

Agriculture Program Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Attending: Gary Bates, Herb Byrd, Tim Cross, Mike Davidson, Dan McLemore, David Perrin, Richard Powell, Emmit Rawls, Jim Stewart, Jim Wills (for George Grandle), and Larry Wilson.

Agenda Items:

1. **New Worker Orientation Conference**
Herb Byrd discussed New Worker Orientation Conference which is held twice a year for new agents. Recent changes include online modules that are completed prior to coming to the conference. Plans are to try to move more modules to online before the next scheduled conference in August. Dr. Byrd requested suggestions/ideas for improving the conference. Suggestions included utilizing appropriate linkages for information from each department, video with information on the top five programs areas in each department, and potential Camtasia training. Follow up with any additional suggestions or ideas to Randol Waters and Herb Byrd.
2. **PVP Training**
Emmit Rawls discussed the Process Verification Program that provides buyers with assurance as to the farm origin and age of livestock. Producers must be certified and trained to qualify for this program. Good records must be maintained (can be audited). The Tennessee Livestock Network has recently been established to administer PVP for Tennessee. Warren Gill and Emmit Rawls are ex-officio members. Centra training (1 - 1½ hrs.) is being planned for agents and will be announced in the next couple of months.
3. **Foreign Animal Disease Training**
Richard Powell discussed the one-day train-the-trainer Ag Terror Responder Training being planned for August 30 in Memphis at the AgriCenter. Extension Directors are encouraged to work with their TEMA person to arrange for expenses to be paid for this training. An email announcement will be sent by Richard Powell with details on the training.
4. **Reporting in SUPER**
Reporting contacts in SUPER was discussed. Cross will discuss this issue with the administrative staff since program leaders have limited external contacts and minimal impacts/outcomes.
5. **Gamma Sigma Delta**
The Gamma Sigma Delta (Honor Society of Agriculture) started in 1964 with seventy members. Membership is down and Jim Wills encouraged faculty to be more active in Gamma Sigma Delta and nominate deserving persons for GSD awards. Dues are \$10 and faculty can become members after three years of employment.
6. **Security Issues**
Steps are being taken to address the security breach. We will probably be asked to complete a thorough review of collection and storage of data of a personnel nature to safeguard security. We need to be careful about collecting and storing client data and take every precaution to safeguard security.
7. **Timely Submission of Proposals**
Cross reminded the department heads that proposals are to be submitted with enough lead time for review in the Dean's office before they are due to the agency.

8. **Revised Tenure Policy**

The Board of Trustees approved revisions to the tenure policy. The first revision allows the Board to approve tenure at times other than the June meeting and the second revision allows the University to offer tenure in exceptional circumstances to faculty who are not full-time employees. Cross will provide information on revisions to department heads.
9. **Northeast TN Beef Expo Career Day**

The planning committee for the Northeast TN Beef Expo is looking at the possibility of hosting a career day for high school students who may be interested in a career in agriculture in conjunction with the Expo. Plans are to invite several colleges and universities to participate. Department heads have been asked to confirm participation with Ricky Thomason by August 1
10. **Soil, Plant and Pest Center Update**

The new Soil, Plant and Pest Center has been created to improve and expand testing and diagnostic services for soils, plants and pests, by integrating all such services into one unit. Debbie Joines has been appointed as Manager. The fee schedule will be shared as soon as finalized.
11. **State Action Agenda Workshop**

The State Action Agenda Workshop for all Extension specialists, department heads and program leaders is scheduled for August 22, at the Conference Center. The goal for this meeting is to establish statewide priority programs in the areas of livestock and forages, fruits and vegetables, commercial and consumer horticulture, bioenergy, row crops and natural resources. Time will be set aside for each team to develop a draft State Action Agenda. Program Leaders are to provide Cross the name of one agent in each region to discuss planning and reporting at the county level. Suggested areas are Row Crops - Western, Horticulture - Central, and Livestock - Eastern.
12. **Updates on Current Searches**
 - Dr. Patrick Keyser has been appointed in the Native Grassland Management position, beginning July 17. (60% Research and 40% Extension),
 - Chris Main has accepted the Cotton and Small Grains position and will start October 1.
 - Request to Interview for the Vegetable position has been submitted. (100% Extension).
 - The Endowed Chair in Agri-business position has been announced. McLemore encouraged department heads to nominate qualified applicants with academic and industry background. (100 % Extension).
 - In the process of scheduling interviews for the Animal Waste Management position.
 - Request to Interview has been submitted for the IT Specialist position which is joint with Distance Education.
13. **Other Items**
 - The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has proposed new regulations related to domestic kitchens. One requirement in the proposed regulations is that individuals successfully complete the Tennessee Food Safety Certification Course being developed by Mike Davidson and Bill Morris, or its equivalent. Bill Morris will keep everyone informed on the status of the new regulations.
 - Agents would like to have chemical recommendations from various publications on one CD, updated annually.
 - Agents want all inservice training information provided at sign up, in particular the date for the training. Feedback about training needs of agents are always welcome.
14. **Area Horse Shows & Livestock Expos**

A brief discussion about the four area shows was conducted. It was decided to convene a broader discussion with 4-H and Animal Science at the conclusion of the next 4-H program meeting.

15. **Next Meeting**
September 12, 2006, 301 Morgan Hall. NOTE: The August 8 meeting is cancelled.