

Agriculture Program Meeting  
Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Attending: Gary Bates, Keith Belli, Gene Burgess, Mike Davidson, Delton Gerloff, Rob Holland, Debbie Joines, Carl Jones, Alan Mathew, David Perrin, Richard Powell, Hugh Savoy (for Eric Drumm), George Smith, and Jim Stewart.

Agenda Items:

1. **Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods**
  - UT Extension in partnership with TVA and Tennessee Water Resources implemented the Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods program in Knox and Blount Counties in 2007. The program emphasis is on best management practices for urban and suburban yards to improve water quality. Extension has received grant funds to continue and expand the program for the next three years. Program leaders are to check with Extension personnel in suggested cities to determine interest in implementing this program and should let George Smith know within the next 30 days if agents are interested.
  
2. **ANR Training for 2009**
  - Training team leaders or designated team members are to enter training sessions in SUPER by September 12, so agents can begin registering for the sessions. Teams are asked to check with Regional Program Leaders to avoid conflicts.
  - Row Crops training has been scheduled for December 11, 2008, in Jackson. A session is also being scheduled in Manchester in January 2009.
  - Grain Conference is scheduled for February 5, 2009 in Dyersburg.
  - Cotton Focus is scheduled in Jackson on February 12, 2009.
  
3. **Pesticide Certification**
  - Dr. Burgess has sent new forms to use to get certification points to superintendents, department heads, and specialists and requested that they dispose of the old forms. The new forms ask for certification number or the last four digits of the social security number only.
  - The PSEP website is being updated. Extension forms as well as public forms will be available at the website.
  - Dr. Burgess will resend the email regarding group receipts.
  
4. **Promotion and Tenure Recommendations**
  - Dr. Smith shared the email from Dr. DiPietro regarding improving the Promotion and Tenure process.
  - Faculty going up for full professor are expected to have served as a mentor to junior colleagues.
  - There is now the expectation that all candidates going up for Promotion and Tenure will have had peer-review of their teaching programs. It is important that Extension faculty have peer-review of their teaching similar to teaching faculty. Teaching evaluation summaries from program participants should be included in the dossier.
  - It was suggested that workshops be conducted for department heads so they can answer questions received of faculty regarding the process.

5. **LEAD21 Call for Applications**

- The application deadline for the 2009-2010 Class of LEAD21 is November 15, 2008. Enrollment in the year-long course gives participants a broad understanding of several core competencies centering upon leadership, self evaluation, diversity, and the challenges of the land grant system. Application forms are online at <http://www.fanning.uga.edu/prog/lead21/>

- Dates for 2009-2010 class participants are:

Session I: June 21-26, 2009, Indianapolis, Indiana

Session II: October 5-8, 2009, Kansas City, Missouri

Session III: February 10-13, 2010, Washington, D.C.

- Funding is available for one participant from UT Extension.

6. **Replacement for Environmental Stewardship Team Member**

- The Environment Stewardship team was recently reorganized. Regional program leaders are to identify a replacement for Todd Wilson.

- Shawn Hawkins, Assistant Professor, Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, has been named as the new chair of this team.

7. **Upcoming Events**

- Value-Added Agriculture Agent Training

September 10-11, 2008 - Jackson

October 22-23, 2008 - Murfreesboro

November 5-6, 2008 - Greeneville

- Tennessee Farmland Legacy Conference - October 9-10, 2008

Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, TN

Travel funds are available for two agents per region to participate in this conference.

- Sunbelt Expo - October 14-16, 2008

- Agritourism in Action Bus Tour - November 11-13, 2008

The deadline for applications has been extended to August 15. Delegates will be selected next week.

8. **Other Items**

- Nominations for the Rural Development Award for Outstanding Local Programs are due to George Smith by September 5, 2008. The purpose of this award is to recognize those who have made significant contributions to rural development in Tennessee. The award will be presented in January 2009 by the State Rural Development Committee.

**Jim Stewart**

- The Livestock Center is initiating a fee structure for use of the center for livestock events in 2009. Dr. Smith will follow up with Glenn Conatser.

**Richard Powell**

- Tim Smith and Jeff Lannom received funding from Southern Risk Management

Education Center for a "Women in Agriculture" program which has been very successful.

- 2009 will be the last year for the Mid-South Fair in Memphis.

- This is the second year for the Delta Fair at the Agri-Center.

**Debbie Joines**

- Soil tests are increasing. Forage tests and plant diagnostics are also moving ahead.

**Carl Jones**

- Debbie Bush is retiring at the end of August.

**Delton Gerloff**

- Interviews are scheduled for September 8 and 9 for the Nursery/Greenhouse and Fruit/Vegetable Marketing and Management position (Charlie Hall's former position). Dr. Garland is the search committee chair.

**David Perrin**

- The Eastern Region Nursery Tour is scheduled in September.
- The third Career Day is scheduled for October 10 in Greeneville on the day following the Northeast Beef Expo.

**Rob Holland**

- The Center for Profitable Agriculture has been funded by USDA Rural Development to provide assistance and training to farmers and value-added entrepreneurs who are pursuing the development of successful small business enterprises in a 10-county area in Middle Tennessee.

**Hugh Savoy**

- Eric Drumm has been named department head for Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science effective August 1.
- The Land Judging Committee will finalize plans on August 18 for the State Land Judging contest scheduled for November 3 in Coffee County. No changes are expected in the process.
- The Land Judging Manual is online. Dr. Savoy will check with Farm Bureau about reprinting the manual.
- Regional contests are:
  - September 30 Central Region, Spring Hill
  - October 7 Western Region, Ames Plantation
  - October 7 Eastern Region, Small Grain Unit

9. **Next Meeting**

**NOTE:** The meeting on September 9 is cancelled and the October 14 meeting has been rescheduled for October 21, 2008, 301 Morgan Hall.