

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service
Bamberg County Advisory Committee

February 7, 2008

12:00 Noon

Members Present:

Earline Williams
Azalee Varn
Rhonda Mixon
Kelli Brown
Andrew Carter
Princetta Jones
Heather Ulmer

Pauletta Plowden
Shana Seawright
Terry Lynn Carter
Rena Copeland
Kevin Sease
Henry H. Herndon

Staff Present:

Joe Varn
Shannon Herndon

Christine Patrick
Karen Barr

Joe Varn welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and taking time out of their busy schedules to attend. Joe Varn gave the Invocation and the meal was served.

Again, Joe Varn thanked everyone for attending and asked everyone to introduce themselves and their place of employment.

Joe Varn stated that we would like to get input from the ones using Extension and asked them how we can become more visible in the community? We have people coming in that do not realize that we do not charge for our services, stating they have never heard about Extension and exactly what do we do. The following question was asked: How do you know about Extension?

Heather Ulmer stated from mailings that she receives from Shannon Herndon about 4H. Andrew Carter stated that he grew up hearing about Extensions. Rena Copeland stated that families that are involved with agriculture know about Extension

and also someone telling others about where to go with yard problems. Rhonda Mixon stated that she grew up in 4H along with others.

Joe asked the committee, How many of you see the articles in the newspaper?

What are some suggestions that are cost effective and how to get the word out more? Shannon's programs are advertized by newspaper and newsletters

Heather Ulmer suggested for Shannon Herndon to come to Teacher workdays and explain the different opportunities and also FCS could benefit from coming to the Teacher workdays. Let everyone know about Babysitters, Sewing Classes and what is available at all levels. Heather stated that she thinks that getting back in the schools would be a wonderful opportunity.

Andrew Carter stated that his son, Andy, got the opportunity to take a baby home. These types of school programs are involved with the school program like Babysitters would be great. Maybe Shannon could let the FCS Teacher know about different programs that she has available and they could work out something together. The Family and Consumer Classes meet daily. Shannon said she would talk about the different resources she had but the only problem was when she gave them the resources, they seem to forget where they received the information (4H). She is worried that they will not tie 4H into their lessons.

A good resource was when Shannon did the posters in the schools and put pictures with different projects on them. These posters did create an awareness of 4H but did not receive any calls or contacts asking questions.

Heather Ulmer suggested using the posters at Open House not only for 4H but also FCS and Agriculture. Maybe set up a table with available resources.

Rena Copeland suggested a 3 to 5 minute presentation that any class age of youth could watch and connect with Clemson. Farm Bureau's main goal with the Youth Conference was to expose youth to college. Maybe having Juniors and Seniors exposed to some type of program would show them why they need to further their education. Laurie Copeland took a young person to a college football game and now because of what little bit of college life he saw made him interested enough to want to go to college. She suggested videos about Clemson that could be presented anywhere and anytime.

Shannon stated that she has mailed out information about the Youth Day that Clemson has hosted for the last 2 years. We have have a few to take advantage of going.

Andrew Carter stated that his son went to Clemson for a tour and his tour guide did not realize that Clemson was an agricultural college. Andrew stated that the guides need to know why Clemson has their own eggs, beef, swine, milk, etc. Shannon Herndon stated that if Senior 4H'ers attended State Congress they would experience college life by sleeping in the dorms and going around Campus.

Shannon Herndon asked the committee, how can we make Extension more visible not just 4H?

Rena Copeland stated that by putting up Home and Garden Brochures in several different locations, like ACE Hardware and G&G Milling. Could you put up a display with 8 to 10 different brochures and in several weeks check and see if any have been picked up or even change them around. Also, put the contact number, agents and hours of the office. She knows that some of the reasons maybe is because agents now are responsible for more than one county.

Andrew Carter stated that we need to advertize the Home and Garden Info Center more and there telephone numbers.

Kevin Sease stated that he would like to see the 4H Signs be put out in the county. Shannon Herndon stated that there was a problem with the website sign. Also, Kevin gave an update on the Shooting Sports Team that meets at the Web Center. He stated that we have participants coming from Georgia.

Shannon Herndon asked how many use the Clemson Website. We do not have a county website. Terry Lynn Carter stated that they did visit the Clemson website and obtained Fish Pond Information. The committee stated that if we had a County Web site then we could put our local programs on that site. If we had a local website, we could post our programs. Heather Ulmer stated that all the schools have websites, why can we not put a 4H Logo on there and click on it and it will bring up the local website for programs that are upcoming.

The committee asked why the local paper did not cover the different events. They also wanted to know why they do not put in pictures. They stated that everyone likes seeing their children, grandchildren, etc. in the paper. There is a 4H Benefit Horse Show on Saturday, February 9, why can't the paper come. Rena Copeland stated that maybe we should start calling the paper and complaining that the different events are not getting coverage.

Rena Copeland suggested that we put displays in Business on general information and place them in banks and on the tables. Heather Ulmer suggested printing a flier and asking local grocery stores to place them in the bags like they do sale papers.

Joe Varn stated that he likes to keep his word and he knows that everyone needs to get back to work, so he again thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned.

The individual Program Committee Meetings met.