

Beef Advisory Council Minutes

Hammond Research Station

March 6, 2008

Attending: Dale Cambre, John Curtis, Lennie Wales, Danny Tongel, Amelia Levin, Gene Strother, Dick Covington, Kenneth Sharpe

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. All members introduced themselves and told about their relationship to the beef industry.

The **purpose of the advisory council** was described as a way to get user input into extension programming. Members were encouraged to express problems and concerns of their own and their peers and make suggestions for programming from their vantage point.

Situation of Livingston, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa animal agriculture was present from 2006 Ag Summary. Livingston has 300 producers and 7500 cows with a value of \$4.2M, St. Tammany has 108 producers with 5,500 cows for a value of \$3.3M, and Tangipahoa has 475 producers with 18,122 cows for a value of \$10.2M. In addition the other pertinent facts pointed out were high cost of fertilizer - \$560/ ton of urea, diesel at \$3.80/gal, and high feed cost. Commodity prices for today for March delivery were: Corn \$5.59, Soybeans \$14.01, Wheat \$11.90 and cotton 81.15.

The group noted that with such high input cost it would be difficult to make any money and even potentially stay in the business.

Minutes were approved as sent out.

Old Business

Multi-parish field day was held at Bob Jones Idlewild Research station on May 12, 2007. Dr. Navarre spoke on Preconditioning and Premise ID. Dr. Guidry gave the economic value of preconditioning in light of high corn prices. Dr. Rowntree gave an overview of his rotational grazing vs continuous grazing study. Dr. Sanders put out a thistle control demonstration plot for the producers to view.

Replacement Heifer Sale- Group has met and incorporated as Florida Parishes Beef Improvement Association. The group made inquiries to see if they could get enough heifers together for a Spring 2008 sale but decide to wait another year and get better organized. The group will be meeting within the next month.

There was a list of **previous programming efforts** provided to council members. Included were: quarterly news letters, electronic updates, field days, parish cattlemen's meetings, demonstrations- ryegrass varieties, herbicides, farm pond clearings, fire ant control, MCP, Master Farmer, pesticide

recertification, and farm visits. Statewide we have calf to carcass, bull forage testing, reproductive series, nutrition series, anaplasmosis via distance ed and heifer development.

New Business

The group discussed **needs** within the beef industry:

Palpation / Artificial Insemination School

BQA certification and recertification

Lack of slaughter facilities to kill under federal inspection for niche market sales

Could look at markets for grass fed beef to cut out high cost of grain feeding

Look at other marketing alternatives

Look at management practices in light of high fertilizer cost to reduce input cost.

Like Field Days – like seeing management practices in place

Like Tours – start with in state tour of innovative beef facilities or management practices – maybe 1 night and 2 days. Then go for out of state tour.

Grazing land workshops and pasture workshops are good.

Passed out a handout on upcoming **Calf to Carcass trip** for anyone still interested in attending there are still a few seats left on the bus.

Discussed that Dr. Navarre and Dr. Luther will be making a presentation via distance ed on Monday, March 17, 2008 on **Anaplasmosis and using the vaccine**.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.