

Multi-Parish Beef Advisory Council Minutes
Hammond Research Station
May 4, 2006
7:00 pm

Attending: David Hoover, Lennie Wales, Cindy Lester, Rick Lester, Hank Schumacher, Pierre Livaudais, Kenny Sharpe.

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made and the purpose of the meeting was explained. The advisory council is a method to get beef producers and person with interest in beef involved in the process of beef educational programming for Livingston, Tangipahoa and St. Tammany parishes. It is the role of Advisory Council Members active in providing direction for the Extension programming by identifying and prioritizing the needs of the people in the beef industry and assisting extension faculty in implementing and evaluating educational programs designed to meet those needs.

Members reviewed 2005 Ag Summary data for the 3 parishes to see the scope of the beef industry in each parish. Livingston has 300 producers, 7500 cows and a gross farm value of \$4.2 M. Tangipahoa has 474 producers, 18,012 cows and gross farm value of \$9.7 M. St. Tammany has 108 producers, 5,800 cows and a gross farm value of \$3.3M.

Past and current programming efforts were recapped. Programming included newsletters, field days, demonstrations, master cattle producers classes, master farmer, BQA, farm visits and phone consultations. Participates really seemed to like the Chewing the Cud quarterly newsletter and the electronic updates.

Council members discussed needs and problems they saw in the beef industry. Those included:

- Minerals – the benefits of and the addition of fly control
- National Animal and Premise ID
- Joint Beef Meeting Include all 3 parishes
- Injection Site Demonstration
- Grasslands Initiatives
- Urbanization – how to deal with neighbors and protecting agricultural lands
- Safe Handling of Cattle
- Website for Marketing Animals
- Florida Parishes F-1 Association
- Using EPD's to buy better bulls
- Using Gene Star technology to select beef for tenderness
- Ultra Sound Demonstration and Application
- Importance of quality calves as national identification links them back to owner
- Market Alliance – the benefits
- Control grazing – the benefits and programs available to help producers get started
- Palpating Cows for pregnancy
- In State Beef Tour

Council members were asked to prioritize program needs and suggest delivery methods.

The group said that they thought that the *Chewing the Cud* newsletter was a good delivery method for information and should be continued. They decided that they wanted to hold a joint meeting of Livingston, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa beef producers in the spring of 2007. They believed that the Fall should be left for parish Cattlemen's Association business meeting and elections of officers. At the spring meeting it was felt that the Topics should include National Animal Id updates and Premise ID. Also would like to hear more on using EPD's and how to ready data and interrupt data from various breeds of cattle since all seem to be different.

Other items of priority were looking into the possibility of having a website within the state for selling animals online.

Members also wanted to send out a letter of inquiry to see if there was enough interest in putting together a Florida Parishes F-1 heifer sale. The group thought there was a void in this area of those cattle available at one place for purchase. It also was thought that if we could not get 80 – 100 together that it would not be worth the time and would not draw enough people into a sale.

It was brought up that an in-state tour may be a good educational opportunity, but we would discuss this at our next meeting.

Several members expressed a need for the Master Farmer model farm to provide them with the requirement to fulfill their Master Farmer requirements. That will be passed on.

Members wanted said they would talk with their parishes about the spring of 2007 joint meeting and come back to make plans and see what progress has been made and look at prioritizing our program needs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.