

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting | Minutes

Meeting date | time 11/3/2020 3:00 PM | Meeting location *Virtual*

Facilitators: Arly Drake, Avery Davison

Notetaker: Cathy Tagg

Attendees: Pam Bennett, Jim Corbett, Evan Delk, Jonathan Lott, Blair McConkey, Sarah Sagraves, Lea Shafer, Janice Welsheimer, Hailey Williams, Kelly Wood

Clark State Attendees: Dr. Aimee Belanger-Haas, Lesli Beavers, Avery Davison, Dr. Arly Drake, Melody Gast, Amanda Honeycutt, Crystal Jones, Danielle Williams, Cathy Tagg

AGENDA TOPICS

Introductions and Updates: Arly Drake and Avery Davison

Introductions were made and Arly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C2A3 Update

- Community College Alliance for Agricultural Advancement
- Attended Virtual Conference September 21 & 22
- Working with state and local NRCS – Conservation Plans

SARE Grant Update

- Land Lab Presentation – Avery produced a YouTube video showing the work accomplished

NRCS Grant Update

- Honeysuckle removal
- Replacing with shrubs to see if it will keep honeysuckle from re-encroaching

Agriculture/Horticulture Program Update

- Working with local businesses
 - Springfield Museum of Art
 - Community Garden on Campus
- Online & Hybrid Courses
 - Spring 20 – completely online due to COVID-19
 - Fall 20 – offered both online and hybrid due to COVID-19,
 - Greater flexibility
 - Good exposure to various technology
 - Lacking Social Interaction
 - Internet and Technology issues – CARES Act monies helped students purchase laptops, etc.

Proposed Curriculum Changes

- Plant Biology
- Streamline some other courses
- Precision Ag

Comments:

- Plant Biology is definitely needed

- Precision Ag is good exposure for students
- Need more Irrigation Classes
- Production Ag – fundamental course in AG Business
- Accounting – build up on business and technology

Equipment: Are new hires or students proficient?

- Depends on background
- Hands on experience – a definite plus

Questions, Concerns & Suggestions

- How do we increase enrollment or attract new students?
 - Displaced population – people staying closer to home
- What is the forecast for employment after COVID-19?
 - Promotion from within
 - Changes in shift work – things more productive
 - Considered essential personnel in the industry
 - Continued growth – need more operators, landscapers, etc.
 - Vo-Ag instructors are key
 - OABA.net – Workforce – Available job openings
 - Futuresgrowhere.com – testimonials of job opportunities
- Marketing – Social Media
 - Promotion through YouTube videos
 - Do a series of videos with industry partners highlighting how they were NOT affected by COVID