

CR AG Advisory Committee Meeting April 28, 2011

The meeting started at 4:30 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Conference Room. Those present included: Janet Sclar, Julie Houtby, Michael Mullen, Sandy Dale, Jim Smith, Katherine Ziemer, Deborah Giraud, Noah Corp, Pru Ratliff, and Franz Rulofson.

Katherine gave an update on the AG student house. She had met with the CR president and talked about potential options. It is not yet clear whether or not students can live in a Tsunami Zone. If this is the case then we would have to build a house in another location. Franz mentioned that Modesto Junior College had build seven modular units on their campus. If we build a "temporary structure" we fall under a different set of rules. More questions than answers at this point. Franz will talk with Time Flanagan and see what options we have and if there is a safe place to build at CR.

Jim presented the new AG degree with its three areas of emphasis. The areas of emphasis include: plant science, animal science and agriculture business. The committee put a lot of effort into this degree to ensure that students will be able to complete the degree in two years. Fifteen courses were inactivated. These included eight low enrollment courses at the farm, five courses in the ornamental horticulture area, and two agriculture production courses. These courses were inactivated as they were lower in priority than the remaining courses.

Franz presented the 2011 fall schedule and a two-year schedule of AG courses. Eight of the current AG courses are offered once every two years. The remaining courses are offered at least once each year. The proposed fall schedule has been approved and as long as courses fill up will not be cut. Enrollment will begin late this year because of the state budget. Students are asked to talk with Noah and Franz about planning their schedules to ensure that they can complete their degree in two years.

Noah presented information about the farm. There will be range fed turkeys, pasture pork, and Aquaponics projects this summer in addition to the vegetables, hay, apples and goats. The CR AG Leaders have been very active and are booked for next year already. Some of their projects include: farmers markets on campus, Fall FFA leadership conference, Christmas tree sale, Spring FFA Field Day, and spring study tour.

Janet Sclar proposed a new scholarship for local high school seniors and recent graduates to work on the farm. There will be a fast turnaround this year. Local AG instructors will help to identify the appropriate students. The winners will need to sign up for the summer field studies class and work with Noah at the farm. There will be two \$2500 scholarships.

Noah mentioned that there are some future needs for the pasture site on campus. We are going to need some cows. Maybe there could be a possibility of some donations from local producers. A "Temple Grandin" design working facility has been proposed for the site. At present there are no funds identified for this. It is projected to cost \$20,000 for the working facility and around \$5-6,000 more for perimeter fencing. We should look for a "green" grant to see about funding for this.