

**DeSoto Parish
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Advisory Leadership Council
April 10, 2007**

Members and Guest Present- Jerry Holmes, Glen Caldwell, Jimmy Stephens, Jennie Rogers, Freddie Allison, Joey Register, Brian Baiamonte Ricky Kilpatrick and Chuck Griffin

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chuck Griffin, County Agent in DeSoto, welcomed all the members present. Chuck said that the ANR Advisory Leadership Council provides an opportunity for people to express needs and desires, keep Extension educational programs focused on existing problems, involve leadership of the people for whom the programs are intended, provide an educational experience for people who are involved and build public support for Extension ANR programs.

Chuck Griffin gave an outline of some of the activities that were conducted last year in the different commodity groups.

Beef Cattle –Beef Quality Assurance Educational meeting, Two Master Farmer Meetings, phone calls and farm visits

Dairy Cattle - Northwest Louisiana Dairy Day, balanced rations, checked milking equipment for proper function, and participated with DeSoto Parish Soil and Water Conservation District in the Dairy Lagoon Cleanout project.

Forestry – Ricky Kilpatrick, LSU Agriculture Center Area Forestry Agent, conducted Louisiana Forestry Forum in Shreveport and an area Forestry Field Day at Hill Farm Research Center. A Value added Portable Saw Mill demonstration was conducted at the DeSoto Extension Office with the help of the DeSoto Soil Conservation District.

Poultry- the LSU Agriculture Center assist with nutrient management plans by assisting with litter and soil samples

Forages – Assist with forage and soil samples, variety recommendations, pesticide usage and harvesting methods.

Small Fruit and Nuts – Receive phone calls and conduct farm visits dealing with fertilizing and disease problems. Conducted a Blueberry Seminar for growers and potential growers at Chris Alexander’s Blueberry farm

Lawns, gardens and other homeowner questions – Phone calls and home visits on fertilizing, insect and disease control. Conduct two horticulture landscape design meetings. Spoke at garden clubs and multi culture center on gardens.

Chuck Griffin than asked the committee on programs that need to be continued or discontinued and any additional programs that needed to be added. The following are some of the suggestions form the Advisory Leadership Council:

1. Beef Production - Continue having timely area meetings and work with beef producers individually with farm visits.
2. Dairy Cattle – follow recommendation from the Dairy Advisory Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, April 18.
3. Forestry- continues to have two meetings a year plus push Ricky’s Forestry Forum. Also would like to have a collaborative workshop with Rural Community Development on being able to determine the value of the timber on your land.
4. Poultry – Continue to assist the local NRCS on developing nutrient management plans.
5. Forages – continue current program
6. Small Fruit and Nuts - Make Blueberry seminar an annual event to assist DeSoto Parish Blueberry Growers
7. Lawns, gardens and other homeowner’s questions- continue to answer homeowner’s questions. Conduct a Recreational Pond Management Seminar. Conduct meeting on deer food plots in August.

Jeannie Rogers requested a calendar of events be sent out a month in advance and an email reminder before events. Chuck mentioned that he is starting to accumulate email addresses in the different commodity groups

and has started email distribution lists. With the email list and local papers he thinks that he will be able to advertise educational events better and cheaper.

Chuck concluded the meeting by thanking all those that participated. He also informed the group that the minutes and members will be available on the DeSoto Parish Web Site. This site can be located at www.lsuagcenter.com and go to the parish offices. Chuck also said that several of our newsletters for Beef, Dairy, Horticulture and Timber tales are available on DeSoto Parish Web Page.

Joey Register agreed to be put on the over all DeSoto Parish Advisory Leadership Council to represent the ANR and Chuck will get one additional representative at his Dairy Advisory Meeting.