

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

?? Alison Keggan  
vies for place  
on National  
FFA Officer  
Team

?? State FFA  
Officers begin  
their journey  
on the leader-  
ship contin-  
uum

?? Office of Agri-  
cultural Edu-  
cation secures  
funding for  
FY09

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# Office of Agricultural Education

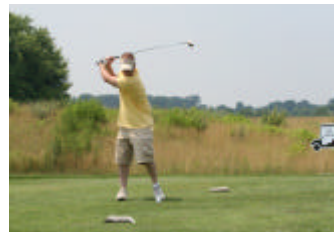
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JUNE/JULY

## 7th Annual FFA Golf Tournament

**Mercer Oaks, West Windsor, June 24, 2008**—The 7th Annual FFA Golf Benefit kicked off with 72 golfers and many sponsors. Golfers and sponsors included industry representatives, former FFA members, state officers, current members, parents, NJDA staff, New Jersey Department of Education staff and local chapter supporters. More than \$7,700 was raised to support scholarships, student leadership development programs, and state officer training. No one got the hole in one for the Toyota Tundra but the best foursome was First Pioneer Farm Credit. Stay tuned for details about the 8th Annual Golf Tournament.

**Special thanks to our 2008 Golf Tournament Sponsors:**  
*Jersey Fresh*  
*First Pioneer Farm Credit*  
*Martin Appraisal*



**Over \$7,700 was raised at the 7th Annual FFA Golf Tournament.**

*R.J.S. Heating*  
*Stolz, Katz & Company, P.C.*  
*New Jersey Farm Bureau*  
*Monmouth Co. Board of Ag*  
*Cruzan's Truck Service*  
*Violet Packing, LLC*

*Four Seasons Nursery*  
*Mark and Sharon Evans,*  
*Grow Mark*  
*John Sebastiano*  
*CAERT, Inc.*  
*Mercer Co. Board of Ag*  
*Middlesex Co. Board of Ag*  
*Monique Purcell*  
*Steven Gruenberg, Esquire*  
*Bass Advertising & Market-*  
*ing, Inc.*  
*Rustin Farms*  
*Essex Co. Board of Ag*  
*Patricia & Rob Thorne*  
*Frank Baitinger*  
*Raymond Ponell*  
*Anthony Juestrich*  
*Jersey Seafood*  
*Charles Kuperus, NJ Secre-*  
*tary of Agriculture*  
*Middlesex-East Brunswick*  
*FFA Chapter*  
*Erin Noble*  
*Hawk Pointe Golf Course*

## Alison Keggan— NJ's National Officer Candidate

Alison Keggan has been selected as New Jersey's National FFA Officer Candidate. She is preparing by visiting with education and agriculture leader representatives. Alison has several business and industry visits schedule for the summer before she returns to

Cornell University. She is also working on developing herself in areas such as communication, knowledge, and time management. This experience allows Alison to learn more about education and agriculture issues and to serve as an advocate for agri-

cultural education. In addition, Alison is working in the Office of Agricultural Education as a Leadership Development Intern. She is providing assistance on many state level leadership projects.

# National CDE Certification

Over 45 students representing 15 teams were certified for national competition in career development. These events include Nursery/Landscape, Floriculture, Agricultural Sales, Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Job Interview and other areas representing the diverse scope of agriculture, food and natural resource education in New Jersey. Additional certifications will be submitted in the near future. Three pro-

ficiency awards, seven American FFA degrees, three Honorary American Degrees and four national chapter award applications were also submitted. Agriscience Fair applications were submitted for seven people. These students and award recipients will represent New Jersey in October at the 81<sup>st</sup> National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

## Chapters to Attend the 81st National FFA Convention

- Allentown
- BCIT Westampton
- Belvidere
- Cape May Tech
- Cumberland Regional
- Freehold
- Newton
- Northern Burlington
- Penns Grove
- Woodstown
- Warren Hills



2008-09 New Jersey State FFA Officer Team

# State Officer Leadership Training

The newly elected state FFA officer team completed the first phase of their leadership training continuum to prepare for their year of service. Sponsored by the NJ FFA Alumni, the conference challenged state officers to build their relationship as team members, develop and present greetings, explore the fundamentals of serving the state associa-

tion, and begin to develop team goals.

They also created the 2008-2009 state theme, "New Jersey FFA: Serve Today to Impact the Future." The state officers will use this theme to promote agricultural education and FFA during their year of service.



State Officers spent the weekend building relationships and setting team goals.

*"New Jersey FFA Association— Serve Today to Impact the Future"*

# BLAST Off Training

The state officers completed the second phase of their leadership training continuum during BLAST-Off

(Building Leaders and

Strong Teams of Officers. National FFA Organization staff trained the state officer team to develop speeches, identify and work with personal strengths, and establish goals for the upcoming year. Time management tools and instruction was

provided. State officers developed their philosophy of leadership and reflected on how they plan to impact the state association

BLAST Off training is designed to build leaders and strong teams of officers.



# Horticultural Apprenticeships and Youth Transition to Work Grants



Office of Agricultural Education staff attended a meeting with Somerset County Vocational Technical School (SCVTS) administration and US and NJ DOL staff to discuss Apprenticeships and Youth Transition

**Horticulture based programs are most popular in New Jersey.** to Work (YTTW) as a method to help re-build the Horticulture program at the SCVTS.

OAE staff was invited to join the meeting to reinforce agricultural education program components and to help make the connections to NJNLA and the horticulture industry. USDOL staff responsible for Apprenticeships

was also present. It appears that with support from OAE, the Somerset County vocational School Horticulture program will be pursuing Horticultural apprenticeships, YTTW grants and stronger connections with the Nursery/Landscape industry.

*Horticultural Apprenticeships give students the opportunity to jump start their career.*

## Joint Meeting— NJ Commission Environmental Education and Interagency Work Group

Nancy Trivette made a presentation at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting about agricultural education in NJ to the Commission and Work Group. Both groups (Ag Education and Environmental Education) have similar concerns regarding the NJ High School Redesign initiative and about serving more students. Environmental Science Educa-

tion courses in high schools are electives and could compliment Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Education programs. There is already much crossover between the two programs at the local level. The invitation was a result of increased partnership with the Education staff at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection who

serve on the State Agricultural Education Advisory Council.

## FY09 Interagency Agreements

We have been approved to receive two interagency agreements from the Department of Education again this year. The interagency agreements provide financial resources to operate the Office of Agricultural Education, provide professional development for teachers, operate New Jersey FFA and provide grants to schools and county colleges for agriculture food and natural resources.



**Interagency Agreements allow schools to receive equipment through grant opportunities.**



**AGRICULTURAL  
EDUCATION**  
*New Jersey*

**New Jersey  
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**“Preparing People for Leadership and  
Careers in Agriculture”**

Agricultural Education prepares people for careers and professional leadership in production, processing, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products, and for related careers in plant and animal technology (including aquatic life), economics, education, mechanics and engineering, natural resources and environmental technology, politics and sociology, and international relations and trade. USDA predicts an annual demand of 52,000 professional job opportunities in agriculture, food and natural resources through 2010. Only 32,000 students graduate each year from agriculture colleges and universities. This reflects a need for more programs to graduate more students.

## Calendar of Events

### **JULY 2008**

- July 18** Poultry Judging CDE— Delaware State Fair
- July 21** FFA Executive Board Work Session— NJDA, Trenton NJ
- July 21** Dairy Handlers' CDE— Delaware State Fair
- July 22** NJ FFA Foundation Meeting— NJDA, Trenton, NJ
- July 22-27** State Presidents' Conference— Washington, D.C.
- July 23** Horse Judging CDE— Delaware State Fair
- July 28-31** National Leadership Conference for state Officers— Dover, DE

### **AUGUST 2008**

- August 4** FFA Executive Board Meeting— NJDA, Trenton, NJ

- August 13** NJ FFA Alumni Meeting— NJDA, Trenton, NJ

- August 18** FFA Executive Board Work Session— NJDA, Trenton, NJ

### **SEPTEMBER 2008**

- September 8** FFA Executive Board Meeting— NJDA, Trenton, NJ

- September 12-14** Eastern States Exposition (Big E) - W. Springfield, MA

- September 22** FFA Executive Board Work Session— NJDA, Trenton, NJ



- September 26** Fall Agricultural Education Teachers Conference— Labor Education Center, New Brunswick, NJ

### **OCTOBER 2008**

- October 3-4** Leadership Experience And Development— Jamesburg, NJ
- October 6** FFA Executive Board Meeting— NJDA, Trenton, NJ
- October 8** NJ FFA Alumni Meeting— NJDA, Trenton, NJ
- October 13** FFA Executive Board Work Session— NJDA, Trenton, NJ
- October 14** NJ FFA Foundation Meeting— NJDA, Trenton, NJ
- October 22-25** 81st National FFA Convention and National Career Development Events— Indianapolis, IN