

**College of the Redwoods Farm Ag Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Humboldt County Farm Bureau Office**  
**January 27, 2016**

Attending: President Katherine Ziemer (Farm Bureau Executive Director), Secretary Janet Sclar (Farm Bureau Board member), Franz Rulofson (CR faculty), Aubrey Schooley and Jeremy Goossens (CR Ag Leadership representatives). John Short (CR Farm Manager and faculty), Steve Palecki (CR faculty and Fortuna Community Garden), Alexa Alexandre (Ferndale HS and CR faculty), Jeff Stackhouse (County Cooperative Extension agent), Walt Giacomini (beef rancher), Holly Krebs (row crops farmer and FB board member), Julie Houtby (American Ag Credit), Sandy Dale (Northcoast Ag Partners NCAP)

President Katherine Ziemer called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

1. Introductions were made. Minutes were approved. A roster was sent around to gather committee members' names and email addresses (instructed to add Sandy back to list for Ag teachers, Mr. Smith and Wayne Joseph).

2. CR AG Programs Update, Franz

- A. A memo from Wendy Short, CR faculty, noted that she is soliciting speakers for her Into to Agribusiness and Economics class. A handful of possible speakers that fit the family transfer or LLC requirements were provided to Katherine to pass along.
- B. Ag Leadership Class (AG 44ABCD) has been changed into four separate courses effectively making it repeatable three times and will be for letter grade (rather than pass/fail) beginning next semester to aid student GPAs when transferring.
- C. The Ag Leadership Class has 15 students currently (twice that of last semester).
- D. Degree change for the Associate of Science in General Agriculture was approved last Fall. A new degree in plant science directly transferable to CSU system has been developed and is in the approval process. Also approved: Ag Certificate, and Liberal Arts with Ag Emphasis.
- E. Ag 42 Cooperative Work Experience class provides 1-3 units for 60 hours of work (volunteer) and 75 hours of work (paid) per unit. Franz asked for names of businesses/farms that would be interested in workers so he could compile a list. Sandy Dale is also making up flyers for her partnerships with NCAP. Katherine mentioned that FB could potentially help with gas cards.

2. CR AG Field Day – Feb 27, 2016

Alexa explained that as a result of the NCAP grant awarded through the California Career Pathways Trust, CR will receive funds to help host this event with five separate contests. 140 students expected from Humboldt County, Sonoma and Petaluma. Katherine asked about a future logging competition aspect as there could be potential for partnerships for prize money from the logging community.

3. Livestock Handling Facility

Four years in the making and it is ready. This is located near the area where new fencing was installed last year. Lytel Foundation gave ~\$5K grant for the fencing along the road with FB as go-between. There are photos available of the students working on

fixing the fence that were sent to the Foundation with a thank you note. Other fencing with a neighbor is still on-going.

#### 4. CTEA Grant

Requests for equipment up to \$25,000. The Agriculture program is requesting funds to upgrade the greenhouse soil pasteurization system, hydroponic towers and an ebb and flow irrigation system, the livestock area is requesting funds for electric fencing for a rotational grazing system, and a request for help in writing a Plant Science Laboratory manual. Franz is working on creating a custom book that can be printed at CR as needed.

#### 5. CR Farm Update

- A. John Short reported that he's been here for seven months. In that time there have been four cuttings of hay, the CR farmer's market on campus, scholarships provided for students to work the farm during the summer, he's sold Boer goats and bought Kiko goats for meat (with better hooves for the climate), and the Corn Trial and celebration has taken place.
- B. The Corn Trial involved partnerships with the Organic Seed Alliance and area farmers. 400 varieties of corn were planted at the farm and evaluated in search of open pollinated sweet corn varieties. FB sponsored a Celebration event at the farm in September. The CR Dean welcomed visitors to the farm to taste test the corn, enjoy a free bar-b-q with potluck desserts, and a farm tour. Attendees could pick a lug of produce for \$20 from the field. Many of the neighbors attended with about 60 people total. Great PR. Another corn trial will take place at the farm this summer.
- C. On-site student housing has been hindered by the flood plain in sighting temporary trailers year-round. Options are being considered.

#### 6. NorthCoast Ag Partnerships

Sandy explained that the grant she wrote and received is a combined effort of 14 area high schools along with CR and Shasta College. The goals are to update Ag curriculums in the high schools, offer fall in-service for chapter officers for 80 people showcasing an industry job forecast speaker, showcasing the AG programs CR has to offer, allowing a time for Ag teachers to meet, and upgrading computer labs. The grant is also providing sponsorships for the CR Field Day so the event is free to Area High Schools. NCAP will also be discussing dual-enrollment opportunities between high schools and, sending two CR Ag teachers to the CATA summer conference, and creating a partnership piece that will create an on-going structure for these programs to continue on into the future. Sandy will be the February guest speaker at the Humboldt County Farm Bureau Board meeting.

#### 7. Publicity

It was mentioned again to have Ag students provide articles with photos to the Times-Standard and to get involved in social media to publicize the farm and Ag programs at CR (e.g. the Farm FaceBook page - Jenny). Holly mentioned that the Fortuna Farmer's Market needs a promotional person, if a student would like to work on that (contact Jamie Cohoon, market manager). John offered that he'd be speaking on KHSU on Food for Thought the next week.

The next CR Farm Advisory Committee Meeting will be September 7, 2016, 4:30 PM.  
The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Sclar".

Janet L. Sclar

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sclar".