

In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education

MEMO

TO: New Jersey Agriculture Teachers/FFA Advisors

FROM: Erin Noble, *State Program Leader for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, State FFA Advisor*

CC: Kristianne Dowd, *State FFA Specialist*

DATE: April 1, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Preparedness Plan (as of April 1)

The Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education continues to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation as we are committed to providing quality educational experiences for FFA members statewide.

Below is an update on how events will be administered through May. Please know these plans are subject to change.

- **State Officer Travel** All staff and state officer business travel will continue to be limited through April 30.
- **Winter CDEs** (March 25) POSTPONED with intent to host online April 27-29. (Chapters will select the date and time that works best for them.) Only chapters who submitted registration by March 1 can participate. **We recognize schools will not be in session during this timeframe. We will allow students to participate in the events from home with an adult proctor (parent, guardian, etc.). We are also investigating the use of computer monitoring programs. Please communicate any technology concerns you have by allowing students to compete from home.*
- **April 1 Applications** (April 1) EXTENDED to April 15 with signature page flexibility. Signature pages MUST be submitted by May 1. **Blue Jackets. Bright Futures. – Jackets will not be ordered until the National FFA Center opens, and we can confirm jacket sizes with applicants. Please don't let not knowing a jacket size stop you from encouraging students to fill out the application. Also, don't forget there are measuring guides available online in the interim.*
- **Agriscience Fair Registration** (April 1) FIRM with flexibility with written reports (application).
- **Agriscience Fair Application & Written Report** (April 1) EXTENDED to April 15 with signature page flexibility. Signature pages MUST be submitted by April 29. **A picture of the Agriscience Display/Poster must be submitted to ag.ed.registration@ag.nj.gov by 4:00 pm on April 28. Please don't email more than five (5) pictures at a time.*
- **Horse Evaluation CDE** (April 5) POSTPONED with intent to host online April 27-29. (Chapters will select the date and time that works best for them.) Only chapters who submitted registration by March 1 can participate. **We recognize schools will not be in session during this timeframe. We will allow students to participate in the event from home with an adult proctor (parent, guardian, etc.). We are also investigating the use of computer monitoring programs. Please communicate any technology concerns you have by allowing students to compete from home.*
- **State FFA Association Meeting** (April 6) MODIFIED to be held online via Zoom.

- **State FFA Alumni & Supporters Meeting & Retiring Address Workshop** (April 8) MODIFIED to be held online via Zoom.
- **State FFA Convention Registration** (April 9) FIRM with flexibility with convention materials (manuscript, portfolios, etc.). We ask that ALL chapters register for convention as they would have prior to COVID-19 so we can get a clearer picture of interested participants. Chapters will not be financially responsible for registrations that are submitted on this date. After May 1, we will require chapters to confirm their numbers, and it will be at this time that the cancellation policy will go into effect.
- **State FFA Convention Materials** (April 9) EXTENDED to April 29.
- **State FFA Foundation Meeting** (April 14) CANCELLED with no intention to reschedule. The next meeting will be in July 2020.
- **State FFA Officer Work Session** (April 20) MODIFIED to be held online via Zoom.
- **Spring CDEs** (April 23) POSTPONED with intent to host online May 5-7. (Chapters will select the date and time that works best for them. *) Only chapters who submitted registration by March 15 can participate. *Ag Sales will only be offered on one day. Date is TBA.
- **Dairy Evaluation CDE** (April 25) POSTPONED with intent to host online April 27-29. (Chapters will select the date and time that works best for them.) Only chapters who submit registration by April 1 can participate. **We recognize schools will not be in session during this timeframe. We will allow students to participate in the event from home with an adult proctor (parent, guardian, etc.). We are also investigating the use of computer monitoring programs. Please communicate any technology concerns you have by allowing students to compete from home.*
- **Agriscience Fair** (April 29) MODIFIED to be held online utilizing Google Hangouts or similar program. Interview schedules will be posted by Monday, April 27.
- **PA DAY CDEs** (April 30) POSTPONED with intent to host online May 11-13. (Chapters will select the date and time that works best for them.) Only chapters who submitted registration by April 1 can participate.
- **State FFA Officer Application** (May 1) Deadline FIRM.
- **State Association Meeting** (May 4) No change at this time. Will continue to evaluate as more information becomes available.
- **State FFA Officer Work Session** (May 11) No change at this time. Will continue to evaluate as more information becomes available.
- **State FFA Convention** (May 20-22) No change at this time. Will continue to evaluate as more information becomes available. However, we are exploring virtual convention options until a final decision is made.
- **Note: All other calendar dates/deadlines not specifically mentioned in this message remain in effect at this time.**

These are unprecedented times, and the situation continues to be extremely fluid and open-ended. As we work to create a plan that maintains quality and fairness, we ask for your patience, understanding and cooperation. Please continue to provide us with school district policy updates that impact your program. We want to continue delivering statewide FFA events with as much normalcy as possible while respecting everyone's situation. Communication is key for us to make decisions for the good of the all.

Please contact me if you have additional questions or if our staff can be of assistance to you.

Respectfully,



Erin Noble

State Program Leader for Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education/State FFA Advisor