



COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

**6th Annual
Producer Advisory Council Meeting**

**Group Session Notes
February 25, 2013**

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Monday, February 25, 2013

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

AGENDA

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.	MAFES Comments	Dr. Rueben Moore
1:25 p.m.	MSU-ES Comments	Dr. Gary Jackson
1:35 p.m.	Group Commodity Reports	
2:30 p.m.	Adjourn	Dr. Patricia Knight

GROUP SESSIONS AND CHAIRS

SESSION I

Commercial Horticulture Session.....	Dr. Gary Bachman Dr. Wayne Porte / Dr. Eugene K. Blythe / Mike Keith / Rudolph Hall
Fruits.....	Dr. Eric Stafne Bonnie Lippincott / Paul Cavanaugh
Livestock.....	Daniel Rivera Ken Stewart / Terry Rogers
Agronomic Crops.....	Randy Smith Clayton Lawrence
Forestry.....	Dr. Glenn Hughes J.B. Brown
Seafood and Aquaculture.....	Dr. Ben Posadas Dave Burrage / Peter Nguyen

SESSION II

Home Horticulture.....	Dr. Gary Bachman Dr. Wayne Porter/Dr. Eugene K. Blythe
Vegetables.....	Dr. Christine Coker
Horse.....	Roy Higdon Brad Woods
Agronomic Crops (Combined Session I and II).....	Randy Smith Clayton Lawrence
Apiculture.....	Dr. Judy Breland D. L. Wesley

2013 GROUP SESSION NOTES

Coastal Research and Extension Center Annual Producer Advisory Council Meeting

SESSION I:

Commercial Horticulture:

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

Producer Chair – Mike Keith / Rudolph Hall

14 Attendees

Commercial Ornamental Horticulture:

- ❖ Extension staff in the field need to have cell phones provided so producers can contact them.
 - ◆ Lack of cell phones is a state legislature issue.
 - ◆ Extension reportedly working on obtaining iPads.
- ❖ Impatiens down mildew is a major issue. It is widespread in New Orleans. Impatiens plants defoliate in landscapes. New Guinea Impatiens and Sunpatiens are resistant.
 - ◆ Nurseries are reducing or eliminating susceptible Impatiens walleriana (most popular type) from production.
 - ◆ Alan Henn is requested to provide grower training on this issue.
- ❖ Boxwood blight, a major issue in Eastern States, has not yet shown up in Mississippi. Dwarf Yaupon Holly is a recommended replacement.
- ❖ Reports of dieback in Loropetalum (a major landscape crop) in Mobile area; spread on cutting tools.
- ❖ Bark availability for use as container growing media is still an issue. Wet weather reduces the harvest and energy prices cause bark to be burned for fuel.
- ❖ Labor availability is still an issue.
 - ◆ A guest worker program will continue to be critical. Housing must also be provided.
 - ◆ Guest workers are more productive than most local workers.
- ❖ Locally grown nursery plants should be promoted, just as produce is promoted.
- ❖ Health insurance for agricultural professionals is becoming an issue.
 - ◆ Can MSNLA, ANLA, or Farm Bureau provide a group program?

Fruit:

MSU Chair – Dr. Eric Stafne

Producer Chair – Bonnie Lippincott and Paul Cavanaugh

23 Attendees

Welcome and Introduction – Dr. Eric Stafne

- ❖ Mr. Hutto – blueberries – commented on Research Station – positive.
- ❖ High Tunnel demonstrations - Grow vegetables for farmers-market West Harrison County - Appreciates information and re-demonstrations
- ❖ Nutritional value of greens and lettuces – would like to see more information on diet and nutrition.
- ❖ School lunch program should be expanded – farm to school.
 - ◆ Introduce nutritional value of fruits and veggies to school.
 - ◆ More training for growers/producers on how to better program
- ❖ Federal regulations and guidelines have been made easier for producers to get into.
- ❖ \$350.00 for instrument to record chill hours for peaches.
- ❖ Pomegranates at McNeill – they are not too excited about pomegranates in this area.
 - ◆ Some research is being done, but the first two crops were lost. Too much water? Too cold? We do not know.
- ❖ Discussion on potential for other fruits / citrus.
 - ◆ Japanese plums will grow as far north as Hattiesburg. Japanese plums are probably same as loquats. Loquats will produce better with both male and female trees.
 - ◆ Blueberries can be used to educate the public.
- ❖ Necessary to spray for invasive fruit fly.
 - ◆ Identified in 2010 – attacks blueberries, strawberries, etc.
 - ◆ They lay an egg inside the fruit. Spotted wing / Drosophila
 - ◆ Plant Bureau meeting this week - Discussing helping Plant Bureau Industry with spray.
 - ◆ Some spray cost \$300 a gallon. Dr. Layton looking into a grant.
 - ◆ Malathion is the least expensive, but disadvantage is it smells. Danitol will help the maggots – stop production. Malathion 8 - has less odor.
 - ◆ No real answers right now for this invasive pest
- ❖ Japanese Beetle, example of exotic pest, has roller coaster population density. Some seasons up and others down after native species learn to control it.

Fruit session continued:

- ❖ Mummy berry now being more easily controlled in blueberries.
- ❖ We need more farmers – 10,000 fewer this year than last – last census.
- ❖ Need to teach homeowners how to plant gardens.
- ❖ School in Lamar County will be planting 4 raised bed garden boxes to teach children how to plant.
- ❖ Working on a contract - 10 lb. boxes of blueberries will be sent to Disneyworld – Jerry Hutto.
- ❖ How to get fruit to schools before school is out? Dried? Dehydrated blueberries and blueberry juice are becoming more popular.
- ❖ Difference in nutritional value in fresh and shipped. Nutritional value does not increase after the day it is picked.
- ❖ Frozen blueberries picked and put in 30 lb. boxes and shipped by Hutto. They would love to have the volume of berries to make jellies and jams and sell to companies like Smuckers.
- ❖ There is a need for promotion to eat locally grown fruit and vegetables.
- ❖ Pride Campaign needed – Mississippi blueberry producers do 10,000,000 lbs. of blueberries per year.
 - ◆ USDA has a website.
 - ◆ Hutto is selling to India.
 - ◆ Major push to increase production in China.
 - ◆ Blueberries \$20.00 lb. when sold to large restaurants.
 - ◆ Blueberries are advertised as being good for vision.
- ❖ 550 pages on what the FDA will require you to apply all this information to your produce. \$25,000 - \$500,000 must comply – contact Dr. Stafne for programs on this.
- ❖ “Reducing Obesity in Mississippi” How MSU can help the producer? – Dr. Chang

Livestock:

MSU Chair – Daniel Rivera

Producer Chair/Chair Elect – Ken Stewart / Terry Rogers

24 Attendees

- ❖ John Blanton, new Department Head of Animal and Dairy Science - introduction.
- ❖ Rocky Lemus reports:
 - ◆ Hay contest beginning in April, 2nd year. AMPS Program beginning. Aggressive Management Pasture Systems. Forage website – new trail results and blog.
- ❖ Brandi Karisch / Jane Parish reports:
 - ◆ Beef cattle improvement. Annual meeting, March 6th. BCIA Sale on March 7th. Heifer Development Workshop – March 12. A.I. School – March 14-16. Feed Beef Challenge – March 25-26. Beef Cattle Boot Camp – April 12 & 19
- ❖ Daniel Rivera reports:
 - ◆ Research on implants in stockers and calves.
 - ◆ Final results on bio-soil products.
 - ◆ Hay injection study.
- ❖ Mike Keene reports:
 - ◆ Feeder Calf Sale – 1st Monday in August
 - ◆ Heifer Sale – August – Approximately 300 commitments
- ❖ Roy Higdon reports:
 - ◆ Deep South Bull Group – 11th year
- ❖ Producer Feedback:
 - ◆ Summer forages – perennials and annuals
 - ◆ Silva pasture grazing
 - ◆ Small ruminant information & focus on the market
 - ◆ Crabgrass research including promoting growth with ryegrass
 - ◆ Education on understanding the cattle market
 - ◆ Blast in ryegrass
 - ◆ Fertilization and management of clover with ryegrass

Agronomic Crops:

MSU Chair – Randy Smith

Producer Chair – Clayton Lawrence

8 Attendees

- ❖ What was conducted in 2012?
 - ◆ Corn variety demonstrations
 - ◆ Corn irrigation
 - ◆ Soybean variety demonstrations
 - ◆ Soybeans be hand ryegrass cattle: two
 - ◆ Wheat variety trials: two
 - ◆ Nematode sampling in soybean fields
 - ◆ Identification of a new Fusarium species in cotton not linked to nematode feeding
 - ◆ Cotton varieties interaction to K₂O in Reniform soils
 - ◆ Cotton nematicides
 - ◆ Strength of cotton varieties in Reniform soils

- ❖ Cotton
 - ◆ Problem in low yields and low pricing & cost production
 - ◆ Recommendation:
 - Establish cotton variety trials
 - Identify limiting factors accounting for low yields
 - Evaluate nematode population
 - Evaluate Potash requirements
 - Evaluate PGR's O
 - Evaluate defoliation timing

- ❖ Corn
 - ◆ Problem low yields
 - ◆ Recommendation
 - Maintain corn variety trials
 - Maintain look on drought tolerant gene

- ❖ Soybean
 - ◆ Problem – no data for southeast Mississippi
 - ◆ Need variety work, fungicide work, nematode needs
 - ◆ Price, good, potential acre increase and nematode in grower's fields need identifying
 - ◆ Soybean potential high
 - ◆ Seeing good overseas market for soybeans
 - ◆ Need to understand overseas market
 - ◆ Need to teach about marketing of food source soybean in Asia
 - ◆ Need soybean breeder combined with quality researcher to develop varieties that conform with end user demands in market
 - ◆ Look at Food Source Soybeans Potential – no varieties is problem for this area
 - ◆ Limited availability of non-GMO varieties

Forestry:

MSU Chair – Dr. Glenn Hughes

Producer Chair – J. B. Brown

16 Attendees

- ❖ Welcome and overview by Dr. Glenn Hughes.
- ❖ Group recommended that the Forestry and Livestock sessions be held at different times at the next meeting. Several people would like to have attended both sessions.
- ❖ Economics of Forestry (inclusive list)
 - ◆ Get “forest products” recognized as a “USDA commodity” at the national level (currently set up as “Basis” or investment in timber, and forest products go through Department of Commerce).
 - ◆ Landowners face challenges with numerous invasive species (plant and animal).
 - ◆ Landowners face challenges with lack of markets for products.
 - ◆ Emerging markets (such as biomass) are an opportunity.
 - ◆ Identify opportunities for landowners (financial assistance, technical assistance, etc.)
 - ◆ Herbicides – what chemicals are effective, at what rate, season, etc.
 - ◆ Wind throw of containerized seedlings is a problem.
 - ◆ Inadequate staffing of local MFC personnel is a challenge.
- ❖ Professional assistance for landowners – make MS BORF website (Board or Registration for Foresters) available and widely known. These are “registered foresters” that can help private landowners.
- ❖ Incoming Chair – Mr. Perry Myers, Jackson County, elected to chair next year’s event.

Seafood and Aquaculture:

MSU Chair – Dr. Ben Posadas

Producer Chair – none

7 Attendees

- ❖ MASGP Sustainable Seafood
 - ◆ Bi-state Sea Grant Extension Program on sustainable seafood
- ❖ HACCP needs by seafood industry
 - ◆ A workshop will be conducted on February 27 to March 1, 2013 in Mobile, AL
- ❖ Seafood industry components identified
 - ◆ Osyster processors certified by MDMR-69
 - ◆ Shrimp Processors
 - ◆ Catfish Processors
 - ◆ NOAA list of MS seafood processors – 19

- ❖ Bring – MSU seafood program to the processors, fishermen at the docks
- ❖ Direct Marketing for seafood industry
 - ◆ Advertise your food and seafood businesses at: ms.foodmarketmaker.com
 - ◆ Search for food and seafood products at MarketMaker: ms.foodsearcher.com
- ❖ Postharvest Processing (PHP) for seafood industry
 - ◆ Cobalt 60 (gamma irradiation) facilities in Mulberry, FL and Gulfport, MS
 - ◆ X-Ray irradiation equipment and expertise at ESPL
- ❖ Certification of ESPL by FDA
 - ◆ Conduct seafood testing and verification trials for PHP according to FDA standards
 - ◆ Establish a service center for seafood testing at ESPL
- ❖ Production Costs for Seafood Industry
 - ◆ Fuel costs, use of shrimp wastes for fuel production

MDMR – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

FDA – Food and Drug Administration

ESPL – Experimental Seafood Processing Lab

SESSION II:

Home Horticulture:

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

Producer Chair/Chair Elect – Mike Keith / Rudolph Hall

18 Attendees

- ❖ Mini flora roses are a new product that should be popular for the home garden.
- ❖ Discussion continued on Market Maker's ability to promote nursery products. Ben Posadas noted that \$50,000 + is needed to set up a new Market Maker commodity line, but nursery crops can be added to existing Market Maker accounts that are already set up for other products.
- ❖ Chili thrips are expected to be a mere prevalent pest in the future. Conserve and Merit will control them. The thrips have been found in Picayune.
- ❖ Spotted wing Drosophila is likely to be seen more in home gardens this year.
- ❖ Torpedo grass and cogon grass are continuing weed problems.
- ❖ Root rots in the landscape likely to be seen this spring due to continually saturated soils.

Vegetables:

MSU Chair – Dr. Christine Coker

Producer Chair – Joe Buckley

27 Attendees

2013 CREC Producer Advisory Council

- ❖ Low Tunnels: Growers would like more information on using low tunnels for vegetable production, perhaps a workshop or seminar.
- ❖ High tunnels and low tunnels: Differences, advantages, and disadvantages were discussed.
- ❖ Vegetable soybeans/Edamame: Dr. Adamczyk asked growers about experience/willingness for production. Prospective niche markets in high-end restaurants, among coastal Asian populations.
- ❖ Small acreage watermelon problems: Wildlife damage; black widows; pollination
- ❖ Pollination issues: Triploid production can be inconsistent; placement of pollinizer plants is critical. Heat affects honeybees; keeping bees on-farm may aid in pollination. Bumble bees may also be utilized.
- ❖ USDA Inspections on small farms: No longer enforced as inspectors are not available. GAP certification may be cost-prohibitive. Growers requested educational workshops for GAP certification and related programs.
- ❖ Food Safety: Certification requirement is at the discretion of the buyer. Traceability is an upcoming issue. Keeping animals out of fields and equipment clean are crucial for good business.
- ❖ Other issues: low produce prices; wildlife damage; seed shortages; crop diversification; tomato grafting; spotted wing drosophila

Horse:

MSU Chair – Roy Higdon

Producer Chair/Chair Elect - Brad Woods / Suzanne Cook

21 Attendees

- ❖ Horse specialist interviews have begun. Two candidates are being interviewed and should have one in place by summer 2013.
- ❖ Horse slaughter still no change
- ❖ Programs for horse producers/ owners can be offered
 - ◆ Master Horseman Program
 - ◆ Pasture Management for Horses – Monroe County in March
 - ◆ Cattle Handling on Horseback
 - ◆ Horse-breaking Clinic – Stone County
 - ◆ Horse Nutrition – hay production / protein requirements for horses

- ❖ Discussion on Feral Hogs
 - ◆ Recently new legislation in Mississippi on control - Not sure the criteria on the programs
 - ◆ Still a great problem for all landowners

Apiculture:

MSU Chair – Dr. Judy Breland

Producer Chair – D. L. Wesley

9 Attendees

- ❖ Welcomed group, then asked that each person identify themselves and their interest in apiculture.
- ❖ Dr. Breland asked that the group consider what the needs were for apiculture. The purpose of the commodity meeting is to get input from producers on what Extension can do to help. Last year, the main discussion was getting a specialist for Apiculture. Dr. Jeff Harris has joined MSU with an Extension and Research appointment. Dr. Harris has met with a number of the Bee Keeper associations since he joined the staff.
- ❖ Mr. D. L. Wesley, Past President of the MS Bee Keepers Association and active in the State Association activities, provided a brief history of the progress MS has made in supporting bee keeping, gaining attention both State and Nationally for the importance of bees in agriculture, and working with MSU and Farm Bureau in promoting an understanding of the importance of bees. He said there would be a Bee Day at the Capital in Jackson, check the MS Beekeepers web site for information. He said that MShoneybee.org has membership information. He indicated that Jones County Community College has expressed interest in working on Beekeeping courses. Mr. Wesley said that Preston Aust is working on a Masters and has a background in beekeeping. Marion County has a youth program in place for those interested in beekeeping.
- ❖ In further conversation, the following recommendations were made:
 - ◆ Youth Bee Keeping Programs be developed, work with a Boy Scout Badge, Beekeeping Camp for youth, 4-H Project on Bees.
 - ◆ Work with Dr. Jeff Harris on suggestions for youth and adult programs where counties have organizations. .
 - ◆ Separate beekeeping out of entomology and develop something similar to “poultry chain”
 - ◆ Educate the public and agriculture producers on the use of pesticides in relation to bees.
 - ◆ Work with and determine the effect of the impact on bees of genetically seed.
 - ◆ Are there “bee” friendly plants similar to butterfly gardens?
 - ◆ Work with organizations like Farm Bureau, Extension, USDA, and both State and National officials to promote and protect bees
- ❖ Dr. Breland thanked the group for their input. Mr. D. L. Wesley was selected Chair for the 2014 year.

Division of Agriculture, Forestry,
and Veterinary Medicine
MSU-Extension Service-MAFES



PRODUCER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Represents 21 counties and 6 research units:

Clarke	Covington	Forrest
George	Greene	Hancock
Harrison	Jackson	Jasper
Jefferson Davis	Jones	Kemper
Lamar	Lauderdale	Marion
Neshoba	Newton	Pearl River
Perry	Stone	Wayne



Beaumont Horticultural Unit, Beaumont

Coastal Research and Extension Center

Experimental Seafood Processing Laboratory, Pascagoula

South MS Branch Experiment Station, Poplarville
White Sands, Poplarville, and McNeill Units

