

Monday, March 16, 2020

The impact of COVID-19 on our way of life and the ability to educate our students could not have been predicted even just a few days or weeks ago. It is times like these that we cannot underestimate the collective power of working together and supporting each other. To that point, we want to thank all of our teachers for their patience and understanding as agricultural educators around the state tirelessly work to develop ways to engage our students and manage our personal lives during these extraordinary times.

As of 3/16/2020, New York Agricultural Education and FFA have made several difficult decisions to cancel or postpone numerous upcoming events, including the 95th New York State FFA Convention.

We have based these decisions on the following critical factors:

- Our prioritized concern for student and community health and safety;
- Recent cancellations/uncertainties with regional CDE and LDE qualifiers;
- The closing of New York's K-12 public schools and Universities; and
- Today's announcement from the CDC and Governor Cuomo banning all events over 50 people for the next 8 weeks.

As the situation changes on an almost daily basis at the moment, we want to ensure our teachers are well-informed as it relates to our FFA and NYAAE programming throughout the next few weeks and months. Please refer to our **COVID-19** page for up-to-date information and the following **FAQ pages and Cancellation Statements** with specific details on upcoming teacher and student conferences, events, trainings and student leadership programming.

Please click on each event below for more information:

- [March 14, District President Selection - Postponed](#)
- [March Regional Visioning Meetings- Postponed](#)
- [April 2-4, State Officer Selection- Postponed](#)
- [May 14-16, New York State FFA Convention- Cancelled](#)
- [May 15, Incentive Grant Program at State FFA Convention- Cancelled](#)
- [June 22-24, NYAAE Conference- Still Scheduled, will be re-evaluated by 4/22/2020](#)

While we understand that these cancellations and postponements are disruptive and disappointing, it is essential that we prioritize the health and safety of everyone involved within our organization – including students, advisors, chaperones, stakeholders and staff – and we take that role seriously.

You have our commitment that we are doing all we can in this unprecedented situation. We want to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work through this together over the coming weeks. We are deeply committed to keeping you informed and involved as we move through this uncertain time.

We want to end by expressing our sincere gratitude for your ongoing efforts to guide and provide leadership to your students, now when they need it most. Please continue to offer support and care to each other, take good care of yourself and cherish your loved ones as we all navigate this truly challenging moment.

Should you have any immediate concerns, please contact us. We will get through this together.

With kind regards,

Shari Lighthall, Director, NYS Agricultural Education Outreach
Derek Hill, NY FFA Director
Gleason Walley, NYS FFA/NYAAE Governing Board Chair
Paul Perry, State Convention Committee Chair