

# **Executive Summary: North Central Farm Management Extension Committee-May 9-11, 2006 Ames, Iowa**

Attending: Dwight Aakre, Mark Bailey, Don Breece, Arlin Brannstrom, Dale Nordquist, Damona Doye, William Edwards, Steve Harsh, Steve Isaacs, Doug Jose, Ray Massey, George Patrick, Gary Schnikey, Barry Ward, Jeff Reisdorfer, and Agustin Arzeno

Steve Isaacs, Chairman, opened the meeting at 1:35 pm. The committee was welcomed by the Chair of the Department of Economics at Iowa State, Arne Hallam. Elwynn Taylor, Department of Agronomy Climatologist, spoke about the weather outlook. He spoke of bird flu, soybean rust and the effect of ocean temperatures on weather forecasting.

Mike Duffy began the ISU Economics update with the Farm Financial Planning Program with FINPACK, now on a fee basis, with 15 field associates, the charge is \$35/hr. plus mileage. It takes 3-6 contact hours per farm. The Beginning Farmer's Center began in 1994, programs include: Farm-On that matches unrelated parties & Ag Link Program, a 4 day "back to the farm" program. Research includes "what do farmers mean by retirement?" and "farm succession planning survey of 7 countries and 15 states." Jim Kliebenstein continued by taking about research in production systems analysis and animal health economics. He spoke of the "Learning Community" set of four courses, 14 hours (including an English course) to teach the work of a professional consulting team. Chad Hart spoke for Bruce Babcock about C.A.R.D. Outreach Program, including web site tools for government programs (LDP and Livestock Gross Margin Insurance).

Annie's project was discussed by Bob Wells & Ruth Hambleton of II. Annie's project is a 6 week, 18 hour farm management course for farm women. Since 2003 over 600 women from six states have taken the course, focused on the 5 areas of risk.

Each state representative gave their state reports. The NCFMEC website will have copies of the reports at: <http://www.ncfmc.org>. Dale Nordquist and Jeff Reisdorfer reviewed the new web site for us. Suggestions from the group included: our state reports should have a sample citation & abstracts for new publications to be added to the web site, needs a direct Midwest Plans link.

Steve Isaacs lead discussion about the FFSC Management Accounting Initiative. Bill Koenig of Midwest Plan Service showed new publications and provided his business card.

North Central RME report by Doug Jose included a newsletter, announced a summer workshop on 13-14 June in South Dakota, and reported on TAA. Farm Bill Education was considered by the group as a possible multi-regional effort.

By conference phone, Rick Klemme provided the Advisors Report. The Agriculture Program Leaders recently met and will again meet at MSU 2-4 October. At the request of CSREES and Extension directors, the group is developing a common set of indicators. They have begun with PAT, Water Quality, IPM, Nutrient Management and Animal & Bio. Security. The challenge is to measure Farm Management and to develop indicators. Also, there is a declining pool of potential agricultural Extension educators.

William Edwards reported on the AAEA Extension Section meeting, this summer in Long Beach. It is the seventh year of the section meetings, one of the largest. There are 167 members to date. Damona Doye reported on the C-FARE (Council on Food Agriculture and Resource Economics) and representation in Washington, D.C. The Women in Agriculture Conference was held in St. Louis with over 175 attending. The Women in Agriculture web site was demonstrated:  
<http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/wia/> .

The USDA Report was given by Mark Bailey. He is retiring in January and hopes to introduce his replacement at our next meeting. 2007 will be busy, RFA's for the Risk Management Centers and TAA accounting. The President's budget and Hatch allocations were also discussed.

John Miranowski discussed Ethanol, saying that it now uses 12% of US corn and makes 3% of gasoline. Tripling since 2000, there are 100 plants today. One acre of Iowa corn produces 450 gallons of Ethanol, with 25% stover would increase to 600 gallons per acre. \$3.00 gasoline today is equal to 1981 in real terms, and it takes high gas prices to keep renewable energy development going. The "big" companies are expanding Ethanol production, not much money left in rural America to develop plants. Bob Wisner is looking at a major shift for more corn acres and is projecting higher corn prices in the future. This should also support land values.

The 2007 Triennial Conference with NAFBAS and NFRBMEA will be 11-14 June 2007. Gary Schnitkey and Dale Nordquist will represent us in planning our part, which includes request for papers and invited paper speakers. NAFBAS and NFRBMEA will handle the registration, as well as the financial risk/profit. NAFBAS is connected with Land Grant Universities; the NFRBMEA is a group of adult instructors in high schools, area vocational schools and community colleges

John Lawrence addressed the National Livestock ID System. Announced on 26 April 2004, the goal of the program is 24 hour trace-back if FAD (Foreign Animal Disease) is found. This was driven by Foot & Mouth and Avian Flu threats.

William Edwards offered a Task Force Proposal for Low Cost, Low-Risk Grain Harvesting Systems. The committee moved to endorse this proposal. Members of the Task Force includes: William Edwards, George Patrick, Gary Schnitkey and Ray Massey.

Steve Isaacs offered the suggestion that the committee discuss at a future meeting, and share ideas, about Agent In-service training and to look ahead as to how to prepare Agents/Educators for farm management educational programming.

The location of the Fall 2006 meeting of the committee will be at Rochester, MN on 28-29 September. Dwight Aakre, North Dakota State, was nominated by the Executive Committee to be the new Secretary, motion passed. Don Breece, Ohio State, will become the Vice Chair and Damona Doye, Oklahoma State, is the new Chair of the committee. Steve Isaacs announced that he is leaving the committee since he has now taken on administrative duties as Program Leader for Community and Economic Development. The committee thanked Steve Isaacs for his leadership as Chair, and his outstanding participation on the committee to include Chair of the 2004 Triennial Conference. Steve's professional ability, leadership and sense of humor will certainly be missed by all of us, and we together wish him the very best as he accepts new leadership challenges for Kentucky Extension.