

Minutes

Name: AGR Advisory Committee
Date: April 2, 2020
Time: N/A
Location: PowerPoint Presentation
Facilitators: Dr. Arly Drake

Recorder: Cathy Tagg

Attendees: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meetings were either held virtually or PowerPoint Presentations were sent to committee members.

Welcome and Introductions

- Arly Drake introduced herself and Avery Davison and presented their backgrounds.

Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement (C2A3):

- Clark State is a member of a consortium of community colleges that have ag programs across the Midwest.
- Goals: to conduct collaborative research, share educational materials and their expertise. They want to focus their efforts on soil health and have formed partnerships, including with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Grant Purchases:

- several new pieces of equipment including a new Case tractor.
- College has dedicated several acres for us to do work and use for class activities.

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Grant:

- Focus: Soil Health
- Corn followed by cover crops
 - Rye (cereal) is noted for its ability to prevent erosion, which in turn prevents phosphorus from moving off site.
 - Clover (crimson) improve water quality.
 - Radishes have rather thick root systems and can help to alleviate compaction.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Working with Clark State on the following initiatives:

Urban Farming - NRCS is working with Clark State in testing soil (land) that was used prior to being converted.

- Heavy Metals (lead paint)
- Use of high tunnels (structures covered in polyethylene)
 - Salt accumulation – Too much salt is problematic for plants. Usually not a problem if we get enough precipitation to flush them out. However, if the

ground is covered and we are using drip irrigation, salts might accumulate, and we will be measuring that as well.

- Length of Season – would like to find out how long the use of high tunnels can extend the growing season.

Honeysuckle - On Ohio's list of invasive species and is difficult to get rid of and keep out.

- Plan is to take out the honeysuckle at the periphery of our site
- Plant native pollinator plants
- Hoping to keep honeysuckle from re-encroaching and at the same time help our pollinating species

Field Day

- Part of both SARE and NRCS
- Late August – won't interfere with Farm Science Review and students will be back on campus and there will be things to look at and show
- Demonstration Plots and Trials
 - Fungicide applications and plant health
 - Alternative crops – Sorghum, barley, oats, hops

Land Lab

- Extremely Excited
 - Not entirely new to Clark State – one-hole golf course and landscaped areas around Shull Hall
- Hands-On for Students
- Equipment Training Area

Grow Opportunity

- Ohio legalized medical marijuana in 2016
- Ohio legalized hemp in 2019
- Increase in Student Interest
 - Meet with local operations – learn what their needs are from an educational perspective
- Develop a course specific to cannabis
 - Fits within existing Nursery Operations program

Online Course – COVID-19

- Advantages:
 - Students can do many things at leisure
 - Technology is incredible
 - Good learning opportunity
 - Kept us “open”
- Disadvantages:
 - Limited Student Access to labs
 - Internet for some was limited resulting in minor issues
 - Social Interaction - the experience is not as rich as it is face-to-face for some; students don't see their friends; not socializing before and after class.

Some of our courses could be moved fully online. However, our lab courses, which is most of them cannot would be a bit more difficult. We can provide materials and have equipment

that most people don't have lying around the house. These courses could potentially fit a hybrid model, where we could do lectures and the like online, but for the lab portions they come in to class. So, it is something we will continue to look at.

Proposed Curriculum Changes – Program Wide

Current – no change in these courses:

- Agriculture First Year Experience (FYE)
- Co-ops
- Capstone
- Ag Business Management

Proposed Changes

- Soil Science & Soil Fertility – do away with Soil Fertility but not information that is taught. Fertility can be built into other courses
- Plant Pests & Integrated Pest Management – prepares students for pesticide license exam and develop their own IPM plans.
 - More traditional: Weed Science, Plant Pathology, Plant Entomology. Three courses replace two. Weed Science is a 4-credit hour course. Plant Pathology and Plant Entomology are 2-credit hour courses.
- Landscape Maintenance & Landscape Construction – consider merge both classes into one course or reduce number of credit hours of landscape maintenance.
- Precision Ag+ – as it is now primarily just for precision ag majors. A lot of the technology that is used in precision ag can be and is used in other areas.
- Introduction to Plant Science – new course - most adamant about. A lot of foundational knowledge and terms are taught and necessary for all other plant courses.
- Effect on students varies by major. Some will be more affected than others
- Need to ensure smooth transitions
- Goal for implemented changes: Fall 2021