

College of the Redwoods Farm Ag Advisory Committee Meeting October 2, 2014

Attending: President Katherine Ziemer (Exec Director, Farm Bureau), Secretary Janet Sclar (Farm Bureau Board member), John Vevoda (dairyman, Ferndale), John LaBoyteaux (row crops and wheat, Redcrest), Sandy Dale (Ag teacher, Fortuna High), Franz Rolufson (CR faculty), Paxton Woodward (CR Ag Leadership President). Several other community and Farm Bureau members were unable to attend today's meeting.

President Katherine Ziemer called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM. Franz gave the Committee an update on the farm and classes at CR.

Staffing: Noah Corp resigned to live closer to his wife's employer in another county. The College has hired a temporary three-quarter-time caretaker, Colton Ross. Some necessary duties of the farm manager are being done by Franz, such as the Organic Standards paperwork. Bill Carlson is teaching a little more, as well as Franz, to make up for the 40% instruction that was in Noah's job description. Discussion was had regarding what's best for the farm and students, in replacing Noah's position: farmer-in-residence, full-time Ag faculty with release time to be at the farm, student farm managers, etc. In reality two separate positions (faculty and farm) would be the best for both students and the farm, but with little chance of both positions getting priority, Franz will submit a request for an Ag faculty person with release time. All staffing requests have to be prioritized by the College. No guarantees of the Ag position being approved, even though it pays its own way due to the CalTrans grant. The Ag Advisory Committee requested to be represented in all hiring of CR Farm staff and/or Ag faculty, and asked why no one from the Committee was included in the hiring process for the caretaker position.

Livestock Handling Facility: The Temple Grandin low-stress design is moving forward. Bids are being taken to clean out and take down the barn across from the College, coming in around \$50,000 due to health and safety issues. Then cows can go on the field with 5-6 registered cows along with options for artificial insemination. The Committee suggested Franz contact Grant Pedrotti, Steve Johnson in Larabee, and/or Jane Fraser, in the spring.

Student Trailer Pads: CR has approved them and Franz will implement. He asked for advice on a new water system since the lower field well has a high manganese content that is ruining the lines (upper field well is high in iron).

Enrollment: Numbers are good. Most classes are full. The Ag Leadership class was originally dropped, but put back on the schedule and has about a dozen students enrolled.

Ag Leadership: Paxton Woodward is the leader of the group and brought the Advisory Committee the following update:

1. Science Night at CR, Oct 24th at 5 PM will include a petting zoo, craft center for kids, and pumpkin sales.
2. Student recruitment will take place on the upcoming Counselor Day.
3. Farm harvesting is finished for the year.
4. Leadership Conference is in Fresno.
5. \$20 gas cards to help with transportation expenses to the farm.

6. BBQ fund raiser at the Logging Conference, March 19-21, 2015.

Wheat Production and Trials: John LaBoyteaux said that the grain sale from the wheat growing he did in conjunction with Noah/CR Farm and Jared Zystrow brought in around \$800, which he gave to Franz to deposit. He brought up a concern that the 2014 plots were not planted at the Farm because they didn't have the right equipment. He said they need a 4' wide 3-point grain drill, which costs about \$15,000. Franz said they did have some money in the CalTrans fund that is earmarked for equipment purchases. He'll see about updating his current list of requested needs. He said he needs three quotes and that used equipment is also OK. He and John will confer later about potential models (Kinkaid with retrofit Land Pride).

CalTrans Investment: Because of the need to protect the principle, the College Foundation has invested it where it only receives about 2% interest.

Additional Equipment Needs: Franz explained that the Chancellor has allocated \$40 Million from the Perkins Fund to CTE programs. CR might get up to \$300,000 for equipment. He's looking for a used D-4 bulldozer with ripper and blade. Also a gooseneck dump trailer. Committee members directed him to check with Reynolds RV on Highway 36 in Alton for the trailer. It was also suggested that students might be able to plan an event that would ask for donated farm equipment.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Janet L. Sclar