

**JEFF DAVIS PARISH ADVISORY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 29, 2006**

Attending:	Tina Goebel	Tommy Smith	Gordon Hayes
	Sylvia Guillotte	Linda Fruge	Marie Berken
	Dot Daigle	Carolyn Simar	Patty Vidrine
	Donald Berken	Allen Hogan	Bill Wild
	Eddie Eskew	Angie Gary	

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Eddie Eskew. He thanked everyone for coming and giving of their time to help make the LSU AgCenter Jeff Davis educational program successful.

Eddie introduced each participant and gave a little background on them and the area they represented. He explained that all of our major commodities and volunteer leader groups had or will meet in their individual advisory committees, but this meeting was an opportunity to get an overview of the entire program and offer insight into areas that may not have been discussed at other meetings.

Eddie then presented a power point program giving an overview of the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. He included the mission of the LSU AgCenter and a history of the Land-Grant Universities.

Eddie explained that the handouts that each participant had in front of them were highlights of this past year. They focused on the educational efforts of the Jeff Davis staff.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- The agriculture economic information is from 2005 because the 2006 figures will not be official until December.
- Issues identified by the Rice Advisory Committee were GMO rice issues, economics, Cercospera (rice disease), rice water weevil, and government trade issues.
- Allen reported soybean acreage stable but lower than 20 years ago, but Jeff Davis is 2nd in soybean production in southwest Louisiana with 6500 acres.
- Economics of soybean production should be better this year because of increased yields.
- Asian Soybean Rust was identified as a potential major problem, and increased use of fungicides may be a factor in increased yields.
- Beef numbers stable at 16,000 brood cows; prices have been very good.
- Increased interest in wheat because of high prices.

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Patty reported that the Advisory Committee sighted budgeting food dollars, obesity and chronic diseases related to nutrition as issues.
- Down to two traditional Homemaker Clubs, but these participants help with leadership

of all activities.

- The Healthy Lifestyles Seminar is one of the largest programs offered, and one of the most important conducted by the staff. It is free to the public.
- The FNP program, administered by Linda Fruge, is geared toward low-income families. It provides a series of nutrition education programs.
- Patty also has responsibilities in Evangeline, Allen, and Beauregard Parishes.
- FCE clubs also provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

4-H Youth Development

- Issues addressed by the Advisory Committee include retaining membership and expanding program choices in 4-H.
- Jeff Davis is approaching approximately 20% of the total potential membership in Jeff Davis Parish with 956 members in 2005-2006. Anticipated membership this year will be 1000.
- Educational programs are presented in club meetings, and meet content standards for curriculum development.

Eddie discussed the 10% Local Support initiative by the LSU AgCenter and said that both the Police Jury and the School Board were working toward that goal.

Issues identified by the Advisory Leadership Council were as follows:

- Environmental Education: included Drinking Water Protection program that the Jr. Leader Club is involved with.
- Character Education: includes sports, but also reemphasize entire program
- Workplace ethics
- Parenting courses
- Computer Education & Internet Safety
- Reinforce Food-Nutrition & Fitness: there is a national health care crisis because of unhealthy eating habits

Eddie thanked everyone for their input. Gordon moved, Tommy seconded that Donald Berken be elected chairperson. Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and lunch was served.