for banquet tables

Virginia provide Scantron staff to tabulate scores (a direct internet connection MUST be provided in the future. They had to hand score many events due to lack of connectivity.

Stars Pageant: President of BIG E, Chairman of the BIG E Trustees, and Christopher Laughton from Farm Credit East presented the four State Star Awards. Presentation was in the circus tent at 3:30 p.m. with

FFA member flag and banner bearers from different states in procession. National FFA Officer Erick Robinson from the Southern Region presided over the ceremony.

A number of Superintendents are retiring. BIG E Planning Committee will have provide recognition to those not continuing as in the past. \$100 gift card was provided in the past to those retiring. Those retiring: Doug Robertson, Farm Business; Linda Corson and Co-Superintendent, Horse Evaluation; Rebecca Rose, Nursery/Landscaping; Dr. Ken Parker, Treasurer for BIG E FFA Planning Committee; Brenda Wildes, Dairy Evaluation.

Event Name	Students involved
AG Tech and Mech systems	36
Agriscience fair	14
CREED	8
Dairy Cattle Handlers	8
Dairy Cattle evaluation	40
Employment Skills	9
Extemporaneous speaking	9
Farm and agri business	32
Floriculture	28
Food science and Technology	28
Forestry	28
Horse evaluation	28
Livestock evaluation	28
Marketing Plan	18
Milk Quality and Products	32
Nursery Landscaping	32
Poultry evaluation	36
Prepared Public Speaking	10
Safe Tractor Operation	10
Veterinary Science	40
Stars Program	20

CDE/LDE Comments\*

\*The Virginia team, which used the new scantron, indicate that a dedicated internet line MUST be in place for next year. Several of the events had to be hand scored, reentered, etc. What happens is that the electronic files are sent to Judgingcard.com in Texas and then their servers upload the data into the scoring system. The unstable connection caused data to be lost in space.

Comments from Virginia and New York:

Agri/Farm Business Management – bus driver had wrong location for the event and went to wrong location at first. Student should be informed in web rules that students bring #2 pencils and simple calculator (not programmable)

Floriculture – better communication between Coordinators of events and Farm A Rama staff to ensure space requirements are known before day of event

Safe Tractor Operation: The markers used for the event will have to be replaced in coming years.

Horse Evaluation: Linda Corson and Assistant will be continuing for one more year. Judges are extremely hard to find. Linda is willing to assist new people as needed for this event.

Veterinary Science: Many FFA Chapters said they could not find where to email waiver forms.

Nursery landscaping: Superintendent Rebecca Rose will not continue in this role. Asst. will take over, so a new assistant will be needed.

Forestry: Requesting a budget increase of \$1000 for new tools and equipment for event. They indicated several sections on the web site were wrong and provided wrong information to the teachers and students.

Dairy Evaluation: Brenda and the assistant will not continue doing this event. New coordinators will be needed. Getting and finding lunches was a problem. Lunch at 1 p.m. too late. They used E Barn for reason classes but the area used was very noisy and loud.

Dairy Handlers: Superintendent needed.

Livestock Evaluation: Payment for animals coming from off-site needed.

Marketing Plan: Plans for the event need to be submitted ahead of time electronically. Chapters bring own PCD projector and computer. Teams can test their technology set up before event for 10 – 1:30 pm, to make sure it works.

Additional comments to follow regarding Star Program, pageant, Interns.

Milton mentioned that some FFA CDE/LDE's was not held this year due to not having people to run the contest. Milton thanked Alison Jones from Virginia who ran the Scranton Machine this year. She has a group of assistants who help gather the scores in time for the Banquet on Saturday. There was challenges that occurred when using the scantron. Alison commented on Milton's statement. One item that we need to have hard wire to connect the scantron. Alison mentioned that ones the fair goers got here it was very hard to get any connection on the Big E Wi-Fi. The system kept crashing and took a lot longer to get the results. She also mentioned looking into using a universal form-; she mentioned that she uses Horticulture form. Alison would like to have communication with Superintendents beforehand. Along with having updated guides on website.

Milton asked if Alison was willing to come back for 2023. Alison said she is willing to help. Milton said if we give the superintendents 5-6 months for them to get the contest to fit the universal form.

Milton said we need to look at getting the waiver electronically. This will save lots of paperwork, lost in mail, etc. Emily will work on this.

Milton asked Kelsey O'Hare to speak has she is new from New York and provided a lot of feedback. Kelsey O'Hare mentioned that posting what events are going on and where would be extremely helpful. Along with posting on the website what is being held. In addition, to say Agronomy- Cancelled- No Supt. This way advisors know what is going on. On the website, make a section of what contest will not be held. Also to ask Superintendents. To be clear on if more than one team is allowed. Kelsey asked if 1<sup>st</sup> place teams could be allowed to go to Big E, compete, and be a practice for nationals.

### **New York Report:**

New York Comments:

Thank you for your efforts to make the Big E a rewarding experience for all FFA member. I have included some notes regarding thoughts from New York advisors, staff and members.

- Clarification of rules regarding official dress. The rule as it is written now (#4 in FFA general rules) is rather confusing and does not make the requirements clear. It would be very helpful to advisors to explicitly state that OD is required for all events except dairy handlers and any others that do not require it. We have an influx of new, young advisors that are just not familiar with prior practice.
- Publicly post, information on the website about what contests will NOT be occurring at The Big E. Ideally this information would be available by the beginning of August so that advisors have adequate time to plan what teams they will and will not be able to bring. Many of the comments I heard in relation to missing contests had to do with Ag Issues and that not being done at the Big E.
- Information regarding the number of teams from each state able to participate in each event. For example, the Milk Quality and Products groups was willing to allow additional teams that

- **New York Report Continued:**
- Wanted an extra practice round prior to National convention participate. It can vary from contest to contest based on time constraints and material requirements for each contest, but knowing how many teams per contest would be helpful.
- Pre-label awards with winners name and state to reduce confusion when distributing awards or sort awards by state prior to the banquet. Then each state has a different location around the room to pick up awards from to reduce a large group gathering around one table resulting in confusion.
- Offer to participants some type of photo backdrop that highlights both FFA and the Big E so that teams can walk away with good pictures for publicity.

Thank you again for all your work to provide a valuable experience to FFA members at the Big E,

Kelsey O'Hare

FFA Program Specialist

Cornell University

**Virginia Comments:** We really need an internet hard line so that scoring can be done in a timelier manner. The Judging card program sends the electronic files to Texas and then their servers upload the data into scoring the program. The unstable internet caused some of the data to be lost in space, which created extra work for Alison.

We appreciate all that you did to provide this opportunity for the members.

Thanks,

**Andy Seibel, Ed.S.**

**Stars Report:** Harrison not present

- Need his booklet to be put online. Just like the FFA Banquet book.
- Harrison Hours: Milton said not sure what we need to do to pay his hours. Milton mentioned what if the Farm Credit East Sponsorship included a fee towards administration.
- Elena mentioned she understands it takes time to put this CDE/LDE together. She wanted to know if the star program stipend should be increased or if Harrison should get an official assistant to help him. She asked the committee agrees with this and asked for input.



Elena mentioned to the committee, should we start keeping track of the hours the superintendents use in order to run their contest. Several reasons for this. Number 1: if it takes Harrison 33 hours pre planning time before coming on site. Only having two contestants, is this really worth running the contest.

- Discussion on if there was any reason we could get an assistant for Harrison. To allow the stars program to continue.
- Milton mentioned that we would like everyone to have an assistant. This allows another person to know the competition and allow going on if the main superintendent got sick. Milton expressed that this could be a big nightmare if there was no superintendent. He also mentioned that the stars program.

**Retiring Members:** Doug Robertson, Farm Business; Rebecca Rose, Nursery/Landscaping;  
Brenda Wildes, Dairy Evaluation.

Milton offered that we did \$100 gift card to a store for those retiring.

Milton suggested we had a job description of what their task will be, where the contest is located. This will help them understand what they are being asked of.

Milton mentioned that Suzanne Bulk for her assistants with the entire contests.

Kelsey O'Hare mentioned in the chat about new contest possibility. David mentioned that he was very happy there was interest in NY as the number one issue is trying to find someone to run the events. He said it is hard to run an event without a superintendent.

Photo Opportunity: Milton mentioned that we would like to have posters so FFA groups can take picture. Would be great for Public Relations. The posters could be at the banquet, Farm-A-Rama and Mallary Complex.

**New Business: Kelsey O'Hare Motion to do the following:**

- Stream lining at the Big E: Scoring process( Common score sheet), Scantron
- Waiver/ Participation Form: Waiting to if we can make this an online form from Elena.
- All materials digital so kids have better access finding the information.

Seconded by Suzanne Buck

Discussion: None

Motion Moved

### **New Business Continued:**

- Increase Stipend for Stars: Starting a process for everyone to calculate hours.
  - o Will discuss increasing stipend at next meeting 2024
- Milton mentioned to send the superintendents an email asking how many hours they put in. To give an idea. This will give data on how long it takes Superintendent vs. Co/ Assistant.
  - o There is currently no data so if we can get information
  - o Elena mentioned doing Job Descriptions for each superintendent

Motion: For Eastern States to explore time line and Standard Operating Procedures for FFA CDE/LDE

Motion: Kelsey O'Hare

Seconded: Suzanne Buck

Discussion: None

Elena mentioned that we would ask the Superintendent for details in their role when we reach out to them about their CDE/LDE changes for 2023.

Elena mentioned office closed for Holiday Break December 23- January 3.

Elena made the group aware of needing a new system of how we get judges information and pay them. We paid many people for judging when they did not attend. In addition, did not pay those who actually did attend.

Kelsey O'Hare Motion to look into and purchase a banner for Big E

Seconded: Suzanne Buck

Discussion: John asked where the banner would be located. In multiple places or just in one.

- Milton said we would need to look into it. He said that we could use at the front of Tavern, at the Banquet. This will be a start.
- Different things too look at- a cut out where kids could stand behind them and take the picture. Have glasses or props to use while at the photo station.

Motion Passed

Motion to get \$100 Gift Cards for the Superintendents that are retiring including Kenneth Parker.

Motion passed.

Discussion: David mentioned in the past that when superintendents/ Committee Members retire we have done more than just \$100 gift cards. Milton mentioned that they have done Big E Jackets in the past. Milton said we should do something additional for Kenneth. Maybe a plaque or take him out for dinner. Suzanne mentioned the cutting board that National FFA was very nice.

Emily will look into a special gift for Kenneth Parker retirement.

**Floral Design and Landscape Design:**

David wanted to know if the themes for the next couple of years was posted.

- Elena looked online-

Landscape Themes:

- o 2023 - "Down on the Farm"
- o 2024 - Harvest Time

Floral Display Themes:

- o 2023 - Garden Party Fall
- o 2024 - Destination Wedding

Election of Officer: Officers will remain same expect Milton exchanging with Dr. Parker

Motion to appoint Milton Natusch as Big E FFA Planning Committee Treasure

Seconded: John

Motion: Passed

Meeting Date for 2023: November 07, 2023 at 9:30am

Motion to adjourn the meeting