South Carolina Sustainable Agriculture
Research and Education (SC SARE) Program

OPEN FORUM AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, January 29, 2011
Sandhill Research and Education Center
Columbia, SC

MEETING NOTES

Review of 2011 Accomplishments:
Geoff Zehnder gave an overview of Sustainable Agriculture Program activities and accomplishments. Powerpoint presentation available at: [http://www.clemson.edu/sustainableag/about.html#planning](http://www.clemson.edu/sustainableag/about.html#planning)

Advisory Committee member present:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Nichols</td>
<td>CU SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRGM</td>
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<td>Ann English</td>
<td>USDA-NRCS</td>
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<td>Dan Parson</td>
<td>FARMER</td>
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<td>Dave Lamie</td>
<td>CU EXTENSION</td>
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<td>David Robb</td>
<td>CU MASTERS PRGM</td>
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<td>Evelyn Whitesides</td>
<td>NRCS</td>
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<td>Fred Broughton</td>
<td>SCDA</td>
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<td>Geoff Zehnder</td>
<td>CU SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRGM</td>
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<td>Grady Sampson</td>
<td>CU EXTENSION</td>
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<td>Karen McSwain</td>
<td>CFSA</td>
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<td>Kelly Gilkerson</td>
<td>CU SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRGM</td>
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<td>Kevin Campbell</td>
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<td>Mark Nettles</td>
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<td>Nikki Siebert</td>
<td>LOWCOUNTRY LF</td>
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<td>Roland McReynolds</td>
<td>CFSA</td>
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<td>Scott Park</td>
<td>G’VILLE CNTY PLAN</td>
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<td>Shawn Jadrnicek</td>
<td>CU OG. FARM</td>
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<td>Walker Miller</td>
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<td>Weatherly Thomas</td>
<td>REGIONAL F2S COORD</td>
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Open Discussion
CFSA is developing a Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) food safety training program and food safety manual for small farms that will walk growers through the GAPs audit process.

Other needs related to GAPs that were identified include:
- Research to develop GAPs strategies for small, sustainable farms
- Need to integrate GAPs with organic farming practices
- Develop self-audit tools for small farms
- Need to coordinate statewide GAPs training efforts (Clemson, SCDA, etc)

There is a need to coordinate state regulatory agency activities to make it easier for milk and cheese producers to obtain the necessary approvals for production and sales of these products (i.e., DHEC and SCDA have regulatory responsibility for milk and cheese, respectively). It was recommended that this issue be brought to the attention of the state Interagency Food Safety Council at one of their quarterly meetings.

There is a need to identify regulatory barriers for small-scale poultry production, and then to communicate needs to state legislators. For example, North Carolina legislators raised the maximum 1,000 bird limit to 20,000 birds (exempt from regulation). It was recommended that this topic be covered in a panel discussion at the upcoming CFSA Conference.

There is a need for research on sustainable pasture management for livestock, including research on parasite management and mob grazing. Kentucky State University has done research on small ruminant grazing including on specific cover crops to
manage parasites. Kevin Campbell mentioned his Grass Masters Class to be held in Aiken in March that will cover some if not all of these topics. Chad Bishop mentioned a need to identify livestock producers who can raise calves for other pasture livestock producers who can finish the livestock for processing.

There is a need for local resources of non-GMO feed for livestock producers, including more information on non-traditional grains that were used before corn and soybeans became the primary feedstocks.

Water was identified as a limiting resource for sustainable agriculture, along with a need to involve farmers in water use reporting. Cal Sawyer with the Clemson Center for Watershed Excellence was mentioned as a resource on water issues.

There is a need to help farmers interpret soil test results to implement sustainable soil and fertility management programs.

There is a need to train farmers in produce quality standards and packaging, particularly for wholesale markets.

There is a need for perennial and small fruit pest management research and training programs. Specifically, helping farmers develop strategies to avoid pest problems before they occur. Also a need to develop and evaluate organic pesticides.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Gilkerson
February 20, 2012
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Advisory Committee Meeting to Prioritize Areas for Training

AC members present:

The following topics were identified as priorities for training:

**GAPs.** Helping farmers develop food safety plans. Several groups have done/are doing GAPs training including Clemson (Sustainable Ag Program and Roger Francis) and SCDA (Fred Broughton is coordinating a Food Safety Education program). There is a need to coordinate efforts.

**Regulatory Agency Workshop.** Include Clemson Animal and Poultry Health, SCDA and DHEC. Organize a panel discussion in conjunction with the CFSA Conference.

**Pest Management for Perennial Fruit Crops.** Involve regional pest management experts (i.e. Curt Rohm from Arkansas).

**Workshop on Organic Pesticides.** Include information on pesticide applicator training and sprayer equipment. Include Clemson Dept. of Plant Industry regulatory personnel.

**Sustainable Livestock Production**
- Grass Masters Class; Kevin Campbell can organize additional classes with support from the program. Matthew Burns and Lee Van Vlake with Clemson Extension are potential instructors on sustainable cattle management and goat production, respectively.
- Training in Soil Ecology with NRCS instructors

**Organic/non-GMO Grain Production** (Chris Reeburg-Horton with NCSU is a potential instructor)

**Soil and Water Quality.** Helping growers to interpret soil test results for sustainable/organic soil quality management. Dara Park with Clemson is a potential instructor.

**On-Farm Energy Training for NRCS and Extension Personnel.** NRCS does energy audits. Harry Crissy with Clemson is a trained auditor.

Following discussion, committee members voted for three priority areas with the following results:

**7 Votes:** Development of a coordinated approach to GAPs training. Fred Broughton indicated that he would organize a meeting/conference call with people currently involved in GAPs training to develop a plan to coordinate efforts (i.e. identify specific needs related to GAPs and groups/individuals best suited to conduct the training).

**5 Votes:** Training on how to interpret soil test results in order to develop a sustainable/organic soil and fertility management plan.

**5 Votes:** Effective produce marketing and packaging strategies.

**3 Votes:** Sustainable/organic pest management for perennial fruit crops.

**3 Votes:** Training for Extension on the broader concepts of sustainability to help them better communicate with farmers.

**3 Votes:** Organize additional Grass Masters classes (Kevin Campbell).

**3 Votes:** On-farm energy efficiency.

**2 Votes:** Organic grain production.