



**Concordia Parish
Agriculture Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2006**

The 2006 Agriculture Advisory Council Meeting was held on Thursday, October 26, 2006 in the Extension Office meeting room at 10:00 a.m.

Glen Daniels, Concordia county agent, welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the important role of the Ag Advisory Council. Input from the farming sector is vital so that extension agricultural programs can be planned to best meet their needs.

Members in attendance were: Calvin Adams (FSA), Tommy Ellett (Farmer), Charles Gray (Farm Supplies), Randy Meng (Farmer), Tommy Millican (Banker), David Yates (Farmer), Ben Taunton (NRCS), Kevin Case (FSA), Dr. David Lanclos (AgCenter), Glen Daniels (AgCenter) and Linda Tarver (AgCenter).

Glen expressed appreciation to our local Farm Service Agency for the cooperation and good working relationship that exists between agencies to serve the needs of Concordia ag producers.

Concordia FSA Office personnel – Calvin Adams, Farm Loan Manager; Kevin Case, County Executive Director; and Ben Taunton, District Conservationist, NRCS, then gave some updates from their office -

- Information regarding disaster loans for farmers who suffered a loss of cotton in the lower part of their modules due to excessive rain has been received in the FSA Office. The loss of cotton will be measured as a physical loss, not as a production loss.
- There may be some CRP payments on rice, not sure about other crops.
- Parish allotment for EQIP is not certain at this time – first pool will be November 10th.
- A National Conference - Grazing Lands trip to St. Louis, Missouri is offered to anyone interested in attending December 10-13, 2006 and will be sponsored by Northeast Delta RC&D. Conference registration of \$150 is the main expense to those attending. Travel will be by chartered bus with hotel and some meals paid.

Glen had received information on the 2006 Livestock Assistance Block Grant Program sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry which provides monetary assistance (maximum \$10,000) to livestock producers who had forage losses due to the drought conditions in 2006. Concordia was one of the parishes designated for this program. An application form and a W-9 must be sent to LDAF by November 15, 2006. Glen will send a letter to the livestock list and make the forms available at several locations in the parish.

Dr. David Lanclos, state soybean specialist and special guest, then gave a recap of the 2006 soybean and grain production year -

Grain Sorghum – 2006 was basically a good year which will increase the probability of additional acreage in grain sorghum for next year. The normal yield for this year averaged about 105 bushels.

Corn – acreage was down; nitrogen costs were up; generic quality was good – survived weather. Interest in bio-fuels may stimulate more acreage for next year.

Soybeans – Average yield statewide was about 37-38 bushels. (A significant number of acres will not be harvested this year). Some of the problems encountered in soybean production this year: date planted – environmental stress; green bean syndrome – insect pressure; diseases – especially cercospora. To optimize production – follow planting dates, match soil types, plant on wide beds, decrease row space; use of fungicides, timing of application is the key.

2006 Ag Program Review -

Concordia ag program demonstration plots for 2006 as listed below were then discussed -

Wheat variety demo test plot;

Corn: Headline fungicide – two locations;

Soybeans: Rust Sentinel plots; Irrigated variety tests; Fungicide test; Group IV vs. Group V's variety yields demo - early planted soybeans; Seed treatment tests; Three gallon vs. 5 gallon work using crop oil to control soybean rust; Soybean verification plot;

Cotton: Cotton planted on zero grade ground; Cotton variety test; Large demo cotton variety test;

Rice: Verification plot

Glen had the following ag meetings in 2006:

Soybean/Feed Grain Meeting

Worker Protection Standards Certification

Irrigation Meeting/Tour

Cotton Production Meeting

Private Pesticide Applicator Re-certification

2007 Planned Ag Program -

Glen then reviewed the 2007 ag program planned for Concordia -

Demonstrations -

Wheat variety test (AMS)

Soybeans – Large acreage variety test

Irrigation tests

Verification

Soybean Rust Sentinel plots

Seed treatments-Gaucha, Cruiser, fungicide

Cotton - Zero grade

Double cropping cotton behind wheat

Pastures – Weed control (3 plots)

Rice - Verification

Meetings -

Worker Protection Standards Meetings; Private Pesticide Applicator Certifications; Cotton Production Meeting; Soybean and Feed Grain Production Meeting

Other meetings will be held as a need occurs.

Recommendations -

Some of the ag production problems/concerns discussed by the Council during the meeting were: need for more LSU based research/information in the following areas-

- Environmental stress on soybeans (*Concordia had soybeans with this diagnosis which were not harvested*)
- Soybean planting dates to maximize yield potential
- Disease rating on Cercospora – which varieties show higher incidence
- Control of Red Shouldered Stink bugs

Continue with:

- Large plot variety demonstrations in soybeans (including irrigation); and other demonstration plots
- Soybean and Cotton production meetings
- WPS meetings and Private Applicator recertification
- Other meetings as needed

Glen expressed thanks to everyone for their time, and attendance at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.