

Minutes Regular Meeting of the National Egg Quality School

January 28, 2026, Atlanta, GA

Attendees: Diana Sparks, Ken Koelkebeck, Paul Patterson Michael Abbott, Mike Persia, Ken Anderson, Dean Jones, Jeff Hendricks, Aaron Kiess, Pratima Adhikari, Dianna Bourassa, Cary Wise, Denise Heard and Elisa Maloberti

Paul Patterson called the meeting to order and asked Diana Sparks if there was a quorum. A quorum was confirmed.

Paul P. asked for a reading of the minutes from the May meeting at the NEQS held in Greenville SC. There was a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes and a second, motion passed. However, Paul mentioned that there is the issue of the used candling lights.

A discussion of candling lights ensued:

There is about 60 old candling lights that could be made available to youth groups, state dept. of ag. offices, and universities. Steps should include

1. Determining a price
2. Get an accurate count
3. Get a list of who wants these lamps and how many

Ken Anderson indicated that NCSU wants some, UGA wants some, VA wants some and Miss State Un probably wants some.

Next Diana S. discussed plans for the 2026 NEQS: May 18-21 in Indianapolis at the Embassy Suites Downtown Indianapolis. We already have 33 registered for the 72 slots. Last year we had 64 students. There were some late cancelations, 3 did not take the test and 1 did not show up. 2026 registration is open until April 1st.

We talked about locations for the 2027 School. Previously we had talked about a west coast location either California (Sacramento in the past) or Arizona (maybe Phoenix).

Paul P. indicated for our 2026 School the Indiana Director of the Department Agriculture has agreed to give the NEQS Welcome and that Rebecca Joniskan with the Indiana State Poultry Association will do the Omelet Lunch.

Elisa M. asked if AEB could do their presentations virtually. Paul indicated that if Jen at the Egg Nutr Center and Ed Hoffman or another speaker from AEB could be present, that would be preferred.

Diana S. shared a copy of the 2025 Financials & made her Treasurers report. She indicated that tuition generated about \$50k and sponsorship totaled \$44.9k with big input from USPEA \$15k, Hickman's \$5k and Versova \$5k covering our expenses of almost \$63k for a net profit of \$27k.

Paul reviewed the evaluation of the 2025 school and indicated that students were very favorable of both the topics and speakers ranging from 4.29 to 4.85 out of 5. The Buzz Sessions were appreciated because they helped understanding, helped with egg grading and the final exam. Students like the school format of lectures and labs with a section leader to guide their understanding and liked the hard copy and electronic books.

We talked about the need for about 100 flash drives if we continue providing them as we have the last several years. Ken K. approached the Poultry Sci Assoc. to pay for and sponsor \$500-1000. They will need a proposal and letter from NEQS.

Deana J. brought up having a QR code instead to download the presentations as another option. Everyone seemed to like this idea for next year and work with the flash drives this year.

A motion to adjourn was proposed and seconded by Diana S.