

2006 East Carroll Ag Advisory Committee Minutes

The 2006 Ag Advisory Committee Meeting for the fiscal year 2006 was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 in the Hyder Room at Delta Bank. The meeting started at 6 p.m. with Donna Lee welcoming everyone and making introductions. Donovan Taves was the acting moderator for the meeting.

The committee members present were: Donna Lee, Glenn Dixon, Mike Rome, Dr. Steve Kelly, Dr. Boyd Padgett, Donovan Taves, Francis Lensing, Alvin Minsky, John Herrington, Paul Brown, Eran Robinson, Lynn Brown, Paul Marsh, Roger Clement, Dexter Davis, Cliff Griffin, Ronnie King and Jerry King.

Parish Chairman Mike Rome briefly explained his position and the importance of conducting advisory committee meetings. Mr. Rome stated that it is pertinent that committee members and clientele inform the local Ag agents of their wishes for the current programs and for programs they want to see developed. If committee members or clientele see things that are going well or are not going well, the Ag agents should be informed.

Assistant County Agent Donna Lee then presented a power point presentation of the demonstrations that were conducted in 2005 along with demonstrations to be conducted in 2006.

Associate Area Agent Glenn Dixon then gave a brief description of the programs he is involved in.

The meeting was turned over to Moderator Donovan Taves for the question/answer portion. Items of discussion were as follows:

- ❖ Demonstration crops are available including grain sorghum and wheat as well as vegetables. Verification programs are available in rice and soybean only. When specialists are making rounds in the parish demonstration or verification fields, anyone is welcome to visit with them. If Donna knows of someone having a problem, she can let the specialist know before they come to the parish so they can make plans to see them when they get here.
- ❖ Demonstration/verification plot field days may be a possibility. Attendance would probably be better if the field day is scheduled for all crops on one day rather than having four different field days. The first or second week in July may be a good time to plan a field day.
- ❖ Recommendation publications are very helpful. Timeliness in getting them to the farmers has been a problem; however, the state office has been faster at having the publications posted on the Web site. If anyone has a problem with slow Internet service, call the Extension office and ask for a copy of the publication needed.
- ❖ Marketing meetings may be helpful; perhaps quarterly or at least twice a year. Some people may be willing to drive 50-75 miles to attend. There is a distance ed site in the West Carroll Extension office that is available for our use. Current market information of different commodities headed up by Mississippi State University is also available. Begin with class on fundamentals and then progress to distance ed meetings.

- ❖ Research for non irrigated farm land to increase yields. Research is needed for twin row planting in non irrigated situations.
- ❖ An appendix of rainfall (daily or otherwise) should be placed in the variety recommendation publications, particularly for the non irrigated sites.
- ❖ Eran Robinson, NRCS, informed group of new Web site with soil survey maps for determining soil types for individual farms and fields.
- ❖ Donna's email newsletter is very well liked.
- ❖ A brief description of 4-H livestock projects was covered.
- ❖ Glenn conducted a farmers' computer training workshop last June in the West Carroll Extension office. It is a possibility to hold another one.
- ❖ FSA hopes we will continue borrowers' financial training and include any type of financial record keeping.
- ❖ Computer labs that are accessible to people would be beneficial for trainings.
- ❖ The Master Farmer program is a proactive approach to some things coming in the future. Every producer should make sure someone on their farm is certified as a Master Farmer. The AgCenter needs to do a better job of letting everyone know of upcoming meetings.
- ❖ Research is needed on putting moisture back into cotton as it goes through the ginning process. USDA is checking into ways to add moisture to cotton. Donna can get contact information so farmers can speak to someone.
- ❖ The AgCenter can have people from outside their organization to speak at meetings, such as, professors from other universities, representatives from chemical companies, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry agents, etc.
- ❖ Francis Lensing, a port commission board member, feels we are closer to obtaining the ethanol plant. Transportation is a big issue.
- ❖ The names of the committee members who are present at the meeting will be posted on the parish Web page. If you do not want your name and/or address publicized, please let us know.
- ❖ Starting out, two Ag advisory meetings will be held a year; however, we can hold more than two if the members wish to do so. Accomplishments from the suggestions made tonight will be discussed at the next meeting.
- ❖ A rotation to serve one, two or three years on the committee will be established.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with a delicious meal of crawfish etoufee', salad, bread, cake, tea and soft drinks.



Donna R. Lee
Assistant County Agent
East Carroll Parish



Glenn E. Dixon
Associate Are Agent
East/West Carroll Parishes

DRL/GED:ss

Attachment 1

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