

Warren County Future of Ag Task Force

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

March 24, 2010

Extension Update: Julie Benner was hired to replace Pat Strickland. Chris Mosbach held and Eagle Watch which had 300 participants. Participants came from Erie, New York, Ontario. There will be a No-Till Field Day on June 16. Laura will get food sponsored. (Note: Since this meeting Farm Bureau has agreed to pay for and prepare the lunch.) Wes has a grant that must be used by June 30th which can be used to pay for postage, mailings, and handout materials.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Producer Committee Report:

1. **Wrap up of AG Week:** More advertising than in years past, however the Ag Week workshops were not well attended. 50 attendees for the whole week.
2. **Farmer Market at the Fair:** Doris Labowski attended meeting. We discussed the farm market at the fair. The Fair Board has indicated that they would like to have the Farm Market at the Fair. The FOA Task Force would like to try to do something in the campgrounds. Our difficulty is having the man power to cover the market the whole time. Fair is August 9 thru 14. It was suggested that we try to have the market in the gazebo in the campgrounds, behind the Corn Planter pavilion. Doris said that there would likely not be a fee. Doris will check with the Fair Board next Thursday at the Fair Board meeting. If the Fair is willing to let us set up in the gazebo, we will then see if the Farmers are willing to participate.
3. **Signs:** Commissioner Eggleston has 5 or 6 free standing bright white political 4 by 8 signs that he is willing to have re-lettered to promote Warren County Agriculture. Cost for re-lettering the signs will be the responsibility of the FOA. Potentially money available from the Commissioners. Permission is required to place the signs. Anyone email your sign design ideas to Heather by April 2, 2010.

Consumer Committee:

1. **PA DEP Environmental Education Grant request for Mobile Ag Lab:** Will know by the end of April if the District received this grant. If we do receive this grant a committee will need formed to pull this activity together
2. **Interview form for Warren Ag Web Site Producer Articles:** Jack Angove has agreed to be interviewed. Karen will be interviewing Jack in the next couple of days. The goal of this form was to gather more information which can be written up and put on the web site. Get new information for the web site. Feature producers. Cindy will ask Development Council if 4-H Clubs could do some interviews.
3. **Library Display:** There has been a FOA display at the library thanks to Karen.

New Business:

1. **Allegheny Artistry:** The store owners have contacted FOA Task Force members and asked if we know of any producers interested in selling products from their store in Youngsville. The Task Force does not have control over any of the products or the store so it was recommended that we give out the store name and number only if we are asked by a producer if we know of a store to sell their products. That way the decision is the producers and he or she is making his or her own arrangements and we are not part of that arrangement. Artist Co-Op/Allegheny Artistry phone number: (814) 563-7096.

2. **Warren County Fair:** This year is the fair's 80th anniversary. They would like to have a large number of agricultural education things going on throughout the fair during the whole week. The Fair theme is Proud of our Heritage, Envisioning the Future. Doris has a book, Project Seasons, Shelburne Farms, written by Deborah Parrella, which has a bunch of activities that target the youth. Day Care kids tour the barns. Commissioner Eggleston said that the commissioners may be able to fund some prizes for the kids and/or daycare centers. The fair will not be paying for any advertising this year, instead their will be hay bale decorating contest. Each contestant will be given 2 tickets just for participating in the contest. Cindy, Heather and Denny said that they would help Judy Cerra and Jennette Walter to plan the educational activities. Heather will set up a meeting with Jeanette, Judy, Denny, Heather, Cindy and Doris.
3. **New 4-H Fundraiser:** Jennifer has started a new 4-H fundraiser this year. She is starting an Alumni and Friends Association. Brochures about the project are available from Jennifer.
4. **Eggs and Issues:** Cindy looked into doing an Eggs and Issues session. We are on the schedule for next year. It was suggested that there be a small farmer panel. Farmers talk about their farm and products and then audience will ask questions. It was suggested that our power point be used to introduce the session; however there may not be enough time to do our power point and have the farmer panel. Eggs and Issues is on Friday, Breakfast is served at 7:30, program to start about 8:00. We will shoot for a November Eggs and Issues.

Date & Time of Next Meeting:

April 28, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.