

Agriculture Program Meeting  
Tuesday, July 21, 2009  
via Centra

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

1. **Food Safety**

David Lockwood and Annette Wszelaki discussed impending food safety regulations for fruit and vegetable production. The goal of the Food Safety Working Group formed by President Obama is by the end of July to issue commodity specific draft guidance on preventative controls that industry can implement to reduce the risk of contamination in the production and distribution of leafy greens, melons and tomatoes. Plans are also being made for a traceback system to improve capacity to detect the origins of food borne illnesses. Beth Bland, Food Safety Coordinator of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will conduct a food safety workshop and mock farm audit on August 20 at the N.C. Farm in Grainger County, beginning at 9:30 a.m. This is open to all Extension professionals, growers and packers. Agents should register in SUPER. Agents will receive an email outlining the program and fliers to distribute in their county. Support for agent travel will be provided. Agents will also receive resource materials for use with growers and packers.

2. **2010 Training**

Our goal is to have training planned for 2010 in SUPER by October 1 for agents to sign up. Dr. Smith suggested a deadline of September 15 to get everything in SUPER. Program leaders were asked to provide feedback to Dr. Smith on training needed by agents by August 5, 2009. Dr. Smith will share feedback with appropriate specialists. Department heads should also discuss with their specialists to determine the types of training they would like to offer in 2010. Stimulus funds could be requested to pay travel and other training expenses. The focus of the August 11 meeting will be to finalize inservice training needs for 2010.

3. **SUPER Streamlining**

Dr. Smith gave a brief update on SUPER Streamlining:

- Livestock and Forage Systems: revisited last year, nothing more to be done at this time.
- Row Crops: Gary Bates will follow up with Angela McClure.
- Horticulture / Fruit and Vegetables: in process of drafting outcome indicators.
- Natural Resources: 4-H will not have a 4-H state action agenda in Natural Resources. 2010 will be a year to revisit the Natural Resources logic model which is being led by Wayne Clatterbuck.

The goal is to have everything in SUPER in August so agents can use it in making their annual plans.

4. **ARRA Funds for Innovative Programs**

Stimulus funding is available to departments, area specialists, regions and counties for the

next two years. Funds must be spent before June 30, 2011. Extension will be held accountable for funds and may be required to make quarterly reports. The deadline for submitting proposals was extended to August 21, 2009. Requested budgets should generally be in the \$2,000 to \$50,000 range. A brief summary should be developed along with a narrative description (what, when, where, who and why), a budget and budget narrative. Expected outcomes, impacts and benefits should be included in the proposals. A signed cover page is to be attached to the proposal.

5. **Other Items**

**•Searches Underway**

Two searches are underway: Assistant Dean and State 4-H Program Leader and Assistant Dean, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Resource Development. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Smith for the 4-H search and to Dr. Shirley Hastings for the ANR position search. The goal is to have someone selected for these positions by December 31.

**•Travel Is Paperless**

As of now, all travel is paperless according to Tim Fawver with an estimated savings of \$60,000 per year.

**•American Express Cards**

Effective July 1, 2009, UT eliminated the American Express Card program. If this presents a hardship, we have received special permission to issue travel advances for a limited time to any employee whose card is cancelled.

**•Verification of Feeder Calf Preconditioning**

Clyde Lane recently emailed information on the cost share program for Feeder Calf Preconditioning. TDA will be reissuing the forms. Agents will not be required to verify that preconditioning had occurred. Counties will receive new forms from Dr. Lane.

6. **Next Meeting**

August 11, 2009, 9:30 a.m. EDT via Centra. The purpose of this meeting will be to finalize inservice training for 2010.