

# Warren County Future of Ag Task Force

## MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

January 25, 2012

**Members Present:** Jeff Fowler, Karen Davis, Heather Wilcox, Cindy Paulmier, Denny Wright, Lee Curtis, Linda Hagberg, Dianna Sleeman, Marjorie Manning, Steve Pondel, Les Sanford, Laura Ayers, Phyllis Wright, Pan Stoleson, Commissioner Steve Vanco and Doris Labowski

**Extension Update:** Jeff Fowler provided an Extension update. Penn State has agreed to place a full time Extension Educator in Warren County. The search committee is being formed. Hopefully the position will be filled by June 2012.

**2012 Activities:** The following activities were selected for 2012.

1. Conduct Let's Talk sessions or complete a new survey. If we had a booth at the Fair a survey could be taken there as well as an educational display of what we have done, Warren County Agriculture, show our PowerPoint. This would need to be a manned display in the commercial building so that we are located in a high traffic area. Doris would need to know by March if we wanted space. There may be a significant cost to have a booth in the commercial building during the Fair and will also require a large source of manpower.
  - a. **Committee Members:** Jeff, Marjorie, Phyllis, Commissioner Vanco (as available), and Dianna. Lee will ask Joe Nickerson if he would be involved in this committee.
  - b. **Survey Committee Meeting Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Extension Office.
2. Conduct a fall farm tour in 2012, change venue and scope, possibly partner with Extension and Conservation District. As part of the fall Tour develop a "Taste of Warren County" event. Participants get to sample Warren County Ag products at the farm visits.
  - a. **Committee Members:** Linda, Laura, Pam, Mark, Karen, Doris, Steve Pondel, Les Sanford, Denny Wright, and Lee Curtis
  - b. **Fall Farm Tour Committee Meeting Date:** February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.
3. Bring the Mobile Ag Lab back to Warren County, maybe better for late September. Warren County Farm Bureau has expressed interest in paying for the Mobile Ag Lab for one week in the 2012-2013 school year. Heather will discuss some options with the Farm Bureau at their monthly meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. **Notes from the Farm Bureau Meeting, January 26<sup>th</sup>:** Farm Bureau will pay for the Mobile Ag Lab to be at one of the Warren County Elementary Schools for one week during the 2012-2013 school year. Farm Bureau would like the Future of Ag Task Force to select the school. Heather will contact the school district to gauge potential interest. If more than one school is interested then some form of selection process will have to be instituted.

**Other Business:** Some discussion took place regarding the proposed Eisenhower Charter School and their proposed Agricultural Science and Technology curriculum. The Task Force should stay up to date with this group. This is a link to the Eisenhower Charter School website: <http://eisenhowercharterschool.org/>. They have posted the entire charter school application.

**Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 6:00 pm, bring a dish to pass. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30.