



Franklin Parish Row Crop Advisory Leadership Council Minutes

The Franklin Parish Row Crop Advisory Leadership Council met in the Extension Auditorium for a lunch meeting on June 1, 2006. Present were Keith Bringol, Ricky Campbell, Jr., John Earl Carroll, Kevin Graham, Chad Nelson, Kyle Peoples, Paul Till and Rusty Wiggers. Joyce Johns was the only council member absent. Carol Pinnell-Alison, County Agent and LSU AgCenter Specialist's Keith Morris and David Lanclos participated in the meeting.

Ms. Pinnell-Alison reviewed the purpose of the Advisory Leadership Council and explained the roles and responsibilities of members. She gave an update of the office funding status with the Franklin Parish School Board and Police Jury.

Council members were selected to serve one, two or three year terms and asked to sign the volunteer member form. The following officers were elected: Kevin Graham, chairman, John Carroll, secretary.

The members were asked to give input on areas that needed to be addressed by the LSU AgCenter in the parish. Kyle Peoples mentioned problems with herbicide drift. Rusty Wiggers suggested articles in the local paper highlighting LSU AgCenter programs. He felt this may help increase or continue local funding support. Carol Pinnell-Alison shared information on the direct economic impact of agriculture in Franklin Parish. Chad Nelson suggested Carol continue distributing information by email and make improvements on data accessibility. He suggested trying to have a parish agricultural tour. Kevin Graham sees a need in getting information to people interested in small farm enterprises or niche markets. Carol commented that she is getting more requests from people who are putting small acreage in pasture and getting a few cows. Many of these people are participating in the EQIP program. Paul Till commented that he thought sweet potatoes may be a good crop for small producers if they could have the planting and harvest done by custom provider. Carol informed the committee of Cynthia Pilcher responsibilities as a multi-parish CRD agent. One of her areas is working with value added possibilities in agriculture. Chad Nelson suggested making more information available on Precision Ag including the cost of equipment. No other needs were addressed.

Carol requested that the committee identify three of its members to serve on the Franklin Parish Overall Advisory Leadership Council. Members agreeing to serve are Keith Bringol, Chad Nelson and Rusty Wiggers.

The meeting was adjourned.

Visit the Franklin Parish website at www.lsuagcenter.com/franklin

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