



Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators

An Affiliate of the National Association of Agricultural Educators

CAAE Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

Nonnewaug High School

National FFA Update - Karen Hutchison

- LPS Specialist for Northwest Region, she wants to promote more of Northeast Region Ag Ed - get in New Horizons, RFDTV, etc. If you have stories send them to Karen, a lot of times people think their chapter stories aren't interesting but they are.
- Any questions and/or suggestions to share with National FFA, please let her know.
- A National FFA Officer and Mark Poeschl (new CEO) will be visiting the Big E, would like to visit a school near Springfield, maybe Suffield?
- Lost badge/RFID at National Convention is \$10
- Jenna Janson - how to build POA and tips for National Chapter
- Resume Generator will auto load things to awards and such (also linked with AET)
- Chapter invitation code instead of individual codes when getting students signed up for FFA.org
- Resources attached with minutes

Call To Order - 12:22pm

Business Meeting

1. Announcements

- Introductions of New Teachers/Student Teachers
 - Marisa Bedron - new teacher at Nonnewaug
 - Erin Biron & Owen McLaughlin - student teacher & new teacher at Southington
 - Rebecca Masse - student teacher at Killingly
 - Corey Thomas - student teacher at Middletown
 - Jen Pantazis & Pete Lawler - new teachers at Glastonbury
 - Kiel Webster - student teacher at Suffield
 - Rachel Holden - student teacher at Wallingford
 - Kacey Reinholtz - student teacher at Storrs
 - Kelsey Karp & Jenna Jasensky - student teacher & new teacher at Trumbull
 - Andrew Zielinski - new teacher at Wamogo
 - Emma Potter & Chrisine Martin - student teacher & new teacher at Housatonic
- National Proficiency Judging Report - Bonnie Kegler
 - Bonnie has been on the National Review Committee for three years
 - The proficiency rubrics will remain the same for a few years



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- This was a better year for CT - more aligned and true to rubrics, applications got a solid look, there were good things said about us in the East, CT is doing a good job. What can we do better?
- Keep things in March/April time frame, look at spreading out when all applications are due. We are here for the students and are asking teachers to embrace changes, Bonnie will be available for assistance. Decisions will be made soon, please be willing to learn and we will be in a better place.
- A big portion of the rubric has to do with showing growth so juniors and seniors may be best for filling out applications.
- There is no advantage at the national level for having/using AET.
- State FFA Report - Milton Natusch
 - 265 students at COLT, 7 officers & 5 district presidents on the State Officer Team
 - Food drive at COLT for Hunger Challenge (led by Jon Tumolo)
 - Please invite them to visit your chapters
 - Big E should be all registered, ask Milton if you're not sure
 - Many other state FFA Presidents will be visiting the Big E this year
 - 2 National Chorus and National Band students from Killingly FFA
 - Amanda Gagne (former state officer) will be presenting a workshop at Nationals
 - Planning IMAGE training to be the Monday of Thanksgiving week, hoping for the Aqua Turf in Southington
 - **Still need a location for State FFA Convention, new incentive of \$1000 to host**
 - **Please give Milton your email if you should be receiving his emails**
 - **Reach out to state officers to attend chapter events this school year**
- Update from UConn - Dr. Patricia Jepson
 - CAHNR Food Waste Initiative will be hosting seminars, good for bringing students to
 - 4 year enrollment is up, 2 year enrollment is the same, remember to keep thinking about Ratcliffe Hicks as an option
 - 2 Open Houses - September and October, dates to follow
 - Career Night is Wednesday, November 2
 - Plant Science majors of Turf Grass, Soil Science, and Horticulture are now combined as Sustainable Plant and Soil Systems (will have some concentrations)
 - Looking into robotic milking system, would be one of the first land-grant universities to have it
 - This summer, Dr. Jepson and the TCPCG students hosted a Teach Ag chat on Twitter - trying to increase national visibility for UConn Ag Teacher program
 - UConn CAHNR is hoping to be at the National FFA Convention Career Fair



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- **Dr. Jepson would like people to share ideas for their booth**

○ **Share the Positive!**

- Mia Haaland is getting her Honorary American Degree
- Killingly will be working with UConn Extension - teaching courses, hosting programs for young and beginning farmers
- Liz Webb is now a UConn professor
- Southington and a local farm (LEAF) created a partnership - increasing visibility in the town and with the whole school, great resource in a suburban area
- Southington is giving away 3 mobile computer cabinets, pick up at PD Day
- Southington, Middletown and Lyman Hall are working with Middlesex Community College for Vet Tech credit

2. Secretary's Report

- No minutes recorded from the previous meeting, as there was no business conducted.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Dues and demographic forms available. Must fill out both for membership.
- Motion to Accept Nicole Hodges, 2nd Jen Pantazis - PASSED

4. Taxonomy Reports

- **Animal Science** - Nationals has not gotten rid of the Dairy Handling contest, we will discuss keeping the Dairy Handler CDE at the state level at another meeting. Equine CDE will remain similar to last year. Chose CDE superintendents for all animal CDEs.
 - "Best Practices for Managing Risk in the Animal Science Classroom" - Amanda Thomson (presentation and resources attached with minutes)
- **Ag Mechanics** - CDE at Cobleskill, condensed competencies, welding always counts, can possibly contain small engines, they are going to ask Cobleskill about hosting workshops, chose superintendents
- **Plant Science** - CDE superintendents chosen, little tweaks but no major changes
- **Natural Resources/Aqua** - Forestry CDE is November 18 at Lockwood - more details to follow. Chose NR CDE superintendents. Thinking about expanding ID list for Aquaculture CDE - more details to follow. ConserveCT.org - October 4 Conservation Workshop at Lockwood. CIPWG Invasive Plant Symposium October 11 at UConn.

5. Committee Reports

- **Government and Public Relations** - talked about state of economy, programs need to be poised in fighting for funding, we have been underfunded for many years (makes it hard for sending towns to send kids). By January, each school should try to promote awareness of student and program success, send 5 graduate success stories for a project, details to follow



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- Membership and PD - ideas for increasing CAAE attendance - raffle prizes for attendance, CDEs on backburner, sharing more content, faster meetings, keeping them all at central locations, TED talks for Ag, mentoring program
 - SAE and Business Relations - take advantage of Bonnie for proficiencies, need more time judging, maybe judge in shifts or a few different deadlines (JLC and usual turn-in date)
 - FFA Relations - developing new teacher workshop
 - Alumni Relations - provide resources for starting new affiliates, improve communications between state and local chapters, continue to support silent auction at state convention
6. Old Business
7. New Business
- Chair DECLARES that the CAAE officer slate for the 2016-17 year stands as presented.
 - Chair DECLARES the following as the CAAE meeting dates for the 2016-17 year.

2016-2017 Meeting Dates and Locations

October 5, 2016 Southington (may start at 3)

January 5, 2017 Wallingford (snow 1/12)

March 7, 2017 Middletown (snow 1/14)

May - TBD as needed

2016-17 CAAE Proposed Officer Slate

Retiring President - Patrick O'Keefe

President - Vicky Christian

President Elect - Pam Berlekovic

Secretary - Casey Dunn

Treasurer - Audra Leach

Web Editor - Jen Shields