

Minutes Franklin Parish ANR Advisory Leadership Council

The Franklin Parish ANR Row Crop Advisory Leadership Council met at the Scott Center on February 5, 2025, at 12 noon. Present were Melanie Beavers, Randy Braswell, Johnathon Campbell, Roy Eley, Michael Liles, Mark Moroni, and Drew Wiggers. Jarred Casiday and Dustin Wright were absent. James Villegas, LSU AgCenter Extension Entomologist and Railey Cruse, Extension Agent-ANR Catahoula Parish also attended. Carol Pinnell-Alison, Extension Agent-ANR Franklin Parish served as the facilitator.

The committee members were introduced. The role of the council was reviewed. Several publications were shared including minutes from the 2024 advisory meeting.

The members were asked to give input on educational program areas that needed to be addressed by the LSU AgCenter in the parish or statewide. A survey with various production practices for ranking was used to start the discussion process. The committee identified the top five issues. There were many other production practices that were considered important as noted in the survey. The overall discussion centered around having three bad cropping years in a row related to weather issues and low commodity prices in relation to high input costs.

- Continue to conduct on-farm variety demonstrations on producer farms and Official Variety Trials on Research Stations.

- Row crop fertilizer recommendations related to when to take soil samples, timing of applications, fertilizer rates and starter fertilizers.

- Weed, insect and disease pest management practices.

- Information on improving irrigation water efficiency, salt mitigation, and water regulations that may be emerging.

- Row spacing by planting date to optimize yield.

There was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

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