

NY State Ag Ed Leadership Council

Meeting Minutes

New York Department of Ag and Markets

November 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sue Camp at 10:22. Members in attendance included;

Cornell University

Bill Camp, Professor, Agricultural Science Education

Eric Larsen, Agricultural Education Outreach

Frank Welcome, School of Veterinary Medicine

SUNY Oswego

Susan Camp, Professor, Vocational Teacher Education

SUNY Alfred

Melvin Chambliss, Chairperson, Department of Agriculture and Horticulture

Dorothea Fitzsimmons, Coordinator, Animal Science

SUNY Cobleskill

Terry Hughes, Agriculture Career Pathways Director

SUNY Morrisville

Chris Nyberg, Dean College of Agriculture

NY State Senate Agriculture Committee

NY State Assembly Agriculture Committee

NY Department of Agriculture & Markets

Chip Pratt, Special Assistant

Rich Bennett, Executive Assistant

NY Department of Education

Chike Nnabugwu, Agricultural Education Representative

NY Farm Bureau

Sandie Prokop

NY Association of Agriculture Educators

Tara Berescik, Past President

NY Association of FFA Board of Trustees

Adam Krenning, Chairperson

NY FFA Leadership Training Foundation

Bill Ransom, Committee Member

Welcome from Ag and Markets from Chip Pratt. Chip brought greetings from Commissioner Patrick Hooker and reiterated the commissioner's strong support of agricultural education in our state. Chip also mentioned a recent call he received from leaders in Western NY promoting the wine industry of the region and working closely with agricultural professionals and educators to promote it. More details to follow!

The first item of business on the agenda was the election of the next Council Chair. Bill Camp nominated Terry Hughes. Eric Larsen moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Hughes. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the strategic plan of the group. One of the items to look at was involving more of the students in FFA to provide leadership at different events across the state- some possible places including presenting agricultural research at the capital, having state officers more out and about at the capital or state functions during FFA Week, and increasing visibility at conferences like farm bureau. It was also encouraged that the FFA look to the many agricultural organizations across the state and invite them to participate in conventions or events as judges.

Another part of the strategic plan dealt with agricultural literacy. Discussion was held about the effectiveness of Ag in the Classroom in New York, especially as it was seen as a concern of First Lady Spitzer. Sandie Prokop through Farm Bureau has been doing many items across the state in ag literacy and it was discussed that a new curriculum was presented to 30 teachers, leaders, and business people called Food Land and People. It was very informative and could be used K-12. The Ag in the Classroom position will be opening up January 1 at Cornell. They will be the point person for the state, which is a new position for Cornell. That was previously part of Perry Dewey's position.

Terry Hughes explained his new title as the Career Pathways coordinator and explained how this new model was being used at all levels and should be addressed in the plan.

Chike Nnabugwu also discussed his interpretation of the strategic plan and the need to be addressing the policy, not the micromanaging of the activities that the policies governed. This should be strongly considered for the group to provide the leadership over the policies they enacted. Chike also discussed the meetings held state wide about Perkins funding and his feeling that CTSO's may see an increase in funding from Perkins dollars.

The leaders of the items in the strategic plan were asked to bring back results to the next meeting. These will be compiled and returned in report form to the chairman.

The next item on the agenda was the setting of the next meeting date. Chip Pratt moved, second Anna Metcalf to have the meeting at Morrisville on April 10, 2008. Motion carried.

Reports were then presented by each group:

FFA- Anna Metcalf reported on the activities of the state officers and highlighted the success of the Uniondale FFA, who captured seven 1st places in competitions in Agriscience at the National FFA Convention.

SUNY Cobleskill—Saw the creation of a new Ag Biotechnology degree as well as a BS in Animal Science/ Equine. They also have new stand alone programs in Landscape Construction, Turf Grass and Turf Sports. They will also be constructing a \$2.6 million Bio-Energy center. They saw an increase in the Agricultural budget- including \$500,000 for equipment purchase at the college farm. They are proud to have nearly 1,000 students in the college of agriculture.

SUNY Morrisville—They saw the creation of a new program in Equine Science/ Exercise Physiology through their Equine Rehabilitation Center. They have also created new divisions in Agribusiness and Horticulture. They are proud to boast equine students from over 20 states!

SUNY Alfred— Still undergoing a president search- they are looking to fill this by February. Agriculture enrollment is very steady. Created a new \$4.9 million Center for Organic and Sustainable Agriculture. Center will be a research study with dual herds of dairy cattle: 70 organic, 70 non-organic- to see the differences in these herds as part of ongoing research. They have created eight modular courses, for high school students to be certified in areas associated to Dairy Herdsmanship. They are people and paper based and can be offered online.

NYAAE—Summer Professional Development Conference will be June 22-25 at the Inn on Canadaigua and incorporating the Geneva Research Station. The annual banquet will be Monday night of the conference and the start time on Sunday will be a bit earlier. Several members will be attending the conference and Rebecca MacClure from John Bowne High School will be an award recipient of the Teacher Turn the Key Award.

FFA Governing Board—Convention will be held in Canton, May 1-3. The FFA is also seeking a new Executive Treasurer.

Career Pathways—wanted to compliment Alfred, Morrisville and Cobleskill for continuing their HS Agriculture Days. Explained how Career Pathways will be implemented in High schools and BOCES and his role in making it a smooth transition. On the collegiate side, 43 students will be participating in the Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion meet at Cobleskill on November 26.

Cornell—reported that the Senior Extension Associate position was posted to lead Ag Ed Outreach at Cornell. New FFA and Teacher Services personnel have been added in Juleah Tolosky and Eric Larsen, who join Shari Lighthall in the department. Dr. Camp will be chairing the national Ag Ed Inservice this January in Indianapolis. The theme is Teacher Recruitment, Development, and

Retention. He also reported that the National Research Center for Ag Education has now been relocated to Louisville with a distinct partnership with Cornell. The office has also written, proctored and piloted test questions for an Agricultural Assessment similar to NOCTI. Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Sue Henry was also presented with the Honorary American FFA Degree.

SED- Big word there is RETIREMENT- with many staff members leaving and several open positions. Recently filled Health Occupations position. CTE is also working hard to reduce the performance gap in our schools. Some of the policy issues they are looking at include:

1. Alternative Assessments
2. Alternative Certifications
3. Comprehensive post-secondary articulation.

Chike had also hoped during public hearings on Perkins more people from the ag community would have asked to increase our funding.

SUNY Oswego—New initiative is providing certification for teachers with core courses online. They are happy to have Matt Spindler in their Ag Education position.

Farm Bureau- NYFB will be providing FFA members who are seniors in high school with a complimentary one year membership. Also implementing a Feed the Hungry program in several schools. They are also doing a History of New York Ag to all 7th grade schools in NY. She also reported that over 3,500 schools received a Farm Bureau calendar. Wearing another hat, she also reported that the NY Ag Society will meet January 10 in Syracuse.

The meeting concluded with a discussion from Ag and Markets and Bill Ransom of the feasibility of new construction at the NY state Fair Grounds in Syracuse. They felt with the right plan, money would be available for improvements this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm

Eric Larsen
Recording Secretary.