

Heather Wilcox and Cindy Paulmier conducted the meeting. Email addresses were exchanged to communicate to the task force members. Phyllis Wright led the group in visioning.

Question – what challenges / changes affects our vision for the Future of Agriculture Task Force?

## **Needs and Wants**

### **Need of task force**

- what is the direction of the task force
- ways to keep members dedicated to task force
- education to consumers about farmer family economics and gain respect for the agri businesses
- help producers aware of what is available for them  
(educational programs, grants, “agriability,” etc.)
- money to continue programming  
(ag week, promotional activities, tours, etc.)

### **Wants of task force**

- support of staff
- money – see above
- know what we can do with the resources we have

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What **social** aspects affect Future of Ag programs?

- networking  
(as with Farmer Assoc., Conservation District, Natural Resources, Extension & 4-H, school teachers)  
( interest in local ag tours in conjunction with other agencies, tourist and WCCBI)
- consumer education and fun  
(as consumers and farmers view new things via bus to Farm Show, Ag Progress days etc.)

*Question – Where do we focus?  
In the left column circle where we should focus in each section.*

*This column is for your notes on what can be done. Include WHO, HOW & WHEN it can be done.*

- youth education  
(as school farm days as is done in Sugar Grove and Tidioute elementary schools)
- continued support Farmer's Markets
- educational adult programming  
(speakers for consumers and farmers during Ag week for consumer with special interest and in-depth workshops)
- develop more positive attitude about future of ag
- ways to celebrate agriculture  
(and task force celebrate what we do!!!)

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What environmental factors have changed for Future of Ag task force?

- how to outreach to farmers with environmental practices  
example is trained team volunteers to show farmers different practices (as conservation VS economics, core practices, cover crops, no till, buffers, nutrient mgt, forest stewardship, etc.)  
  
create network to encouraging farmers to participate in programs, grants, etc.  
  
educate through field days
- inform farmers of federal & state dollars available  
(example to transition to organic practices)
- reach out to Amish community
- work with youth to teach good environmental practices  
(train scout counselors etc.)
- a world view of other agriculture concerns affecting our food supply, and other health issues  
(educate consumers where food comes from and consequences of poor food production practices; buy fresh / buy local)

What **technology** changes for Future of Ag?

Newsletter is still affective way to reach the farmer.

Keep information brief!!!

- encourage “value added products”  
(develop use of shared kitchen HAACP- food safety)
- encourage use of live downlink systems to teach new practices to producers and consumers
- electronic payment systems at farmer’s market for consumers using EBT, or WIC vouchers
- How to use the Web page more effectively?
- form groups to analysis issues affecting agriculture and speak about issues to consumers and legislators, using technology (see political section)

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What are the **external factors** affecting the Future of Ag task force?

- Who are our competitors?  
misinformation through news media, corporate advertising, internet, etc
- volunteer time limitations for programming
- limited professional’s time for speakers, staff coordinating program

What **political** changes affect Future of Ag task force?

- possible networking with Farm Bureau (Warren Co. Farmers Assoc., PASA, etc.) to help with lobbying local gov't, state and federal legislators

- Getting information and facts to persons making decisions.

- form groups to analysis issues affecting agriculture and speak about issues to consumers and legislators- a "Friends of Ag" system via emails, letter, phone calls informing of ag issues)
- speak to service clubs, etc. about ag issues
- use of technology as Facebook, website, radio, to inform consumers. (Note today's radio is satellite system)

- need of workforce for rural areas

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Who are our **stakeholders** for Future of Ag task force?

- current farming community

- need support of local business as a team for county economic development

- consumers who use agriculture products and form opinions on ag issues

- local government regarding land use issues, funding, etc.

- youth who are our future for agriculture jobs and consumers

## Future of Ag Task Force “worksheet”

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

A mission is *what we do*.

Is this the task Force mission ??????? You make changes .

This is taken from the original four goals of the task force in 2004.

The mission of the Warren County Future of Agriculture Task Force is to promote Warren County agriculture, improve farm family economic stability and increase county economics, educate youth, adult consumers, and farmers on issues and opportunities related to agribusiness and production.

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A vision is *what we want to do and how to accomplish it*.

As a group we can decide on what the task force vision is, and what we can do.

Remember as volunteers think what you can give to this program.

**So what is the task force vision?** Your thoughts, what is to be accomplished?

The Future of Ag Task Force VISION will \_\_\_\_\_  
you fill this in

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