



**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

**Winn Parish**

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Research and Extension Programs

Agriculture

Economic/Community Development

Environment/Natural Resources

Families/Nutrition/Health

4-H Youth Programs

## Winn Parish 2008 Overall Advisory Council Meeting

On January 22, 2008 at 5:30 pm in the Downstairs Courthouse Meeting Room, the Winn Parish Louisiana Cooperative Extension agents held their 2008 Overall Advisory Council meeting.

Advisory members signed in and enjoyed refreshments. Donny Moon, parish chair, began the meeting asking members to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their job and their area of interest in LSU AgCenter. Members present were: John Womack, vegetable farmer, Penny Harper, FNP-LSU AgCenter, Kathy Guin, retired teacher, 4-H Foundation board member, Mitchell Miles, 4-H member, Melinda Miles, teacher, 4-H leader and livestock producer, Anna Booker, 4-H parent, Brenda Etheridge, parent facilitator, Winnfield Kindergarten school, Candice Tarver, retired teacher, Sherrie Caskey, poultry producer, and Bob Holeman, newspaper editor. AgCenter personnel present were Steven Hotard, Area Forester and Becky Kelley, Winn Parish FCS agent. Donny stated that all program areas, agriculture, family and consumer sciences and 4-H had representatives present making this a well rounded advisory council.

Donny then gave a brief overview of the role of the advisory members. Donny stated that this council would assist extension agents in determining educational programs that would give them directions of what goals and expectations were needed to assist clients, youth and adults, in all areas, agriculture, family life and 4-H, in Winn Parish. He stated it was critical to get the input from this diverse audience in helping them ascertain needed programming. He then asked the group if they had any questions regarding their purpose in serving.

As there were no questions, Donny asked Becky to discuss the results of previous advisory committee recommendations that had been implemented by the Winn Extension office staff.

Becky stated that this was the first time that all areas of programming, 4-H, FCS and Ag had met jointly as an overall advisory council but as many on this council are involved in more than one area it seemed to be beneficial to incorporate into one council and get more input from the group on programming.

Becky stated that the previous FCS council had identified some initiatives they thought needed addressing. Those areas of programming were Nutrition and Health, Family Development and Family Resource Management. Penny, as FNP nutrition educator, has done several programs in the area of nutrition, diet and health. She works with both adult and youth audiences. Last year the Smart Bodies program was presented to the last group of schools in Winn Parish, meeting our goal to present the Smart Bodies to all



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The LSU Agricultural Center is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A. & M. College, Louisiana parish governing bodies, Southern University, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

school children in K-5<sup>th</sup> grades, we are one of the few parishes that every school has finished the program. The teachers in the classrooms have these materials and are using them to continue teaching nutrition and health education. In the parenting area of family development, Becky does childcare provider trainings for daycare providers and also for the Department of Correction probationers, who are going back into their homes. In the resource management area, Becky has distributed information through the schools and at homemakers' meetings concerning identity theft, as this is a growing problem for youth and the elderly. This year, in 4-H, Becky and Donny are presenting programs focusing on workforce preparation that will educate the youth on money management, job skills, applying for a job, how to be a good employee and other vital information in preparing to enter the job market. Becky stated that these are some of the ways she has tried to implement the recommendations made by the FCS advisory committee.

Donny stated that in 4-H Becky has implemented a pre/post test to evaluate the impact the programs of workforce preparation and teamwork will have on the 4-H members. The test results will be compiled at the end of the school year to evaluate the effectiveness of the lessons taught. Becky stated that last years pre/post test in the leadership lessons indicated a 10% increase in knowledge gained. This was an indication that they were learning from these 4-H programs. Donny stated that other programs students participated in were various forestry and environmental camps and presentations, forestry awareness programs and hand-on programs in the school that are presented to all students, not just 4-H.

In agriculture, Donny stated that they tried to do several educational programs related to forestry, producer field days in cattle and pasture management and horticulture field days to help the producers reach better production. Donny stated that LSU AgCenter is research based and Winn has access to many area, regional and state specialist to assist Winn Parish clients with their needs.

Donny declared that these were some of the areas of programming addressed by the Winn Extension Office in the previous year as the results of the previous advisory recommendations.

Donny then asked the group for their suggestions for the coming year's programming in the various areas. He turned the meeting over to Becky as he stated he had to go to the police jury meeting.

The following suggestions were made:

- I. A monthly events calendar in the newspaper. – Bob Holeman, news editor, stated that just tell Barbara, Winn administrative coordinator, to send the calendar of events to the paper and they would be glad to put this information out to the public.
- II. Demonstration at the local Farmers' Market; not just extension personnel but local people to demonstrate crafts – knitting, canning, quilting, farming

techniques, etc. It was stated that because of the location and high traffic to this facility this would be a good educational resource location. As this facility is run by another agency, the extension office does not make decisions regarding activities held at this facility but the extension office has done some horticulture demonstrations for the farmers' market clients.

- III. Brenda Etheridge said that Becky and Penny attend the kindergarten nutrition family nights and have been very helpful in educating parents on nutrition, food safety and health safety. Brenda then suggested that maybe a "Needs Survey" be designed to identify the educational needs the parents would be interested in learning about that could be met by the school staff and extension staff. Brenda stated that maybe she and Becky could meet and design this survey and send this home with the children and when they returned these see if there were areas that these need could be met either by sending home information or maybe meeting to discuss issues either one-on-one or maybe a larger family night group discussion. Becky stated that the AgCenter also had people on staff in evaluation that could possibly help them design some type of survey that would give them the information they need to know.

Becky stated that comments had been made about the Happy Birthday refreshment plates and napkins and she wanted them to know that "no these were not 'on sale' items" but to let those present know that 4-H is having a year long Centennial Celebration. Many parish and state activities will be held to acknowledge this event such as a local proclamation, the state 4-H museum will be opened in Avoyelles and this year the 4-H Hall of Fame will be opened and 100 people from throughout the state will be inducted and Winn Parish does have someone who will be inducted. At the Forest Festival 4-H will make note of this event and as several of Winn Parish Jr. Leader 4-H'ers serve at the Louisiana Political Banquet this year we will have a few moments on the program to promote this centennial celebration. Becky told of the various state events that will also highlight the centennial. At Achievement Day this year she wants to focus on things from the past and she wants to get people to demonstrate crafts of the past and also display items, household, farming equipment, etc. used years ago to demonstrate to these 4-H'ers things of the past.

There was more discussion on the good job the parish agents do in reaching the youth and adults of Winn Parish with their programming. Becky encouraged those present if they had other thoughts on programs or needs that the clients of Winn Parish might have to just call the office and let them know. She thanks them all for coming and appreciated the support and input they had given them. She stated that working together would make our community a better place to live.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes transcribed by:  
Barbara Marshall -Administrative Coordinator  
Winn Parish