



COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

**5th Annual
Producer Advisory Council Meeting**

**Group Session Notes
February 28, 2012**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AgendaPage 1

Group Session and ChairsPage 2

GROUP SESSION NOTES:

SESSION I:

Commercial HorticulturePage 3

Fruit

Fruit session continuedPage 4

Livestock

Agronomic CropsPage 5

Forestry

Forestry session continuedPage 6

Seafood and Aquaculture

SESSION II:

Home HorticulturePage 7

Vegetables

HorsePage 8

Agronomic Crops

Apiculture

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

AGENDA

**5th Annual Coastal Research and Extension Center
Producer Advisory Council Meeting**

9:00 a.m.	Registration	Coastal Research and Extension Center
9:20 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Dr. Patricia Knight, Head, CREC
9:30 a.m.	Commodity Group Sessions I	CREC Rooms
	Commercial Ornamental Horticulture	
	Fruits	
	Livestock	
	Agronomic Crops (Cotton and Corn)	
	Forestry	
	Seafood and Aquaculture	
11:00 a.m.	Commodity Group Sessions II	CREC Rooms
	Home Horticulture	
	Vegetables	
	Horse	
	Agronomic Crops (Soybeans and Peanuts)	
	Apiculture	
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	MS Broadband Initiative	Mr. Andy Collins
1:30 p.m.	MSU-ES Comments	Dr. Gary Jackson
1:40 p.m.	MAFES Comments	Dr. George Hopper Also present was: Dr. Rueben Moore
1:50 p.m.	Commodity Reports	Producer Chairs
3:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and Adjourn	Dr. Knight

GROUP SESSIONS AND CHAIRS

SESSION I

Commercial Horticulture Session	Dr. Gary Bachman
.....	Dr. Wayne Porter
Fruits	Dr. Eric Stafne
.....	Mr. James Richmond / Bonnie Lippincott
Livestock	Daniel Rivera
.....	Ken Stewart/Brad Woods
Agronomic Crops	Randy Smith
.....	Heath Steede
Forestry	Dr. Glenn Hughes
.....	Andy Londo / Walt Moeller / J.B. Brown
Seafood and Aquaculture	Dave Burrage

*Producer Advisory Council represents 21 counties and 6 research units.
Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine
MSU-Extension Service-MAFES*

SESSION II

Home Horticulture	Dr. Gary Bachman / Dr. Wayne Porter
Vegetables	Dr. Christine Coker / James Richmond
Horse	Roy Higdon / Brad Woods / Suzanne Cook
Agronomic Crops (Soybeans and Peanuts)	Mike Howell
.....	Heath Steede
Apiculture	Dr. Judy Breland

2012 GROUP SESSION NOTES

Coastal Research and Extension Center 5th Annual Producer Advisory Council Meeting

SESSION I:

Commercial Horticulture Session:

MSU Chair – Dr. Gary Bachman / Dr. Wayne Porter
8 Attendees

- Mike Levy stated that mites are a problem in growing herbs. Contact Blake Layton. Grower has tried biological but too large population. Dan Batson concerns about labor. Growers are having difficulty in hiring and keeping labor. Farm Bureau Rep, Kevin Brown, said they are drafting policy on the migrate labor. They are looking for input from growers. There are ongoing court cases concerning work experience requirement. How to get experience? Some local training is available. Problem: hard work, poor work ethics, better-paying jobs.
- Dan Batson is working on water quality issue with Poplarville waste water recycling.
- Where is the “whole tree” media going? Poplarville working on new growing media. Some growers are using ‘flail debris.’ ‘Flail debris’ works if supply is close by to nursery. There is variability among loads depending on pine species. Growers mix ‘flails debris’ with bark. Must adjust mix depending on tree. New weed problems may be in flail debris.
- Freeland and Broadstar are commonly used granular herbicides. Some growers are experimenting with Roundup overtop. Some use liquid herbicide application. There was some discussion on growing pindo palms.
- There was some discussion on relationship between growers and Poplarville research personnel. Growers feel they need better interaction.

Fruit Session:

MSU Chair – Dr. Eric Stafne
Producer Chair/Chair Elect – James Richmond / Bonnie Lippincott
12 Attendees

First order of business was to share the need for producer chair elect who will chair the meeting next year.

Producers discussed the following fruits they are growing:

- Pomegranate: Procurers has trees 3 years, 2 years and younger plants. There was some discussion on pollination of plants and whether bees are needed to pollinate.
- Figs: one producer has a couple of trees.
- Blueberries: Shared about commercial type. Labor concerns with blueberry growers. Blueberries are producing earlier.

- Fertilizing fruit trees was a concern of one producer with 60 plus trees. He asked about a guide on fertilizing amounts and types. Suggestions were given of small fruit consortium and www.smallfruits.org was the website that was recommended.
- Olives: Issue is if we can produce, where would you process them? The state of Georgia has produced their first crop. Harvest season would not overlap with blueberries.
- Grapes
- Question was posed about cutting of Satsuma's trees. Expert shared that grafting is the process for Satsuma's.

Short Term Goal:

Work with producers: Chuck and Bonnie Lippincott, 8300 Humphrey Rd.,
 Vancleave, MS 39565, Phone: (228) 826-1124
 Plant a demo orchard
 Webinar of Fruit Session

Long Term Goal:

Pecans and Orchards
 The chair is Mr. James Richmond

Livestock:

MSU Chair – Daniel Rivera
 Producer Chair/Chair Elect – Ken Stewart / Brad Woods
 8 Attendees

- Daniel Rivera welcomed the group. Roy Higdon made the motion for Ken Stewart to be chair and Brad Woods be chair elect. Mike Keene seconded nomination. Motion passed by all. Extension specialist and agents updated the group on upcoming programs. These programs include Board Sale and Heifer Sale in August, and the Bull Sale in Raymond. Upcoming short-courses are Beef Cattle Facility Workshop with Ag Engineering and Beef Cattle Camp in Poplarville. Rocky Lemus will have 2 grazing schools and Mississippi will host the Forage Conference this year.
- Many tests are being conducted at campus and the Experiment Stations including Forage testing with small grains and alfalfa. Studies with soil enhancers, improving soil nutrients, and extended bahia/bermuda trails.
- Poplarville White Sand Unit has done tests on gin trash as feed supplements, implant weaning studies, and soybeans as alternative to summer grazing. Also, developing a newsletter to inform the public on studies and trails going on will be distributed quarterly to Extension offices.
- The main topic with producers was marketing MS cattle and marketing beef. The group would like more information on mobile slaughter units to benefit smaller producers. Mississippi slaughter facilities were discussed. The group discussed being more competitive on cattle sent to the feed-yard and keeping the identity with the cattle as they perform in the feed-yard. Also, using Mississippi resources near the delta to feed cattle in feed lot situations.

Agronomic Crops:

MSU Chair – Randy Smith

Producer Chair/Chair Elect – Heath Steede

3 Attendees

- Needs for cotton is minimal due to low acre lease, but educational programs are still merited from a demonstration program. Needs are variety and technology testing, potash by variety, and resistant management.
- Corn: There are more needs for corn variety and technology, resistant manager, and corn borer trapping.
- We propose to move row-crop advisory to Hattiesburg following the peanut short-course. This will give us a better attendance and interaction. The report can be made to this meeting. Our growers are more apt to come to Hattiesburg than the coast. It is at a time before we go to the field.

Forestry:

MSU Chair – Dr. Glenn Hughes / Andy Londo

Producer Chair/Chair Elect – Walt Moeller / J. B. Brown

13 Attendees

- Elected J.B. Brown, Chair Elect. Thanks to Mr. Moeller. Discussed problem with feral hogs. Workshop in Stone County in March.
- Turned program over to Dr. Hughes and Andy Londo.
- Discussed new programs such as Ties to the Land – designed to help land owners and families work through the process of planning for the future. Stone County – April 3rd & May 7, Neshoba – April 10 & April 24, Covington County – May 8 & May 22.
- Speaker is an attorney and works with estate issues. Farm Bureau has estate planning assistance for members.
- Second program – "Can I Still Make Money Growing Trees?" - James Henderson, Marketing MSU.
- Southern Land Bank – "Where Is Land and How You Finance It?" - Glenn Hughes. Support and assistance, currently – Meridian (Lauderdale), George, and Greene Counties.
- James Henderson, MSU, can help with southeast part in George and Greene counties.
- Mississippi Forestry Association – Legislative Luncheon, \$25 on March 8th. March 6th is Women's Day.
- Andy Londo chaired meeting with an overview of Extension – slide set.
- Input:

- 1) Labor issue has severely impacted forestry for contract labor. Nursery's taking a hit on seedlings because of labor issue, and the way you have to contract, and cost of seedlings going up. Mississippi Forestry is working with this issue.
 - 2) Letters from banks and financial issues – turn from paper – impact in the reduction of paper use.
 - 3) Forrest logging industry – if we don't have good loggers how do we harvest the woods. Have problems at the bank when borrowing for logging. Need alternatives for forest products.
- Farm Families of Mississippi – April 26th at 6:00 p.m., cost is \$20.00. Farm funds to go to this media campaign.
 - Is there anything we can do as MSU representatives? 1) Send out a letter to CFA presidents with offering of programs. 2) MFA Newsletter is “missing” – have a new person who will start back the CFA Newsletter and combine the information for one newsletter.
 - Timber price report – it is used.
 - May 17th and 18th Legislative Tour – pellet plant in Wiggins and port of Pascagoula – this is being worked on.

Seafood and Aquaculture:

MSU Chair – Dave Burrage

Producer Chair – Greg Crochet

6 Attendees

- A brief discussion centered around the current status of the seafood and aquaculture industries in Mississippi. The wild capture fisheries continue to be plagued by high fuel costs and low dockside prices. Ben Posadas said that after years of decline, there seems to be some upward movement in the catfish aquaculture industry brought about by an increase in pond-bank prices to \$1.25 per pound.
- Greg Crochet provided an overview of the blue crab hatchery work being conducted at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. This is a cooperative effort between industry and university researchers. Target markets are the recreational bait and soft-shell crab sectors. Mature crabs can be produced in 138 days. Project is about two years from commercial application.
- There are only three commercial producers in south Mississippi due to land and labor costs. Most species are being cultured for private pond stocking or wild stock replenishment. Species include largemouth bass, sunfish, speckled trout, cobia, striped bass and freshwater prawns.

SESSION II:

Home Horticulture:

MSU Chair – Dr. Gary Bachman / Dr. Wayne Porter

8 Attendees

- Mississippi Medallion Winners need more evaluation at different locations. It was suggested that MSU could engage local landscapers in different areas of the state since they would be the ones installing and maintaining the plants. One person asked if funding is available from MSNLA. No one present knew the answer. There was discussion about the need for criteria for selecting plants.
- It was also suggested that there is a need for some observation data on citrus since there has been a large of influx in calls lately about different types.
- Terri Thompson asked for help in her new position. There was discussion of various homeowner questions that are coming in this time of year.

Vegetables:

MSU Chair – Dr. Christine Coker

Producer Chair – James Richmond

16 Attendees

- Reasons for tomato wilt: 1) bacterial wilt – whole plant wilts in days; soil borne; resistant varieties. 2) Soil-borne fungi; commercial resistant varieties available.
- Tomato variety trial: 6-8 varieties at Crystal Springs; includes 2 experimental lines from Seminis.
- Grafted tomato plants: graft heirloom varieties onto ‘Celebrity’ using a toothpick graft.
- Tomatoes can be produced on the coast from May-December.
- Early tomato varieties: ‘New Girl’ and ‘Applause’
- Identified need for early tomato variety trial and continuation of heat tolerant tomato trials.
- Recommended late season straight neck squash variety ‘Patriot III’
- Commercial Vegetable Handbook 2012 available online through a link on msfruitveg.org
- Long term needs: Interest in bio-pesticides – mostly used in greenhouse production. Lots of products OMRI approved and used in pesticide free production.
- Common chemicals used in vegetable production: Sevin, malathion, Asana, Trimex.

Horse:

MSU Chair – Roy Higdon

Producer Chair/ Chair Elect – Brad Woods / Suzanne Cook

14 Attendees

- Biggest topic was horse slaughter in the years past. Horse slaughter ban has been lifted, but has not been funded by USDA. This is an ongoing issue that is vital to the horse industry in MS.
- A big issue is people getting horses they are not able to provide care. Many people do not understand the financial obligations that go along with the ownership of horses.
- Jane Parish let the group know that the horse Extension specialist position has been written.
- The group brought up the topic of feral hogs. Stone County will have the Wild Hog program on March 27th. Brad Jones has more information on it.
- The hogs can completely damage hay, pastures, and crop fields. The damage that is caused by them is thousands of dollars.
- Don Bales in Lamar County has a program on feral hogs along with another program thru Wildlife and Fisheries at Mississippi State University.
- The group discussed several options for trapping and catching these hogs.

Agronomic Crops: (soybeans and peanuts)

MSU Chair – Mike Howell

Producer Chair – Heath Steede

4 Attendees

- Peanut RX work very beneficial.
- Need awareness program for farm machinery on roadways.
- Need for development of computer programs for peanut maturity decisions, and possibility of transfer to other crops.

Apiculture:

MSU Chair – Dr. Judy Breland

8 Attendees

- Need for Extension person to move program forward, a real opportunity.
- Farm Bureau to list as commodity.
- How to handle bee emergency – home information for emergency units.
- Continue short courses for technical purposes.
- Periphery businesses for wax, honey, etc.
- Propalless (a medicine) - existing information needs to be put in a useable form.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25