

Beef Advisory Council Minutes  
Hammond Research Station  
March 6, 2007

Attending: Dale Cambre, Lennie Wales, David Hoover, Carl Higginbotham, Russell Fitzmorris, Hank Schumacher, Annie Coco, Peter Cannizzaro, Tim Page, Kenneth Sharpe

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. All participants were welcome and introduced. Members told the group about their beef operations and parish affiliations.

**The purpose of the advisory council** was described as a way for users to have input into the beef educational programs that are conducted. Members should raise their concerns and express problems they encounter and see other encounter in the business. It is the intention of the meeting to focus educational programs on the needs of the producers.

**Situational statements** of Livingston, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa animal agriculture were passed out. Livingston has 330 beef producers and 7500 cows with a gross farm value in 2006 of \$4M. St. Tammany has 108 beef producers and 5500 cows for a value of \$3.2M. Tangipahoa has 475 producers and 18,122 cows for a value of \$9.8M.

**Minutes** were adopted as sent out.

#### OLD BUSINESS REPORT

**Joint meeting** – at the request of the council there will be a joint meeting of all the parishes and we have partnered with Dr. Devillier and Dr. Rowntree to host a really nice field day at Idlewilde Experiment Station on May 12, 2007 at 9:00 am. We will have Dr. Navarre speak on Preconditioning and Premise ID. Dr. Kurt Guidry will give us the economic value of preconditioning in light of current corn prices. We will view a rotational grazing vs continuous grazing study by Dr. Rowntree and pasture thistle weed control demonstration put out by Dr. Sanders. Lunch will be provided.

**Website** – it was requested that we look into an electronic site for selling cattle in Louisiana. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture has put their Louisiana Market Bulletin online and cattle can be sold there at no cost to the producer. The web address is <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/divisions/marketing/marketbulletin/on-line-issues.asp> .

**Replacement Heifer Sale** – there had been a request to look into the possibility of having a replacement female sale in the Florida Parishes. The committee felt there was a void of quality replacement females for sale in the region. There was a mail survey of producers conducted to determine interest. There were a number of responses and 60 -70 potential females offered depending on the parameters of a sale. The committee felt that we should continue to pursue the possibility and look at having an organizational meeting to further explore the possibility. The major issues to consider would be if the sale would be a fall or spring sale. Open or bred heifers. Selecting a location, which the committee

has a preference for the Amite Livestock Facility. There will be a meeting this spring of all interested parties to explore the options.

**Master Cattle Producer Model Farm** –last year the advisory committee had expressed displeasure over the lack of a Model Farm for the graduates of the Master Cattle Producer program to go to complete that part of their Master Farmer training. Sharpe worked with the Master Farmer coordinator on the state level and the Model Farm was set up at Hank Schumacher's and the field day was held on November 3, 2006 with approximately 56 attending.

## NEW BUSINESS

The advisory council listed **major concerns** facing beef producers

1. Urbanization and suburban sprawl
2. Marketing Cattle
3. Inability to get cattle pregnancy checked
4. High corn prices
5. High nitrogen cost
6. How horse slaughter issue might adversely affect beef markets

Advisory council suggested **possible educational programs** to address concerns:

1. Make producers aware of marketing alliance advantages through personal testimonies of producers and organizers of marketing alliances.
2. Hold Farm Safety Programs for youth and producers.
  - a. For tractors
  - b. ATV's
  - c. Balers
  - d. Cattle Handling
3. Educate the public about the value of Agriculture/Beef much like the old Farm City Week program. Invite a civic group and media to an agricultural enterprise.
4. Conduct a palpation class for producers in conjunction with an AI school.
5. Continue to pursue a Replacement Female Sale for the Florida Parishes if we can get at least 100 offered for sale.

Producers said they like the Beef Newsletter as a good delivery of educational information. They also like the field days and getting to see the actual demonstrations.

Dr. Page made the advisory council aware of the Calf to Carcass program and invited the committee to join the upcoming trip to see the calves in the feed lots in Oklahoma and various other stop on the way and back. He also told producers about the Forage Bull testing project and made producers aware to our intent to be able to offer ultra sounding in the near future. He also told producers that work was being conducted on revising the Master Cattle Producer curriculum and making it available on DVD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

