

# Eastern Region County Director's Meeting

August 26 & 29, 2005

via Centra

## 1. Agriculture Programs Update

- Interviewing for Wildlife specialist  
TWRA funded -  
Take over shooting sports  
Housed in Jackson, TN

***In process. New candidate will not take over Tom Hill's duties***

- Fee-based programs  
Offer Continuing Education programs  
Example - So You Want to Buy a Horse  
- 2 hour night program  
- Bradley & Hamilton - targeted urban counties
- Agro-security  
How many have received their credentialing badges?

***Good response. Will check on those few not received.***

- 2006 proposed in-service training topics  
2006  
Goal - have inservice training in on-line database by October 1  
Topics  
Value-added agriculture  
Fruit & vegetable - ***No one hired yet to replace Alan Straw***  
Row crop technology  
Master Beef Producer - ***Contact Dr. Neel to express need and attendees***  
Proposed inservice topics  
Agro-security - *In process*  
Weed & disease hands-on seminar - ***Involves row crops. Some want horticulture.***  
Market outlook - ***Will be done regionally***  
Pesticide safety education program - ***Will check on possible charge for training to***

***others and certification***

- Developing Rural Business – DRB  
Center for Profitable Agriculture - Ben Sanders (***New Area Specialist***)  
Eligible  
Farmers & value-added entrepreneurs  
19 total counties  
Eastern Region counties - Campbell, Claiborne, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger,  
Hancock, Morgan, Scott & Union

## 2. Family and Consumer Sciences Update

***Linda talked on success of Judging events at Appalachian Fair***

- Tennessee Valley Fair  
FCE Day  
Tuesday, September 13  
Register at Kerr Building
- FCE Conference in Crossville  
September 14 & 15 at Clyde York 4-H Center in Crossville  
Cultural Arts exhibit  
Registration materials on Eastern Region FCS website
- Girl Talk Inservice - ***Led by Judy Berryhill***  
Thursday, September 29 in room 166 Ag. Engineering  
Bring a program partner - health educator, health services professional if possible

***Anyone can register. Don't have to go if already trained.***

- Heritage Skills  
October 3 - 5 at Clyde York 4-H Center in Crossville  
Registration materials on Eastern Region FCS website
- Hercules equipment - ***No longer have this grant money.***  
Purchased with Hercules funds  
First priority is poison education  
Second priority is FCS programming  
Other programs may use equipment if not needed by FCS program
- Expectations for Individual Action Agendas  
Given to each agent at FCS Professional Development Conference

## 3. FCS Expectations

PowerPoint presentation. ***Go to website to view***

***You can use curricula for adult audiences. Implement curricula as designed.***

## 4. 4-H Program Update

- Cancelled August 31 training due to speaker availability
- September 1 training - ***For all 33 counties***  
All 4-H agents and 4-H program assistants to attend  
Will be held in Hollingsworth Plant Science auditorium  
Program assistants and new agents will do BYTES in the morning  
Other agents will work on curriculum for 4-H meetings

- Tennessee Valley Fair  
Judging Day is Saturday, September 10  
Forestry, Meat, Dairy, Jr. High Life Skills, Sr. High Healthy Lifestyles  
Tickets will be given out on September 1  
Down on the Farm is September 12 & 13  
Bread baking and Craft demonstrations during the week

***Mitch said Youth Board pretty much set. If doing dairy in the afternoon, can participate in something else in the morning. David will check with Kim Thompson about deadlines for participation numbers.***

- Livestock & Land Judging  
Livestock judging is Thursday, September 22 at Brehm Animal Science  
Land judging is Tuesday, October 4 at the Plant Science Farm ***near Regional Office.***

***Will be using judges from NRCS.***

- Southern Region Leadership Forum  
October 6 - 9  
Vans for the Eastern Region  
Several agents are doing presentations
- All-Star Conference  
November 5 & 6 at Clyde York 4-H Center in Crossville  
Cost is \$43.50 – new initiates have an additional \$6.50 fee

***\$43.50 covers two days and one night with the \$6.50 fee additional. Mitch asked for agents to utilize 4-H website which is full of information.***

## **5. County Directors**

- Extension Reporting System  
System is moving quickly with testing of annual plans beginning September 1. Online training will begin October 1.
- Title VI posters  
Sending these directly to counties ***(Not sure about this. David will check)***
- TSU Update
- Plans of Improvement  
Any employee with unsatisfactory rating should not receive raise  
County directors should follow through with employee
- Use of Automated Answering and Voice Mail  
Use only when necessary, not on a regular basis - during lunch or when phone can't be covered
- County Bank Balances  
Eastern Region doing a good job. Keep an eye on the balance - try to keep enough for one year's experience - ***Total 1.6 million across state - check on gift funds.***

- County Signs

Where is each with county signs (received, installed?)

**Seems to be 100 percent on small signs. Not everyone has theirs up. David will check with Tim Fawver about damage and cost of buying additional signs. Check on large signs.**

**Follow-up on signs:**

It will take some time, but for those counties that can use them, Dr. Norman will provide the large signs. Dr. Quinn is in charge of the process. UT sign shop is making the signs. The plan is to have all signs made by the end of this year.

There has been a few cases where the sign shop sign will not meet the county needs. Generally it is because the location will not permit this size of sign or the existing sign is of a different size. When this occurs we have been replacing the sign generally with a local sign maker. Tim Fawver requires each county provide an estimation of the cost and have Dr. Quinn's staff approve the format before proceeding with ordering the sign.

Currently, there are four counties in the Eastern Region that are exploring having the sign made locally and paid by Tim Fawver. The counties are Bledsoe, Hawkins, Grainger, and Meigs. Meigs is a joint sign with soil conservation. Grainger needs a sign with an arrow pointing to their office. Hawkins needs a sign to fit existing poles, and Bledsoe needs a sign that the mayor will approve to go in the courthouse front lawn. Bledsoe also needs sign lettering to go on their glass door.

- Outreach & Continuing Education  
Dr. Norman  
September 12 meeting with regional directors, program leaders and 4-H staff
- Funding Strategy Committee  
Dr. Norman accepted committee's recommendations  
**Discussions on funding concerns. Details still being worked out. Postage will be separate.**
- New Agents Meeting  
Friday, September 30 at Eastern Region Office from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm EDT

**Linda and/or Mitch took each group on a virtual tour of our Regional website to reach PowerPoint presentations and other information. Mitch stressed about using the 4-H website and how much work has gone into putting it together for the agent's benefit.**

**Wrap-up: Steve Hale asked if Region will allow Centra for multi-county meetings. David said hope to in the future as this way of meeting will be an advantage. David Yates requested feedback.**