



**2007 Concordia Parish  
Agriculture Advisory Council Meeting  
Minutes  
November 15, 2007**

The Concordia Parish Agriculture Advisory Council Meeting was held on Thursday, November 15, 2007 in the Extension Office meeting room at 10 a.m.

Glen thanked everyone for their attendance and discussed the importance of the leadership direction provided by the council in the program area of agriculture.

Members in attendance were: Roger Carter, David Morris, Jason Tiffie, Tommy Millican, Calvin Adams, Jeanine Herrington, David Yates, Rena Pitts, Joseph Parker Noble Guedon, and LSU AgCenter personnel – Kurt Guidry, Crystal Emfinger and Linda Tarver.

**Update from Concordia FSA Office – David Morris and Calvin Adams**

- EQUIP Program - \$160,000 total: \$96,000 (land-includes land leveling, irrigation pipelines, etc. and \$64,000 (livestock). This will be distributed based on a ranking system.
- WRP – can still sign up; appraisal system has been changed.
- No new Farm Bill as of now – it is still being debated in the Senate.

**Dr. Kurt Guidry, LSU AgCenter Ag Economist – Update on Grain Market**

Dr. Guidry discussed the crop market prices which are strong now:

2008 Corn-\$3.45; Soybeans - \$9.75; Cotton-.75; Wheat -\$7

He projected that some corn acreage will be planted to soybeans in 2008.

- Number of acres will be the driving force in 2008 market which could be a volatile market.
- Farmers should be aware of the different marketing strategies and use them to their advantage.
- Dr. Guidry offered his assistance to farmers at any time. He can be reached in Baton Rouge or by contacting Glen.

**2007 Concordia Crop Demonstrations**

Glen briefly reviewed some of the crop demonstrations conducted in Concordia and the value of these demonstration plots to assist farmers in making crop decisions.

All of Concordia's demonstrations (except the soybean verification and rice verification) have been compiled into a booklet. Glen expressed appreciation for the cooperation of all involved in working with these plots.

**Concordia Parish School Athletic Fields (FHS and VHS)**

Glen has worked with Dr. Ron Strahan, LSU AgCenter weed specialist on refurbishing Ferriday High School and Vidalia High School athletic fields. This involved leveling, weed control, turf management and fertilization. (Dr. Ron Greg (local doctor), leveled the Ferriday High School field with his own equipment (tractor, dirt bucket, laser leveling machine) and provided labor (2 men) for three days on this project.)

Both FHS and VHS fields are in good shape now. Glen plans to send both schools a written maintenance program for their fields. A fertilizer spreader will also be available for the schools to use with a \$100 deposit by contacting our office. The \$100 will be refunded upon return of the spreader in good condition.

### **Cooperation**

Glen expressed appreciation to the FSA Office, crop consultants, farm suppliers, banks and farmers for their good cooperation in working with the LSU AgCenter.

### **2007 Parish Crop Averages**

Glen discussed the 2007 average yields for crops grown in Concordia. A handout with the 2007 yields and 5 year averages was given out. All yields were good this year.

### **Suggestions/Recommendations – 2008**

#### **1. Production Meetings**

Concordia usually has 2 crop production meetings - 1) Soybean/Feed Grain and 2) Cotton. Due to a decrease in cotton acreage, it was decided to only have one meeting. This will be a combined meeting – Soybean/Feed Grain and Cotton (*cotton production after lunch.*)

This meeting would be the only opportunity for Private Pesticide Applicator card recertification in Concordia Parish. However, neighboring parishes also have recertification meetings and those who do not attend Concordia's meeting may attend a meeting in another parish.

Other suggestions for crop production meeting –

Have less speaker time on varieties since seeds have already been booked.

Cover double cropping – cotton behind wheat.

#### **2. Crop Demonstrations**

It would be easier for ag producers cooperating in soybean demonstrations to work with 4 bags of each variety instead of 2. This is due to the size of planting equipment and row length.

Row width should be listed on all crop demonstration reports.

#### **3. WPS Meetings (certification of farm workers)**

Glen will continue to have 2 WPS meetings – 1 in Ferriday and 1 in Monterey.

Glen thanked everyone for their input and suggestions.

Meeting adjourned.