

Beef Advisory Council Minutes

Hammond Research Station

April 7, 2009

Present: Dale Cambre, Dick Covington, Amelia Levin, Mike Jones and Kenneth Sharpe

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. All members introduced themselves and gave a brief background about their involvement in the beef industry.

The purpose of the meeting was described to council members as an opportunity to get local input into extension programming. Members were encouraged to express the problems that they saw in the industry and areas that extension could assist with educational programs.

Situation: Kenneth Sharpe has full extension responsibilities for Livingston Parish and additionally he assist in Tangipahoa and St. Tammany Parishes with beef cattle.

Livingston Parish: 275 beef producers with 7100 cows with a gross farm income of \$3.58M.

St. Tammany has 100 beef producers with 5345 cows with a gross farm income of \$2.9M.

Tangipahoa has 474 producers with 18,102 cows with a gross farm income of \$9.1M.

Minutes were approved as mailed out.

Old Business: Report of the first Florida Parishes Beef Improvement Select Heifer Sale. The sale was a suggestion through this advisory committee. Conducted their first sale in November 2008. Sold 55 heifers, 46 bred for an average of \$1075 and 9 open for an average of \$760. The group plans to hold another sale in Nov 2009. Another initiative from last year was marketing alternatives. Sharpe assisted an alliance to get 743 calves Age and Source Verified. Those cattle brought a premium of \$9,362.

New Business: The group discussed the potential for beef cattle industry within the region in light of market forces, real estate values and suburban sprawl.

Other needs and concerns the group saw in the beef industry included:

Suburban sprawl

Need to attract more youth into beef industry, maybe through apprentices type programs

There is a lack of large animal vets to service the beef industry

Would like to have palpation clinic to teach beef producers

Need more places to slaughter cattle for sale, most slaughter plants are custom only and cannot be used in direct sales.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.