Lee County Advisory Meeting
July 28, 2011

Members present: Avron Upchurch, Donald Morton, Grace Lawrence, Jane Barringer, Wayne Watson, Reuhl Dabolt, David Dycus, Brenda Willett, Sylvia Churchwell, Mary Beth Jackson, Sam Buchanan, Jerry Lemmond, Donese Pulley, Nancy Gust

Staff present: Susan Condlin, Bill Stone, Seth Holt, Brenda Gwynn, Dan Campeau and Rhonda Gaster

Avron Upchurch opened the meeting and welcomed the committee members. Avron expressed our sympathy to Donese Pulley on the passing of her mother.

Minutes: The January minutes were posted to the web and members were notified. David Dycus made a motion to approve the minutes as posted to the web. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Avron introduced our visitor to the Advisory Council, Caroline Sawyer. She is an Extension Intern working out of the Moore County office with Dan Campeau in Poultry.

Treasurer’s Report: The balance in the NCCE, Lee County account is $10,118.83. Income = $2,264.85; Expenses = $1,207.26 There were no questions or changes. The Treasurer’s Report was approved by general consent.

Report from the State Advisory Board: Sylvia Churchwell reported the last State Advisory Council meeting was June 7, 8 and 9, 2011 at Camp Carraway. Two employees were added to the Extension Administration Team: Tom Melton, Associate Director of Extension and Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Leader and Sheri Schwab, Associate Director of Extension and Director of County Operations. Tom Melton and Sheri Schwab attend the State Advisory Council meetings. The council’s administrative staff took a hit during the budget crisis and the positions of the Advisory and administrative assistant were eliminated. Dr. Zublena’s office will now coordinate SAC activities. Sylvia stated that Dr. Zublena commented that the budget situation was “the worst roller coaster since the great depression”. The entire UNC System took a 12.3% cut. Smith Lever had an 11.8% cut. EFNEP, never having a cut until this year, received a 14.4% reduction in funds. He commented that Extension would take some hits in the days to come. Current Extension vacancies will help so that lay-offs may not occur. He felt that your contact with legislators made a big difference and expressed thanks for the efforts.

Avron introduced Donald Morton, a new member to the Advisory Council. Donald President of the Sanford Lions Club and serves by position.
Business

4-H State Winning Presentation – Bill Stone introduced the 4-H State winner, Brin Carraway, member of Home Grown Kids 4-H Club. He gave his Public Speaking Presentation on Carnivorous Plants in North Carolina.

FCS Centennial Gala – Avron Upchurch commented on the FCS Centennial held in Raleigh at the McKimmon Center on May 25, 2011 – It was a grand event with great down-home local foods served. Good entertainment. Susan was co-chair of the state FCS Centennial committee. The committee did an excellent job in planning this event.

Sandhills Farm to Table – Brenda Gwynn commented that growers from Lee and Moore Counties sale their produce to the Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative. They deliver to Whispering Pines where volunteers package up boxes of produce. There is a membership fee of $25 to join and the weekly cost of the box. You can sign-up for weekly or bi-weekly. The McSwain site started out with 55 and as of today, we have 110 participants. The season has been extended to include the fall. The fall season begins September 8 and goes through October 27. It is a great way to support local farmers. Volunteers are needed for the month of August. Would like Advisory Council members to volunteer each Thursday from 2:30 – 6:00 pm to meet, greet and help customers with their produce boxes. See Susan after the meeting to volunteer.

Lee County Regional Fair - Tuesday, September 13 – Sunday, September 18, 2011 – Duties of the agents:

- Seth – Livestock, Goat, Rabbit Shows and also assist with the Poultry Competition
- Bill – Coordinate judges, Educational Booths, Goodness Grows, Rabbit and Dog Shows, Majesti 4-H Club performs a dance
- Brenda – Truck & Tractor Driving Competition, judges for horticulture exhibits, and help with MGV booth
- Susan – All agents assist the judges in the exhibit hall, coordinate volunteers, baking/cooking contest, all agents help with goat, livestock and rabbit shows, handling the money, diaper derby, work with the fair advisory committee, put the fair catalog together-Kay inputs information, formats, and sends to the Sanford Herald, secretaries create flyers for Extension events taking place, – main roll at the fair is agriculture.
- Dan – Poultry Competition, Livestock and Goat Shows

Plan of Work for 2012 – Susan Condlin - We write a Plan of Work each year for the county. It has been several years since a Community Assessment was done and we need to have one for 2012 – Will try to bring a list of concerns/issues in the county that you can look at in October. Will write our plan in December/January the county manager will sign-off, then the agents can complete their plan of action which will identify what they will be working on during the year. Sylvia Churchwell and Grace Lawrence have agreed to work with us on this process this year.
Agent Program Updates and Success Stories

Bill Stone – 4-H

- 4-H presentations have went well this year
- County Activity Day – 31 participated
- District Activity Day – had 23 Lee County participates
- State Activity Day – had 11 Lee County participates; 3 Gold winners, 1 Silver winner and 1 Bronze winner
- Seed to Feed – Various garden sites around the community, each one attended workshops on gardening, each site has agreed to donate 50% of the food grown to CUOC or Bread Basket – Going really well
- Summer Fun Day Camps – Good variety of events for kids
- Citizenship Focus – Took place in early June – 2 4-H kids from Lee County attended – 3 days extensive training in civic, local government and the democratic process. On the last day they took a trip to the legislative building

Seth Holt – Field Crops and Livestock

- It has been a hot and dry summer
- Visiting farmers in the field
- Been working on the Agent/Farmer Field Day that will be held in August
- Working on nematode trial
- Dealing with pond problems
- Pesticide Classes will be offered to private and commercial applicators in September
- Taught a pesticide class in Greensboro

Brenda Gwynn – Horticulture

- Graduated new Master Gardener Volunteer Class
- Busy with site visits, telephone calls, walk-in clients, and e-mails
- Taught a week of activities for the 4-H Summer Fun Program
- Participated in the East Sanford Block Party – Beautification/revitalization project held on Charlotte Avenue
- Held a Timber Talk Workshop in response to the tornado
- Gave a talk to Pfizer about poisonous plants and snakes
- Set traps at several fruit producing locations to see if the Spotted-Wing Drosophila has invaded Lee County - it showed up so now we are in the control phase

Dan Campeau – Poultry

- Townsend is closing their doors – root of the problem is the price of corn
- Caroline Sawyer in an intern from NCSU
- Poultry judging in the state
- Youth Dairy Show in Guilford County

County Extension Director’s Updates

- Budget Update
  - Note from Dr. Zublena – with state cuts and federal cuts we have permanently reverted 6.77 million dollars –
• 2011-2012 approved budget was $190,082, 2011-2012 requested budget was $195,118. After the budget was submitted we were told we would not receive the EIRC&D grant therefore our budget was reduced to $187,632

➢ Avron Upchurch was recently honored with 45 years of service to the Sanford Lions Club
➢ Plan and participate in the Lee Regional Fair but right behind the fair is our Farm-City Week. Mark the Monday before Thanksgiving, November 21, 2011 for the Farm-City Week Banquet.
➢ Held a ServSafe Class
➢ Has been involved with Bed Bug Training – Bed bugs are becoming an epidemic in this country – Serve on the NC Bed Bug Task Force
➢ Horn of Plenty – August 19 – Lee County will provide sweet potatoes. The staff will meet at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center Thursday, August 18 at 9:00 am to peel, cut up, and roast sweet potatoes. The Horn of Plenty will take place in Cabarrus County

Sam Buchanan, Forest Ranger for NC Forest Service, gave an update on the Ips Beetle that is invading pine trees in Lee County – the invasion is being brought on by the drought, over stressed mature trees or suppressed trees. As of August 1, the NC Forest Service will be under the Agriculture Department and no longer under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Concerns or Comments from Advisory Members - None

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Next meeting date: Thursday, October 27, 2011