



For NJALDP Class 9, we have developed a new curriculum with a greater focus on national and regional issues versus the inclusion of an international study travel included in previous classes. This new curriculum will include additional travel to Washington, DC and will pay close attention to the 2012 Farm Bill in addition to the many areas described below. We expect the new curriculum will help further our mission of developing informed agriculturalists who are prepared to represent and lead the industry in the future.

MISSION - NJALDP's purpose is to provide educational programming for individuals involved in farming and agribusiness to become informed, articulate leaders. NJALDP provides leadership development opportunities designed specifically for farmers and others in New Jersey ag-related businesses. As a result of participating in NJALDP participants will:

- Sharpen business management skills
- Establish an extensive agricultural network throughout the State
- Sharpen writing skills
- Enhance interpersonal communication skills
- Strengthen marketing skills
- Enhance public speaking skills
- Sharpen analytical and decision making skills
- Develop skills in conflict resolution and negotiation
- Enhance understanding of the NJ agricultural infrastructure, state & federal government, agricultural economics, and effects of globalism on agriculture and U.S. economy

VISION- Develop a cadre of articulate knowledgeable skilled leaders who encourage positive action on key issues, policy and economics to advance NJ's agricultural industry.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES - As a result of participating in NJALDP Graduates will:

- Be recognized as skilled leaders
- Be more effective managers of their business
- Understand key emerging issues & their impact on their business and the industry
- Be actively and positively engaged in the New Jersey ag community

PROGRAM STRUCTURE- NJALDP Class IX is designed as a two-year program in which participants meet for 12-14 seminars studying the key agriculture and core leadership topics with the total meetings dates not exceed 45 days.

Seminar schedule will include:

- ✓ Ten 'in-state' residential seminars (2-3days each) meeting throughout NJ
- ✓ Two travel seminars to Washington DC
- ✓ Additional 1-2 meetings to adjacent States to examine regional topics

Class IX will include a Community Service project to provide practical application of their leadership skills.

Speakers include key leaders and subject matter experts and group discussions to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of critical issues for today's agricultural leaders. Seminar topics include leadership, communications skills, economics and policy, government, environment, agricultural organizations and agencies, urban/suburban relations and environmental issues affecting agriculture, such as water, land use and energy.

On-site tours and studies of agriculturally-related businesses and industries which enable participants to discover first-hand the problems, issues and solutions in agricultural production, marketing, and financing.

Meetings with leaders of government and business complement seminars on local, state and national issues. NJALDP participants meet in Trenton and Washington, D.C. for direct exposure to the various political and economic conditions impacting agriculture.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS- Consistent with adult learning theory, NJALDP seminars are designed as highly interactive, experiential learning workshops. Participants explore the various seminar topics through group discussion, small and large group exercises, assessment tools, facilitator presentations, in-class exercises, participant presentations, and pre/post seminar assignments. Through an on-going needs assessment process and seminar evaluations, NJALDP participants help shape their leadership program curriculum. As a result, "in-class" activities and pre/post seminar assignments are "issue driven" and relevant to participants' developmental needs and interests.

EVALUATION

1. **Program evaluation** is conducted on several levels. At the end of the first year of their program, participants are surveyed to assess their learning experiences and to identify additional topics, issues, speakers, etc. that they want to further explore. Additionally, NJALDP Advisory Board and other stakeholders are consulted on an on-going basis throughout the program for evaluative comments. At the end of the 2-year program, participants will complete a program survey.

Measuring impact – A post-graduation assessment tool designed and administered for Classes 1-3 to gather data on their application and use of the skills and knowledge gained through NJALDP. This assessment tool will be used for Class IX.

2. **Seminar evaluation-** written evaluations are completed by each participant during each seminar to identify their perception of the merit and relevancy the speaker, topic or tour.

3. **Learning evaluation** – A “post then pre” assessment is completed at the close of each seminar to determine participants’ perception of their learning of the specific topics covered.

OVERVIEW OF TOPICS & OBJECTIVES

CORE TOPICS AND OBJECTIVES - Both Communication and Leadership are foundation skills which are addressed independently of the specific leadership topics and are strategically interwoven through the entire curriculum. The core topics and objectives are:

COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

- Hone meeting facilitation skills
- Develop interpersonal communication and networking skills
- Sharpen written communication skills
- Develop and hone public speaking and presentation skills

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Develop increase awareness of self and others
- Develop plans to create a desired future for NJ agriculture
- Describe skills for building, developing and effective teams, coalitions and partnerships
- Develop problem solving and conflict management skills
- Develop leadership skills to initiate and foster change

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS AND OBJECTIVES

The key agricultural topics will be presented with the primary focus on New Jersey agriculture, local issues and regional impact and the development to the next Farm Bill. As these topics and issues are interconnected they will be examined both independently and from a systems perspective, providing learners with a holistic view. The primary agriculture topics and objectives are:

- 1. AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE of NEW JERSEY**
- 2. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**
- 3. AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**
- 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
- 5. FOOD SECURITY**
- 6. FOOD SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES**
- 7. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**
- 8. LAND USE**
- 9. MARKETING**
- 10. MEDIA RELATIONS**
- 11. SOCIAL ISSUES**
- 12. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**