



Commodity Advisory Council Meeting

**Group Session Notes
February 24, 2010**



Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

Coastal Research and Extension Center
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March 10, 2010

Thanks to all the producers and MSU personnel that contributed to the 3rd Coastal Research and Extension Center Commodity Advisory Council! The suggestions get better every year, and it is great to hear feedback from the producers about needs that have been met. Please don't hesitate to let any CREC employee know if we can better meet the needs of our clientele or make the Advisory Council more effective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia R. Knight".

Patricia R. Knight, Head
Coastal Research and Extension Center

COMMODITY ADVISORY COUNCIL GROUP SESSION NOTES

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GROUP SESSION NOTES

Forestry Session:

Chair – Perry Meyers

Chair Elect – Jim Currie

- More programs on prescribed burning for timberland.
- Educate elected officials:
 - benefits of prescribed fire
 - Congongrass management
- Publication on benefits/need for prescribed fire.
- Estate planning for timberland owners (short course).
- More timber tax programs.
- Increased research and public outreach on Congongrass and other invasive species management.
- Silvopasture management education pasture.
- Uneven-aged management timber harvesting methods education for loggers.

Fruit Session:

Chair – Randy Mathis, 2010

Chair – Jerry Hutto, 2011

Attendance – 17

Exobasidium – Discussed occurrence in Blueberry Fields, Symptoms and Control:

- We have identified several farms with this fungus.
- We have set up fungicide trials at a farm in Sumrall.
- Pristine gave best control in 2009.
- Elevate gave 2nd best control, others were un-effective.
- Train and environment seemed to be a factor – low lying areas with poor air movement was a common factor.

Control:

- Start with Indar
- Make 2 applications of Abound
- Make one application of Pristine if you see symptoms
- Apply Bravo after harvest for leaf problem

Need to put together an informational brochure with pictures and control recommendations.

Fungicides:

- Indar is systemic
- Pristine, Abound & Indar is systemic
- Bravo and Mancozeb is just protective

Frozen Blueberries

- Highbush berries are evasion to sell
- Waynesboro sold some to China
- Need to develop a product with blueberries and muscadines

Wayne Porter – High tunnel work – has some high tunnels on Randy Mathis farm in Clarke County. Mr. Belcher in Clarke County.

Tomatoes

- Amelia and Bellarosa Tomatoes disease problems were less inside the tunnel.

Strawberries

- Tunnel 30 X 148 ft – ripe fruit inside Jan 6 after 13° - Camarosa, Festival & Sweet Charlie – Season should last through mid June
- Added 4 weeks to the season
- Cost per sq. ft. - \$1.20 at Mathis Metal, 65 at Belcher PVC
- Stretch the distance between bows can save money
- Plan to follow the strawberries with honeydew melons
- Sells the strawberries at produce stands and his sister sells to schools, hospitals clinics and other outlets
- 17,000 plants/acre
- Randy has 2 acres of strawberries

Livestock Session:

Daniel Riveria – Chairman

State Specialist present – Dr. Terry Kiser, Dr. Jane Parish, Dr. Carla Huston, Dr. Rocky Lemus, Dr. Dean Jousan

- Reports given from Dean Jousan on 2010 Dixie Nationals – 4 out of 8 steers in the sale of champions were from Southeast District.
- Jon Kilgore from MS Farm Bureau gave report and discussed imminent domain petition.
- Questions and concerns from group.
- More information on minerals – bag vs. block, considering forage and soil samples.
- Need information or more research on blast in Rye grass. Control and resistant grasses. Fertilizers that can help situation / fertilizers that make blast worst.
- Triconosis – Dr. Carla Huston – New MS regulations for this disease as of Jan. 2010. Bulls must be tested. Education to producers and progression with new regulations will be best for prevention of this disease in state.
- Johnes Program – Funding has been dropped. Dr. Huston encouraged producers to no pull out of program because the program should return.

- Livestock Economist for Extension is John Michael Riley.
- Need more research and information on grasses & forages that war widely used in SE Mississippi. More info on Bahia, Bermuda, Crabgrass, & Ryegrass.
- Information on forages that better suit weight gain calves vs. forages for grown cows.
- Upcoming programs /needed programs.
- Health programs.
- Upcoming health programs for reproduction/other issues at Vet school. Beginning next January
- Field Day at White Sand – held November. Maybe looking at change to summer.
- Forage Newsletter available at county office from Dr. Lemus monthly.
- Board Sale - 1st Monday in August at Hattiesburg stockyard.
- Master Cattlemen’s Program – Available through county office
- Beef Cattle Boot Camp – Praire Research –April 16, Brown Loans-April 17
- BCIA Bull Sale – next Thursday
- Work on having more A. I. Schools in the south part of state.

Horse Session:

Roy Higdon – Chairman

- 18 teams participated in Horse Bowl
- 4-H Horse Judging won at Denver – National Western
- Small Ruminant Seminar – Livingston, AL – April 24, 2010 – sheep and goats
- 2nd Wednesday in May – Truck going to Bowling Green, KY for sale of goats – Grader sale – load together sent from MS.
- NRCS has cost share on fencing for small ruminant animals
- Horse disposal – turning horses loose.
- What is the legislation on state level that can go onto Federal?
- Getting the word out – Joining with Farm Bureau to address the problem of no horse slaughter.
- Farm Bureau will have a summer conference in Starkville at the Horse Park.
- Price on horses is low, but the events at the MS Horse Park has not slowed down. Events are continuously planned.
- Equine Specialist – Mississippi State is vacant – will fill position as budgets and industry allow.
- Horse sale – MSU 3rd Saturday of November
- Wild Hog Program for Research – some type program wild hog eradication/management in pastures.
- Education programs for landowners.

Corn and Cotton Session:

Chairman – Randy Smith

Chairman Elect – Randy Smith

Active Research going on in state:

- 1) Seed treatment in corn.
- 2) Emerging pest – like sugar cane borer
- 3) Alfatoxin research in corn.
- 4) Transgenic technology being evaluated.

Cotton:

1. Variety testing and technology testing
2. K+ interaction to improve yield
3. Nematode and nematode survey
4. Boll rot skip row patterns

Peanut/Soybean Session:

Chairman – Mike Howell

Soybeans-

1. Soybeans – varieties
2. Sentinell plots for soybean rust
3. Fungicide X insecticide seed quality

Peanuts –

1. Variety testing
2. Peanut Learning Centers (Lucedale & Hamilton)
3. Planting dates, tillage, rotation, fungicides
4. Irrigation work
5. 40 small plot replicated trials
6. General production work

Apiculture Session:

Chairman – Steve Cory, Stone County

Vice-Chair – Dick Miller, Ocean Springs

- Plant Industry – Charles Wilson
- Association of Beekeepers – Clarence Collison, Mississippi State
- Gulf Coast Association – Mites wipe out the migration bee keepers
- Need research & applied research, ie,
- What can we do for mites – best cultural practices – mites & beetles small hive – colony collapse disorder
- Colony Collapse Disorder – problem tends to be bigger problem

- Early June – Forrest County Office
- Deplane Georgia – Hobby Bee Keeper
- More experience & more education
- Develop a research plan so as people come into the business people have the research
- Economy – more gardens – more people see need for bees
- We grow watermelon, forages (clovers)
- Economics is in pollination
- Small hives Beetles and Mites transmit virus
- Done research on soil treatments, nematodes, fire ants – Research in Fusion, Gainesville Baton Rouge
- Look at products available & come up with cultural practices to use as a tool – integrated pest management/ best practices management
For example – 10 hives – pollen from – need for wild flowers & source lecture & what is best source – smart weed pollen – What is in it that is beneficial to bees?
- What are foundation people doing not economical feasible
- Away to sample in a bee yard, can sample a couple of hives

Home Horticulture/Vegetable Session:

Chairman – Christine Coker

Wayne Porter

- Wayne – how to >\$/spend more/collect taxes/avoid Extension layoffs!
- How we can serve you better/what we are doing right/wrong
- Announcements/upcoming
- June 10 – Vegetable Field Day – Beaumont
- Oct. 2 – Ornamental Field Day – Poplerville
- March 4 – High Tunnel Prod. 9-12, Beaumont NRCS
- March 11 – All day High Tunnel Field Day @ Crystal Springs
- April 17 – Garden Carnival @ CREC
Sponsored by Harrison County Master Gardeners
Series of Seminars – Saturday booths – etc.
Opportunity to connect with members of local garden
- March 20-21 – Jones County, Laurel Garden Show/Community, speakers & vendors
- March 9/10 - Greenhouse tomato short course, Raymond organizing
- Babe – AL speakers come to speak on Farmers Markets. Would like more training to develop Family Management Resources...transmitting into markets...starting to grow for F.M. (if extra produce, what to do – list as website ampleharvest.org - matches local gardeners w/food partners
- Comment – selling veggies from home base easy- takes off with word of mouth
- Mention of “MS Market Makes” – producers can offer what they are selling
- Discussion – started with Wayne Porter – short Power Point on High Tunnel Production
- How many tomatoes needed 1 year on coast? 1 million lbs
- Tomatoes and strawberries – grants to explore NRCS

- High Tunnel production has been done in north PA / MI – extends growing season & yield, earlier crops, avoids early blight
- Allows production later in season – portable systems 10' wide x 45' long, 4 yr lifetime, 6-7' high, 20' PVC+rebar, even w/o doors – protection, go warmer inside, allowed growing strawberries 5-6 weeks earlier
- Have encountered disease problems due to consideration – A. some of the poles to bump – 6 ml ploy or plastic \$1.64 p.s.f. 41 cents per year, woven
- Wind resistance – discussion.
- Research being done w/organic H.T. producer? Go to Bill Evans @ Crystal Springs –guy doing work veggies and flowers – 601-892-3731
- Topsoil improvements to > H.T. production , Wayne Porter composted pins bark/sand mi, woody mix – lots of H₂O – Gene B. recommended adding peat moss
- Specific varieties of veggies – growing residential and commercial production still available – Eddie ordered 50
- Garden tabloid – PDF- great for home owners
- SE Vegetable Growers Guide 239 pages online (commercial growers) difficult to navigate
- How about new varieties coming out – marketed by seed companies but not covered in MS Extension material – can update? Comment – New varieties not always best methods of keeping to proven varieties.
- Comment – Need to trial more new vegetable varieties.
- Comment – Small growers have same need for help as bigger growers – just as important.
- Response – Address these concerns to Joe Street and Reuben Moore (Melissa Mixon)

Commercial Ornamental Horticulture Session:

Extension Chair: Dr. Gary Bachman
 Producer Chair: James Mills
 Secretary: Dr. Janine Conklin

Commodities represented
 •Nursery
 •Garden Center
 •Master Gardeners

- Small growers expressed concern and interest in extension personnel meeting the needs of this group

-Greenhouse heating under cold conditions, guidance requested
 •Cost efficient alternatives to propane
 •Plants that grow well under adverse environmental conditions

-Interest in website development for green industry companies
 •yahoo.com, bing.com, and countrysideroses.com were discussed
 •Need for Mississippi State University (MSU) to develop a website or update a publication so that growers, researchers, wholesalers, and other groups can network.
 DEP may be another source in compiling this comprehensive list.

-Replacement for Norman Winter Position

- Interest expressed in this position being filled
- Growers need to be notified in advance on each topic this position will cover in order for growers to anticipate and meet the needs of each customer

-High tunnels

- Cost share program through NRCS will cover 50-90%
- Funding for specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, ornamentals), no funding to grow peanuts, cotton, corn or soybeans

-Development of public gardening education programs. Areas of interest include edible landscaping and creating natural fences.

-Desire for carbon sequestration research in urban environments, marketing to cultivate environmental conscientiousness, and breeding well adapted plant material in urban environments

-Educational outreach programs in the areas of container gardening and green roofing

-Hot topic – Cooking with fresh herbs, may be an area to develop an extension publication

-Growers expressed the importance of participating in lawn and garden shows

-Interest in developing a trade show or field day so that wholesalers can interface with retailers and landscapers to cultivate marketing within the state of Mississippi

-Need for extension personnel to visit green industry professionals' field locations

-Development of invasive species lists for green industry members

