



**2008 Concordia Parish
Agriculture Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2008
Concordia Extension Office Meeting Room
10:00 a.m.**

The Concordia Parish Agriculture Advisory Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 in the Extension Office meeting room at 10 a.m.

Welcome -

Glen Daniels, Concordia LSU AgCenter county agent, welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the role of the Ag Advisory Council. Input from ag producers, bankers, crop consultants, farm suppliers and cooperating ag agencies is important in planning Concordia's extension agricultural program to best meet the needs of the farming sector.

Introductions -

Thomas Millican, Roger Carter, James Davis, Noble Guedon, Randy Meng, Tommy Ellett, Jason Tiffiee, Ben Taunton, James Freeman, Jeanine Herrington, Lynn White, David Yates, Dale Denais, Dr. Kurt Guidry, Glen Daniels, Linda Tarver.

NRCS Agency Update

Ben Taunton, NRCS agent, gave a brief update on some of their programs with emphasis on more participation in the Master Farmer program. NRCS will also have a local advisory meeting in 2009 to determine their program practices.

Market Update

Dr. Kurt Guidry, LSU AgCenter economist then gave some ag market updates -

▪ Handout on Fuel Costs -

Projections and list of website addresses to monitor energy prices

▪ Handout - Ag market projections

Supply and demand - not as good for wheat; rice good; the downturn in input costs should help; fertilizer costs are down; the U.S. dollar is stronger than it was 2-3 months ago. There is much volatility in the market.

SURE Disaster program - there have been some changes - not finalized yet. The Louisiana disaster bill will depend on outcome of the upcoming "lame duck" Congress. If anything is passed, the LA Ag Department, FSA and Extension will allocate funds to LA farmers.

Review - Concordia's Overall Ag Programs

Demo's -

Glen briefly reviewed the purpose and value of parish demonstration plots and some of the results from the plots. Concordia ag producers were faced with some unusual circumstances this year due to the weather. Two demo fields on Angelina

were not harvested due to the hurricane. One soybean demo plot was cut 5 inches up the stalk due to the weather.

Noble Guedon had the soybean Core demo plot in Concordia this year. The Core block is a plot with the same varieties planted in different parishes. Even though the yield was good, the beans were heavily damaged due to the weather.

Glen stressed that it is best to base yields on a variety over 3 years of consistent averages.

Several fungicide demonstrations were conducted this year. There was not too much disease problem this year.

Beef Cattle –

Soil sampling is available through our office for pastures, row crops and horticulture. In the area of beef cattle, Dr. Guidry stated that Dr. Ron Pruitt is now the beef cattle economist if anyone needs assistance.

Meetings –

Glen had the Soybean, Feed Grain and Cotton production meeting in February, 2008, along with private pesticide applicator recertification. Several Worker Protection Standards certification meetings were also held.

Recommendations – 2009

Demonstration Plots -

Glen will continue with the demonstration plots in 2009, except for the rice verification field which will be conducted in Catahoula. Concordia will have Matt Foster as a summer intern this year who will be of much help to Glen, especially with the field work.

Meetings –

The Crop Production Meeting will be held in 2009 and rice production will replace cotton for the afternoon session – soybeans and feed grains will be held in the morning. It is tentatively scheduled for January 29, 2009 in Monterey. In addition to production practices, there will be a presentation on spray drift.

Glen will continue with the WPS certification meetings.

Other –

As ag producers were faced with such unusual weather problems this year, interest was expressed in the possibility of the AgCenter duplicating some of the environmental stresses (i.e., hurricanes) placed on soybeans and testing fungicides for value in some protection of beans. Glen will contact Boyd Padgett about this recommendation.

Another request was that data should be made available regarding the percentage/damages to soybeans on demonstration plots.

Interim Cotton Specialist is Dr. Don Boquet. Dr. Ron Levy is the State Soybean Specialist and visited Concordia recently.

As there were no other recommendations, Glen thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.