

CR Ag Advisory Committee Meeting 1/7/10

The meeting was held at the Humboldt County Farm Bureau office at 4:00 p.m.

Those in attendance included: Franz Rulofson, Marjorie Carson, Deborah Giraud, Wesley Anderson, Mike Mullen, Sandy Lovfald, Lindsey Bugbee, Theresa Noop, Walt Giacomini, John Vevoda, John LaBoyteau, Everett King, and Katherine Ziemer.

Franz introduced Marjorie Carson; VP of Instruction at CR. Marjorie explained that the agriculture department may be moved from the MSE division to the Applied Tech division. This move will not impact the agriculture program and will benefit it by having experienced support staff. Marjorie also mentioned that a search for the permanent farm position would be starting soon.

New equipment for the farm has been purchased with the money from the Cal Trans grant. Purchased equipment includes: John Deere 4x4 tractor with loader, John Deere hay mower/conditioner, John Deere Baler, Hay rake, roller/harrow, offset disk, bale loader, potato hiller, 1 ton farm truck. Two 12-passenger vans have been recently ordered. These vans are for the agriculture program to transport students to the farm and off site field trips. The farm is still looking for a used row crop tractor.

Franz Rulofson is the new permanent agriculture teacher at CR. He introduced himself and gave an overview of his background.

There are five new agriculture classes at CR. They include: animal nutrition, introduction to animal science, agriculture machine systems, introduction to agriculture business and economics, and agriculture mechanics. Three of these new courses will be offered this spring including: introduction to animal science, agriculture machine systems, and introduction to agriculture business and economics. Franz mentioned that the new animal science class will have a laboratory component and that he needs producers who are will to host this class to contact him. Several ideas were mentioned by the committee.

Past local FFA members have mentioned to their High School Ag Teachers that some of the CR AG classes are not challenging enough. Some of these classes may end up being articulated with classes at the High Schools and others will be

rewritten this spring to update them. It was also mentioned that there should be more contact between CR and the High Schools. One suggestion was to host the schools at CR for an Ag student day and feed them. The new Ag club would be able to help with this.

There was strong encouragement for CR to add an Agriculture club such as Collegiate FFA. Franz is committed to this and will work to make it happen this spring. The area High School Agriculture Teachers will encourage some of their top students to join to help get this off to a good start.

The agriculture curriculum course outlines are in the process of being updated at CR. This needs to occur before the degrees and certificates can be updated. It is hoped that this can be accomplished by summer.

There is a curriculum alignment workshop on February 4th at CR. This is to try and articulate several courses with the local high school agriculture programs.

Enrollment at CR is up 19% overall. The agriculture classes are filling in most cases with room for more students in some.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 18th at 4:00 p.m. at the Farm Bureau office.

Special thanks to Katherine Ziemer for hosting the meeting and providing the wonderful refreshments.