

North Central Farm Management Extension Committee
June 11, 2007
Rochester, Minnesota

Attendance: Michael Langemeier, Steve Harsh, Robert Tigner, Kent Olson, Bob Craven, Dale Nordquist, Gary Schnitkey, Arlin Brannstrom, Damona Doye, Gerald Warmann, Burton Pflueger, George Patrick, Dwight Aakre, Don Breece, Greg Halich, Steve Isaacs, Ray Massey, Barry Ward, Doug Jose.

Damona Doye, Chair, opened the spring committee meeting at 2:00 pm at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota. The committee meeting was held in conjunction with the first joint conference of the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee, the National Association of Farm Business Analysis Specialists and the National Farm & Ranch Business Management Educators Association.

The minutes of the fall meeting were distributed. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes.

State reports were distributed and additional comments from each state representative followed. State reports will be posted on the NCFMEC web page. (<http://www.ncfmc.org/>)

Dale Nordquist went over the schedule for the triennial conference. Dale and Gary Schnitkey represented NCFMEC on the planning committee with representatives from NAFBAS and NFRBMEA and contributed many hours planning the conference.

NCFMEC members were assigned as moderators for the concurrent sessions. Domona Doye explained the assignments and stressed the need to keep presenters on schedule.

Doug Jose reported that 25 risk management proposals were funded in the latest round of proposals submitted to the North Central Risk Management Education Center.

Janie Hipp, national program leader for farm management, reported from Washington, DC via telephone hook-up. She said communications was a key issue and volunteered to host a list serve for farm management. She was aware of the NCFMEC list serve hosted by the Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM), and suggested a list serve that went beyond the committee was needed.

On reporting, Janie indicated she would like to see more reporting of multi-state plans of work. She requested feedback as to what reports from her office back to farm management staff would be useful.

Janie said she would send a paper to Damona summarizing the funding opportunities available to the farm management discipline. She indicated she was looking for potential new funding sources, particularly in the area of financial security and farm financial management activity.

There is currently a new call for applications for E-extension proposals. The national program leader and regional RME center directors are planning to meet to determine the date and place for the next national risk management conference. On the next farm bill, Janie indicated that late August is the current estimate of completion.

Janie expressed concern about economic and legal issues associated with ecosystem services, specifically water quality and carbon sequestration trading. She expects this to become a significant farm management issue in the future. She has concerns over trading tool kits being pushed by EPA. Contracts contain a lot of unanswered questions such as: Are these contracts titles that go with the land or contracts between individual parties? How are contracts recorded at the county? How are contracts handled in family transition plans?

George Patrick suggested that it is still useful for the NPL to maintain mailing lists on some topics. Don Breece suggested it would be useful to identify a contact from the committee to interact with the NPL. The committee agreed that the appropriate contact be both the current and the past chair persons from the committee.

Janie suggested it would be useful to her office as well as other USDA offices if the committee had a listing of expertise, particularly to serve as review panelists. Janie encouraged communication with her office and can be contacted at 202-720-3605 and by email at (jhipp@csrees.usda.gov).

Bob Craven reported the TAA program is currently in the reauthorization process. There were no commodities declared eligible for assistance this year. Congress is looking for an alternative trigger mechanism for the currently used 20 percent year over year loss of price. CFFM is working on an on-line business planning module to be used with the intensive technical assistance training. They would welcome any input.

Bob Craven provided an AAEE Extension section update. There will be a graduate student competition for work demonstrating Extension or outreach activities. There will be six symposiums in the Extension track.

Bob Craven reported that the CFFM has developed the capacity for individuals to load or remove documents directly to/from the Ag Risk Education Library. Committee members are urged to register with the Center to be the contact for each state. The contact would decide if a publication should be listed on the committee web site. Bob emphasized the Ag Risk Library does not review material submitted. Their goal is to make information available.

The on-farm storage task force did not have any progress to report. Ray Massey reported on the successful “Machinery and Labor Sharing” workshops developed by Missouri and Iowa.

The topic of the next farm bill and what the committee should be doing was discussed briefly. Issues that should be addressed include: education targeted to farmers and landowners, risk issues, green payments and renewable energy. It was generally agreed the fall committee meeting would be good timing for discussion of farm bill issues.

The fall meeting of the committee was set for October 1-2 in Kansas City. We will begin at 1:00 on Oct 1 and adjourn at 3:00 on Oct 2 in order to limit the meeting to one over night stay. Ray Massey will make the local arrangements.

Some discussion occurred but no recommendations were made regarding future triennial conferences. Discussion covered the triennial conference, risk management conference, and annual conferences of NAFBAS, NFRBMEA and Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Ray Massey brought to the attention of the committee his and others concerns with the NCR Flexible Rent publication. Flexible rents are being looked at by Farm Service Agency and are sometimes being interpreted as share rental arrangements. It was decided this publication needs to be updated. Individuals suggested for review and re-write were Phil Harris, Roger McEowen, Melvin Breece and William Edwards.

Elected officers for the coming year include Don Breece, chair, Dwight Aakre vice-chair and Ray Massey, secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Dwight Aakre
Secretary