

Big E FFA Planning Committee Meeting

November 8, 2007

Brooks Administration Building

West Springfield, MA

Meeting called to order at 9:45AM by David Hopson, Chair.

Members Present: David Hopson, Milton Natusch, Ken Parker, Dick Strangeway, Melanie Sanborn, Bethany Royer, Jim Pomeroy, Cheryl Vest, Greg Breen, Rick Martineau, Harrison Griffin, Dave Lewis.

Representing National FFA: Kevin Keith

Big E Staff: Donna Woolam, Elena Hovagimian

Secretary's Report

Motion to approve by Ken Parker, seconded by Cheryl Vest. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve by Ken Parker, seconded by Cheryl Vest. Motion passed.

Reports

Big E Coordinator – Milton Natusch

All members received the report prior to the meeting. A copy is attached.

- Milton reviewed a breakdown of state participation for all FFA events.
- Milton received a comment regarding the scoring of the floral design event. A suggested scorecard was attached to the comment. It will be forwarded to Norm Hammond, event Superintendent, for review and action.
- The new Poultry superintendents incorporated computer scoring
- Participation in events is up
- Milton suggested the judge and superintendent buttons be revised to include the title on the button, rather than on the ribbon
- Press releases were created by the FFA interns to be distributed to participating students
- A list of participants was placed on a separate website for all superintendents to review. The Star program applications were also received electronically, which saved duplication costs.
- The banquet is at capacity (set for 700).
- The award program will be reviewed in order to streamline the presentation

Director Ag & Education – Donna Woolam

All members received a copy of Donna's report. Highlights include:

- The bus situation was dramatically improved over last year
- The Big E had the second largest attendance on record
- Capital improvements to the grounds include a new roof on the Better Living Center

- A discussion regarding an increase of the superintendent's stipend was held. Donna mentioned that she would put in for an increase. Such increase will be subject to approval.

National FFA – Kevin Keith

Kevin relayed the positive comments received from the National Officer Jennifer Himmberg and National Staff members Clay Worley and John French. He also distributed an executive summary for potential banquet sponsor recognition.

Superintendents

Stars Program – Harrison distributed a summary report. Farm Credit has increased its financial support following a request by Jim Putnam. Harrison has asked state staff to send thank you notes to the even supporters.

Tractor Driving – the facility used worked very well. The event is welcomed to use the facility as long as needed.

State Officers – Mr. Strangeway distributed a summary report of state officer activities.

Floriculture – There was a problem with the scorecards and having a quiet space to take the written exam. The scorecard issue has been addressed. Donna will address the exam location issue.

Forestry – The event ran over since the scorecards needed to be re-written due to the rain. State officer assistants should arrive either in work clothes, or at minimum in boots.

Small Animal – The new location, E barn, worked very well. Extension cords are needed to reach outlets. Participation is increasing (5 states participated, 7 were registered). Collegiate FFA members were a big help. They are willing to help with other events as well.

Dairy Handlers – Cheryl commented that this was the best year as far as student performance is concerned. Five new show harnesses are needed.

Prepared Public Speaking – an assistant superintendent is needed. A change of venue from the Agawam Middle School was also requested. Donna and Milton will look into starting the event earlier at the Sheraton and running the preliminary and final events there as well.

Motion to accept report by Ken Parker, seconded by Cheryl Vest. Motion passed.

New Business

National FFA Foundation Proposal Request – Kevin Keith reviewed the executive summary in greater detail. This proposal is subject to review and approval by the National FFA Foundation.

Motion to approve the proposal and request the National FFA Foundation to proceed with seeking a sponsor made by Kevin Keith, seconded by Cheryl Vest.

Discussion from Donna Woolam. She requested to be part of any negotiations. Sponsors cannot have access to the grounds if there is already a competing sponsor.

Motion passed.

Proposed CDE - Ag Marketing

Gail Kiley-Sanders, the National FFA Ag Marketing Superintendent, has volunteered to be the Superintendent for the Big E event on a trial basis. The event would need little resources from the Big E in order to run (only one room needed).

Motion to approve the CDE on a 3-year pilot basis made by Dick Strangeway, seconded by Rick Martineau. Motion passed.

Parade Coordinator

Milton expressed the need for a parade coordinator in order to aid with organizing the students, getting flags back to Mallory, etc. There is also a need for a couple other superintendents to assist with other events. Milton asked for volunteers, or help with locating volunteers.

Stars Ceremony – Change of venue

Milton has received a request to change the venue back to the coliseum, or some other location with more space. Concerns with filling the coliseum seats (6600) were raised. The Comcast stage was also discussed as a potential location.

Motion to seek an alternate location made by Bethany Rayer, seconded by Harrison Griffin.

Discussion – Milton suggest handing a small flyer to circus attendees explaining what the FFA pageant is about. Pros and cons for multiple locations, and the good public relations generated by the full circus tent were also discussed.

Motion passed.

Awards Banquet – Change of venue

We are currently at capacity at the Sheraton. There are no other facilities in the area that can accommodate a larger crowd.

Harrison Griffin recommended that Dave Hopson appoint a committee consisting of Milton Natusch, Donna Woolam, Harrison Griffin, Kim LaFleur and Kevin Keith to review the issue further, seconded by Rick Martineau. Motion passed

Motion to add the President to the bank account for signature authority by Cheryl Vest, seconded by Rick Martineau. Motion passed

Small Animal CDE – motion to extend the Small Animal CDE beyond a trial basis to permanent status by Melanie Sanborn, seconded by Greg Breen. Motion passed.

Nominations and Election of Officers 2007-08

Greg Breen moved to request the secretary cast one ballot to elect the current officers for another term. Seconded Jim Pomeroy. Motion passed

President – David Hopson

Vice President – Jim Pomeroy

Secretary – Kimberly LaFleur

Treasurer – Kenneth Parker

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM

Next Meeting November 6, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly LaFleur

Secretary
Big E Planning Committee

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: FFA Safe Tractor/Equipment CDE

SUPERINTENDENT: David Lewis/Greg Breene

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: None
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent: We bring what we need.
Big E supplies Tractors, Equipment, site etc. Event went very smooth.
- Needs same as this year.
- Future considerations: None
- Everything well sell this year

Name of CDE: Landscape and Floral Exhibits

SUPERINTENDENT: Norm Hammond

OTHERS:

- Budget requests:
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent: Clip boards for judges
- Needs: More FFA Placing Ribbons. More FFA Exhibitor cards (yellow ones)
- Future considerations:

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Parliamentary Procedure

SUPERINTENDENT: Janet Rosequist and Ass't Superintendent Maria Vanderwoude

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: None
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
Scoresheets, ability cards, timers, gavel, Robert's Rule of Order
- Needs:
Podiums for rooms
Include results sheet in packet
- Future considerations: start the test at 1:00 p.m. Having the extra room was great.

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Job Interview

SUPERINTENDENT: No report submitted

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: None
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
- Needs:

Three tables needed

- Future considerations: none provided

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Environmental and Natural Resources

SUPERINTENDENT: Ron Frederick and Co superintendent Renee Frederick

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: Annual request of expendible supplies \$25.00
- Need to refill soil and water kits max \$100.00
- Water kits were donated this year.
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:

I provide everything else needed to run the event

- Needs:

None stated

- Future consideration: Provide names and email address to superintendent for each team competing.
- Smaller portions at the banquet?

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Farm Business Management

SUPERINTENDENT: Doug Robertson and John Bradley

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: Retain money for bus and have \$30 available for snacks for students
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:

Students bring own calculators and pencils.

- Needs:
- Future considerations: Retain name of farm Business Management over Agribusiness Management

Not sure on John Bradley continuing as Asst superintendent

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Dairy Showing

SUPERINTENDENT: Cheryl Vest

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:

Superintendent provides numbers and clipboards, BIG E provides harnesses and Scoresheets

- Needs:

Need five new show harnesses

- Future considerations:

None stated

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Creed

SUPERINTENDENT: Janet Hammond and Richard Barker

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
- Needs:

Clipboard would be handy.

- Future considerations:
- Recommend stipends of \$25 for each judge
- Recommend presenting gifts to judges at \$20.00 per judge

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Prepared Public Speaking

SUPERINTENDENT: Kimberly LeFleur

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
Stop watches and programs provided by superintendent

- Needs:

Assistant superintendent needed!!!!

Two rooms are needed for preliminary and a podium in each room.

- Future considerations:

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Agricultural Mechanics

SUPERINTENDENT: Tom March, Mark Burdick & Doug Hammond (all co-superintendents)

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: \$50 needed for supplies for next years CDE event.
- Materials and equipment provided by co-superintendents: Laptop computers and software; a variety of hand tools and lumber for forms; electrical mockup boards, appropriate devices, supplies and electrical tools. All the paperwork for four parts of this event.
- Needs: Future considerations:

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Forestry

SUPERINTENDENT: Rick Martineau

OTHERS: Co superintendent: George Lyman

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:

All materials currently being provided by coordinators

- Needs:
- Future considerations:

State FFA Officers assisting should not wear official dress for this event.

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Livestock Judging

SUPERINTENDENT: Keith Shane and Laura Marek

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
[Harnesses for cattle handlers provided by Big E](#)
- Needs:

Need large zip ties to secure hog pens

Need a timer to time classes

- Future considerations: Will reduce number of classes from 12 to 9 and increase reasons to 3 sets per individual (1 beef, 1 sheep, 1 swine) beginning in 2008

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Small Animal

SUPERINTENDENT: Melanie Sanborn and Cindy Walstedt

OTHERS:

Small Animal Care CDE:

Budget Requests: \$75.00 for necessary supplies for team activity and practicums

Materials and Equipment provided by superintendent: all competitor materials, LCD projector, laptops, all materials for practicums: (Clippers, animals, tools and feed for identification)

Needs: 8 tables - skirted if possible, screen to project on; please reserve the projector screen again for 2008 from 2 pm to 5 pm again.

Future Considerations : E Barn was perfect – just what we needed. Make sure the location of this CDE is correct in all publications – it was not this year and on the web site. This CDE is up for review this year and I recommend that this event be continued. We have shown improvement each year and I feel support and participation at the state level is increasing. I am personally trying to promote this event as much as I can. National FFA is watching this event very closely as an indicator to see if national will move in this direction.

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Dairy Judging

SUPERINTENDENT: Gwynne Millar

OTHERS: co- Norm Hammond and Erin Liese

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:

All paper materials needed.

- Needs:

Water and snacks needed as it is a long CDE and contestants cannot leave the area to get something to eat.

- Future considerations:

Brenda Mihaliak, Connecticut and Devon Keefe will be assuming the role of co-superintendent and I am moving on.

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Nursery Landscaping

SUPERINTENDENT: David Moran and JR Gable

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
- Needs:
- Future considerations:

David Moran is not continuing as Superintendent and will become Co-superintendent.
Rebecca (Maclure) Rose will become superintendent

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Agronomy

SUPERINTENDENT: Steven Gower

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: none stated
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
- Needs:

New agronomy sign – the old one has been lost or misplaced.

- Future considerations:

2007 BIG E FFA ACTIVITIES SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Name of CDE: Dairy Foods

SUPERINTENDENT: David Snyder; assts Robert Sieving and Barbara Sieving

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: need \$80.00 for dairy products
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:

- Needs:

Tables as usual

- Future considerations:
- Need more rolling waste baskets lined with plastic lines
- Need at least 8 long tables
- Need access for our skills between dorm doors and eating area in Mose bldg (need committed by officials)
- Need access to pencil sharpeners
- Need roll of white table covering (paper)
- Poster to identify to visitors what is taking place
- Awards presented in various categories of contest (best at milk, best at cheeses, etc.

Positives about CDE event this year:

- Computer scoring
- Rapid return of individual and team scores to participants
- Adequate facility
- Appreciate poultry officials help
- Appreciate State FFA Officer help
- Good coaches meeting
- Nice to be included with tickets and parking passes in advance

Name of CDE: Floriculture

SUPERINTENDENT: Charlie Mavrelion, Doug Butterfield

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: Next year ---keep the same
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent: all of the plant material for ID, pots and soil for potting a plant, all of the material for the team event, score cards, posters, etc.

- Needs:
- Future considerations:
- Doug Butterfield retiring after many years of service. Bethany Royer, Killingly High school is taking over.
- A 4-H event was scheduled on stage in the Farm-A Rama during same time and was disrupting!!!

Name of CDE: Poultry Judging (No report was received)

SUPERINTENDENT: Bob Lauffer/Neil Fellenbaum

OTHERS:

- Budget requests:
Continue to need approximately \$100.00 for product and consumable supplies that can not be obtained through donation.
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
Everything but tables.

- Needs:

- Future considerations:

Name of CDE: Horse Evaluation

SUPERINTENDENT: Linda Corson and Elsie Bornstein

OTHERS:

- Budget requests: Next year ---keep the same
- Materials and equipment provided by superintendent:
- Needs:
- Future considerations:

Name of CDE: Stars Event

SUPERINTENDENT: Harrison Griffin

OTHERS:

No report submitted

BIG E FFA Coordinators Report
November 3, 2007

Statistics of Participation

CDE Event	CT	DE	ME	MD	MA	NH	NJ	NY	OH	PA	RI	VT	VA	WV	
Agronomy	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	8	4	0	0	4	0	
mechanics	4	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	4	4	0	
Creed	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Dairy cattle	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	
Dairy showing	1	4	0	4	4	0	0	4	4	4	0	1	1	0	
Dairy Foods	4	0	4	4	0	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	0	0	
Environmental	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	
Extemporaneous	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	
Farm Business	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	
Floriculture	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	
Forestry	4	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	4	4	0	
Horse	4	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	4	0	
Job Interview	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	
Livestock	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	
Nursery															
Landscaping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	
Parli Pro	6	6	0	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	6	6	0	
Poultry	4	4	0	4	0	0	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	
Prepared speaking	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	
Tractor Driving	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	
Small Animal skills	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	
star production	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	
star placement	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
star agribusiness	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	
star agriscience	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
totals	60	46	26	60	43	50	36	69	72	70	5	28	49	1	totals 615
landscape displays	6														
floral designs	48														
FFA Interns	3														
National FFA Officer corsage demo	1														
	14 days														

- Interns: Three interns worked at the BIG E this year, they came from Maine, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Each did an outstanding job in executing their duties as needed.

- Online registrations: Having a separate web site for each CDE coordinator to log into to review their CDE totals worked out very well. Expansion of the data on-line will be expanded next year to give more data and information for the Superintendents.
- The new bus vendor worked out very well and no problems were reported.
- The landscape exhibits continue to be a highlight of the Farm-A-Rama building.
- The floral design competition has several less entries than last year and the Superintendent will be reviewing data from this year to improve the scoring portion of the event.
- There was maximum attendance at the Sheraton this year (700) which was great, but there is no room for additional students and advisors. Banquet cost and management as well as presentation of awards remain a challenge.
- Press releases were done this year for the Stars program and general CDE participation – but more needs to be done in this area.
- Positive comments were received from the CDE Superintendents.
- State FFA Officer Assignments: A much better job was done this year in scheduling officers at CDE events and having the assignments posted on line helped in getting the word to the officers on their assignments.
- The need for more qualified individuals to serve as CDE Superintendents and assistants is needed. Prepared speaking and the Star program are two of the critical areas.
- An individual is needed to coordinate the Star Recognition portion in the Circus tent area. We have been fortunate with volunteers but a specific individual needs to be in charge, especially in moving the flag bearers to the parade start site and returning the flags to the Mallory Office. One concern is that many of the students in the parade need also to be at the Sheraton and there is just no time for this.
- Many thanks to the new Dairy Foods CDE Coordinators who did an outstanding job this 1st year.
- Getting floral corsage chapters to make corsages on the weekends is a continuing challenge. Perhaps increasing the participation stipend to \$100 on the weekends would help. We also had a chapter make corsages in the evening and this worked out well.
- FFA Workday the Saturday before has only had one chapter participate in the past and additional chapters are encouraged to assist.
- Recommend eliminating the plaque for best in show floral design chapter. The variables are too great to properly select one chapter.
- This past year, I and Donna Woolam worked with Toyota of New England on sponsorship of FFA activities at the BIG E with many meetings and conversations. I am still pursuing their involvement with FFA, though the challenges are many.
- The National FFA Foundation, Inc. is working with us to find a sponsor for the awards banquet and I look forward to working with them with this endeavor.

- Judy, Elena, and Donna and to be commended, as well as others who provided assistance to the FFA at the BIG E. Their patience, dedication and hard work helped make FFA days a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Milt Natusch
BIG E FFA Coordinator

Eastern States Exposition FFA Planning Committee
West Springfield, MA

Oct.31, 2007

RE : FFA Stars Report

On September 15, 2007 the FFA Stars Program was conducted with twenty seven star participants from ten northeastern states participating. Thirteen knowledgeable judges from five states conducted interviews and reviewed the SAE records of applicants in four categories – Star Farmer, Star Agricultural Placement, Star Agribusiness and Star Agriscience. Our judges included Farm Credit representatives and three individuals from the National FFA. Stars, parents, and advisors attended a delicious luncheon in Old Storowton Tavern and later in the afternoon participated in an awards ceremony before the Big E Circus audience.

A special thanks goes to the Northeastern Farm Credit Associations who sponsors this event with a six thousand dollar contribution – these associations include: First Pioneer Farm Credit, Yankee Farm Credit and Farm Credit of Maine. I would like to especially thank Mr. James Putnam, Senior Vice President of First Pioneer Farm Credit for his personal involvement as a judge and representative of Farm Credit. This year we were also fortunate to obtain support form two new Farm Credit Associations. Ag Choice Farm Credit serves most of Pennsylvania and four couties in West Virginia. MidAtlantic Farm Credit covers the states of Delaware, Maryland and southeastern Pennsylvania. We were very appreciative to have John French, Regional Director of the National FFA Foundation, Clay Worley, Team Leader for Membership of the National FFA and Kevin Keith, Local Program Specialist of the National FFA all serving as judges.

The following are my concerns for this Big E FFASStars Program:

- I am pleased to see the increased participation in this program – we need to work to have more applicants from more states. I would encourage more participation in the Ag Science competition.
- We need an assistant superintendent
- Applications vary from very well done, neat, typed with all components including signatures – to – poorly completed, hand written, missing components and signatures. It is important that State Consultants or other officials certify the applications. The judges indicated that the quality of applications is improving.
- The suggested scoring rubric worked well.
- More judges are needed from more states. Please send suggestions to Mr. Natusch or myself (hgriffin@sps.suffield.org).

- I need help from our FFA Planning Committee members, State Consultants and or Big E Cordinators to thank our donors. Please email me a copy of your thank you.
Participating State Contestants from the following:
Ct, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OHIO, Virginia

Mr. James Putnam
Senior Vice President of Marketing
First Pioneer Farm Credit
174 South Road,
Enfield, CT 06525

Mr. Robert Smith
Program Coordinator
Northeast Farm Credit Ag Enhancement
2668 State Route 7, Suite 21
Cobleskill, NY 12043-9707

Participating contestants from the following states:
Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania

Bob Frazee, President and CEO
Mid Atlantic Farm Credit, ACA
PO Box 770
Westminster, MD 21158-0770

Participating contestants from the following states:

Pennsylvania

Allyn Lamb, President and CEO
AgChoice Farm Credit, ACA
900 Bent Creek Blvd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Thanks again and please send me a copy of your thank you note.

Sincerely,

B. Harrison Griffin, Stars Program Superintendent

Big E Report – National FFA Organization – Kevin Keith

The 2007 Eastern States Exposition was attended by Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist for the Northeastern United States, Clay Worley, Team Leader of the Membership Team and John French, regional Director for the National FFA Foundation, as well as Southern Region national FFA Vice President, Jennifer Himburg. Kevin, Clay and John assisted in judging Prepared Speaking and the Stars event and attended the Superintendent's dinner and the Stars luncheon as well as the annual FFA Recognition Banquet held Saturday evening. During the banquet, John and Kevin had a chance to talk to Milt Natusch, Big E FFA Coordinator regarding the future of the banquet and especially potential sponsorship of the event. Since the completion of the Eastern States Exposition, Kevin and John have worked with national FFA and foundation staff to develop a proposal for having the National FFA Foundation solicit sponsorship for the Big E, FFA recognition Banquet, to be considered by both the National FFA Board of Directors and the Big E FFA planning committee. The proposal is being submitted for Planning Committee consideration at the November 8 meeting in West Springfield and includes funds for continued support of National FFA Officer and Staff participation in the eastern States Exposition. The Big E is a great time for interaction, exchange of information and provision of technical assistance for National Staff, State Leaders and Local Leaders and the National FFA Staff plan to continue to attend and participate in the Eastern States Exposition.

Report of the Poultry Judging CDE for Big E
Bob Lauffer and Neil Fellenbaum

1. The 2007 Poultry CDE ran smoothly.
2. A major issue continues to be inability to obtain broiler breeders suitable for a keep and cull class of 8. We have been substituting a written scenario using descriptions of 8 birds for the contestants to evaluate.
 - At the National Level 100 birds are being raised solely for this purpose in the hopes that they will have 8 birds with some differences to choose from. Due to improved genetics it is difficult to find any birds that have naturally occurring automatic cull defects.
 - The National committee is exploring alternatives among which might be, reducing the class to a class of less than 8 birds and finding another way of testing a contestant's knowledge in this area.
 - For the present time we will continue using the paper/pencil scenario as it is our only viable solution in light of bio-security issues and other logistics.
3. We went to hand scoring this year as setting up the scantron for this few contestants is more time consuming than doing it by hand
 - We did make copies of the official scantron available to any coaches that wished to have them especially since several states take the same team form the Big E to the National CDE
 - We also simply utilized an enlarged copy of a portion of the scantron sheet for each individual area for our scoresheets so contestants would be familiar with how to complete the scantron sheet.
 - Many states are coming to the Poultry Evaluation CDE without knowledge of what is actually involved. Many states do not include all or even the majority of the judging areas in their state contest so they are at a disadvantage. All of the information they need is on both the Big E and National Poultry CDE websites but it is obvious not all teams or coaches are accessing this information.
4. Team event. For the second year we attempted to tailor the team event to be similar to the national event. Having the competition start with the team event, then the written exam followed by the other classes has made for a better flow than in the past.
5. Without the cooperation of the University of Connecticut who provide live laying hens and Tyson Foods, New Holland, PA who donates broilers, parts and further processed poultry the costs to run this CDE would more than double. Currently we are purchasing 4 turkeys and some of the eggs. Thanks to Milton for sending an official Big E thank you to U Conn and Tyson.