

**North Carolina Association of Cooperative Extension Specialist
2015 Fall Meeting
November 5, 9:30am – 11:30am
512 Brickhaven Drive, Room 203, NC State University**

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: Eduardo Gutierrez, Ben Silliman, Chris Gunter, Jackie Miller, Nicole Huff, Joanna Lelekacs, Mark Megalos, Robert Bardon, Jessica Knight, Hannah Barrack, Gary Moore, James Jeuck, Sanjun Gu, John Beck, Juana Hernandez, Cintia Aguilar, Shannon McCollum, Sarah Kotizan, Larry Hancock, Dara Bloom, Andrew Behnke, Rich McLaughlin, Julia Storm, Rhonda Conlon, David Green, Susan Jakes, Misty Terry (minutes)

Several committees are seeking members for 2016. Please sign up online for one of the following committees: Program committee, recognition and awards committee, professional affairs committee, nominating committee, professional improvement committee, projects and by laws committees. Descriptions of the committee are included in the linked Google Doc.

We still need chairs identified for the Projects Committee, Nominating Committee, and Professional Affairs Committee.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VQGRbfkH8AnSfn3XiWGGyIX4vPsUlwljpmfQyW225nl/edit?usp=sharing>

Administrative Updates

Travis Burke – update for extension

- Strategic plan – into 2nd year, on track, 50+ positions have been filled in the counties. Campus is filling specialist positions as well. Program teams will be an important part of strategic plan. Didn't get a big cut this year – in process of working through it. Everyone will receive a one-time \$750 bonus. May be able to do some additional merit increases- campus and county.
- Conference in December – stressing that specialists interact with field faculty
- Demographics has changed a lot in the last ten years
- Please plan to participate in trainings during the state conference
- Connect NC bond referendum – twelve member committee for new engineering facility and plant cycle facility. All are getting infrastructure funds.

Tom Melton – update program team

- Program teams – local foods and animal systems will meet at state conference. Local foods will be finalized next week (membership); food preparation and preservation – Mike Yoder sent invites for program team membership, may meet at conference; Plant Sciences – chair has been named
- McKimmon Center is handling registration for the state conference
- Everyone is paying but it will be reimbursed, covers hotel and meals

- Will decide early next week which workshops have been chosen of the 75 submitted for state conference
- There will be many opportunities at the state conference in organization development and IT, gmo's and biotech training and workshops. Three concurrent sessions on biotech and gmo's – Syngenta registration, resources on gmo's, Scott Marlow from RAFI will present resources as well.

Sheri Schwab – specialized agents

- Alex Ching – Because I said I Would – opening speaker. Chancellor will be presenting on Tuesday afternoon. Tuesday is social, Federation is Thursday morning.
- Specialized agents – can provide additional technical support in the county – will have joint appointment between county and departments.
- First new specialized agent – Margaret Ross in poultry is in Southeastern part of the state, grain/crops – Mathew Tillery- in January in Eastern region; forestry – reviewing posting, dairy- starting in December – Brent Buchannon, fruits/vegetables – interviews will be held on 16th and 19th; greenhouse team – interviews next week – trying to secure state vehicles- none available at this time.

General questions/concerns

- Motor fleet is not assigning new vehicles to anyone. They are replacing old vehicles but no new vehicle requests.
- Cars must meet minimum mileage
- Communications committee – help improve communications, can be a resource to agents

FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) – Drs. Chris Gunter and Eduardo Gutierrez-Rodriguez

FDA food safety modernization Act update – review presentation here: <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2015-NCACES-Slide-Set-Gunter-Gutierrez-FSMA-11-3-2015.pdf>

- Scheduled release on or before 10/31
- At least one person per farm is responsible for food safety – must be trained
- Need a standardized curriculum
- USDA has approved a curriculum
- Compliance is based on farm size
- Smaller farms have longer to get compliant
- Larger farms have until 2017 to become compliant
- 3000 NC farms will be impacted
- Safety of water on farms is most costly for farmers
- Commodity based trainings, volume/business size based training and risk based training are being discussed
- Training options – baseline training for growers; other optional, specialized or commodity specific trainings for growers, good optional agricultural practices (GAP's global GAPS, harmonized GAPS), NCSU optional, fresh produce safety certificate program.
- Delivering training – tiered approach, team based training, coordinated efforts with fresh produce task force
- On farm readiness reviews
Goal: food safety concepts introduced in classroom to be brought back to farm – to make sure farmers are ready for the review.

Provides a process for assessing current on farm practices against concepts

- Funding – this is an unfunded mandate
- Online training is being discussed – USDA is open to it, concern is –how will the lead instructor evaluate competency? There are concerns about cheating. \$75 for certificate/diploma – must be signed by FDA

Regulatory Requirements

- Produce rule – at least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by FDA
- Prevention control – to be qualified, individual must have successfully completed training in the development and application of risk-based preventative controls
- 3 day training – produce and preventative controls processing and some farms have to comply in both areas
- PSA Grower training curriculum – 7 modules, 8 hours; cost \$75 for materials plus trainer costs (\$150 – 200)
- Water is going to be difficult to comply with, farms will get extra 2 years to get water in compliance
- Possibly host a regional train the trainers in Kannapolis, as well as grower trainings

Task force – Chris Daubert, NCSU FBNS and John Dole, NCSU Hort

Specialized agents – 8 approved positions,

Several questions remain:

- Where should priorities be for training large farms, a certain commodity type, and geographic region?
- Would commodity groups be a resource?
- Several training questions related to logistics (course length and optimal class size), costs and possible cost shares, train the trainer event in Kannapolis in November, training once per month, etc.
- Eduardo will send out websites and info

Recognition of NCACES Outstanding Extension Service Award Recipients

Review all three presentations here: <https://ncaces.ces.ncsu.edu/ncaces-awards/past-award-recipients/>

Dr. Burrack – Applied Insect Ecology and Management Program in Field and Horticulture Crops

- Spotted wing drosophila (SWD)
- Invasive and extremely significant at damaging crops and very good at reproduction and colonizing
- Generation time in 10-15 days
- Maggots in fruit is the problem
- Very difficult to tell if the fruit is infested until you open it up
- We are not sure how it affects our bodies
- Markets are rejecting – 0 tolerance started seeing it in us (CA) in 2000 detected
- Limited effective chemical management tools non chemical tools have unclear benefits and are potentially costly
- If left unmanaged, SWD infestation will spread throughout entire crops
- Very small suite of tools to help fight SWD

- In 2010 established a network (3 states) to detect the movement of the insect into our area was established. The network expanded to 12 states by 2012
- Large scale farm field experiments are being conducted –determination of host preference and off spring, Measuring infestation patterns over space and time, Coordination of multi-state impact assessment and development of monitoring tool
- Information sharing – agents, developed management guides and fact sheets, hands on stakeholder training, field days, twilight tours, and winter meets, 4000 direct contacts w/stakeholders, online delivery methods

Next Steps – sustainable SWD program

- Project goals - reduce reliance on infection
- Project objectives (1)implement and evaluate SWD management program, (2)develop tactics and tools that predict SWD risks, (3)optimize SWD management program - center of the program is on farm research;
- Project outputs- regional and crop appropriate SWD programs that minimize insecticide use, Interactive decision aids that help growers predict SWD populations, minimize insecticide use, resistance risk and plan management programs, educational products

Sarah Blacklin – Women working in the meat business

- 2.5 day training, 35 women professionals in meat business, help women with perceived barriers in meat business
- The need arose from a Carolina meat conference discussion
- Started by hosting workshops – Since conception(5 years), # of farmers selling meat in marketplace has doubled,
- 50% are operating profitably currently – need for training
- Participants – farmers, prospects, processors, chefs, food professionals , and meat buyers
- Training on (1)business profitability, (2)selling local meat (a somewhat new concept), (3)whole carcass pricing, (4)improving knife skills; hands on training with lots of conversation among participants, (5)cut sheet trial and error, (6)cooking, texture, tenderness, taste- best practices from professionals in industry
- Outcomes – 100% increase, 100% have recommended it to a friend, during last five years, 20% increase in female attendees
- Most popular topics – pricing and business focus, hands on learning, professional networks, impacts- speak up
- Several new businesses have resulted from the program

Dr. Andrew Behnke, Cintia Aguilar, and Juana Hernandez - The Juntos Program

- Started in 2007 at NCSU with the family engagement workshops curriculum
- Responds to the need to unify schools, family and community efforts
- Program helps youth and parents gain knowledge and skills about college life

Components

- 1) Parent/family involvement – 6 week workshops and ongoing family night
- 2) Afterschool 4-H clubs
- 3) Success coaching and mentoring – 1 per month, bi-monthly if necessary
- 4) Summer programming

Juntos – means together- academics success has to be done as a common effort it's a family engagement program

Seven grant funded sites and eight counties in a contract (not funded)

- Working on copyrights for Juntos program
- Working with partners who contract with them based on the program copyright
- Nationally known – IA, OK, OR, NY and TX have contracts
- Successes – 100% increased grades, 90% improved attendance and desire college, 20% increased GPA, 33% increase in youth taking SAT or ACT, 90% feel like they now belong in school

Other Business

- Please sign up for standing committees
- Federation Forum – opportunity for us to learn about other associations/organizations. December 10 in the morning 10:15 – 11:45 am for a general meeting and meeting will continue by invitation through lunch. Each association will send ten delegates to lunch.
- Galaxy is in Wilmington, NC in 2017
- Federation Forum – all of the associations

Next meeting – Professional Improvement

- Need more people to help identify areas for improvement
- Next rotation is to provide a volunteer to help with Federation website
- Bylaws will be voted on in February
- Expectations for specialists in tenure track position - Need volunteers to work with this group
- Extension publication information is in the works