

Minutes
Agricultural Committee
University of Tennessee Extension Carter County
March 22, 2022
4:00 p.m.
Mayors Conference Room – Carter County Courthouse

Present: Mark Tester, Bobby Blevins, Travis Hill, Robert Acuff, Mike Nidiffer, Tracy Buckles, Emily Barton, Kathleen Wilson, Lacie Young, Rachel Dean

Absent: Cathy Bunton, Karissa Cornett, and Aaron Jack

Mark Tester called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m. quorum present.

Mark Tester motioned to amend agenda by adding C. Tree work to Old Business. Mark moved to approve the agenda Bobby Blevins seconded. The agenda was approved.

The minutes for November 2, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Bobby Blevins moved to approve, seconded by Tracy Buckles. The minutes were approved by all.

Old Business:

Building Maintenance:

1. Front and Back door will be keyed the same.
2. Upstairs door leading to the exterior of the building will have an Interior lock only and three downstairs doors will have interior locks.
3. The battery to the panic button was replaced.

Position: Vickie Clark retired December 30, 2021. Emily Barton will transfer to Hawkins County Extension office April 1, 2022. The 4-H position application will be opened in June or July 2022 with an anticipated start date of September or October 2022.

David Perrin, Regional Director introduced Rachel Dean as the candidate for FCS/County Director position. David thanked the Committee for partnership and complimented meeting proceedings. David stated the candidate needed to have a Bachelor's Degree in FCS or related field and a master's degree due to County Director being a leadership position. Rachel Dean has a Nutrition Masters in Community Health from ETSU. Rachel has a good understanding of UT Extension and Public Health Administration experience.

A motion to accept Rachel Dean is contingent on approval of background check was made by Dr. Acuff; Travis Hill seconded. Roll was called and the motion carried. David Perrin complimented Emily Barton on her service as 4-H Extension Agent and Interim County Director. The memorandum of understanding was signed at the conclusion of the meeting to approve Rachel Dean.

Tree Work

The trees were trimmed the third week of January. Trees are much better. Limbs are falling much less.

The Agriculture Committee meetings have been set for May 10, August 9, November 15 the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. Locations are to be determined. Procedures were given on turning in the minutes and reporting the meeting dates: Give the minutes to Ms. Guinn at the Carter County Courthouse, and advertise the meeting date the day after the commission meeting.

Program Updates:

Agriculture Update:

Agriculture Updates:

- Kathleen started giving Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) by request during COVID, but this seems to fit better into each individual farmer schedule so she will continue this into the upcoming year.
- Kathleen is working with producers who allowed their Private Applicator to lapse, and this is approximately a 4-hour training. We are still hosting them by appointment as well, due to the convenience it creates for the clientele.
- Carter, Washington, and Unicoi Counties partnered together to host a Master Beef in February. We had several producers attend this event and look forward to more partnership programs in the future.
- The Sub Region Group (Upper 8) is seeking even more events that we can participate in together. One event is the Sullivan County Farm Safety Program to be held on April 9th, they modeled the planning after our Farm Safety Day back in 2018. We had 220 participants at our event, and we hope to plan a future one for 2023.
- Kathleen Wilson and Sarah Orr will be conducting a Cattle Pregnancy Check Workshop on April 30th. We always thank Mike Nidiffer and Jamie Hughes for making this possible. Mike allows us to use his farm on 1226 Blue Springs Road and Jamie provides about 30 head of cows for us to palpate. We are going to have a full class this time with 25 participants.
- Kathleen is working to coordinate an Artificial Insemination Workshop for individuals trying to learn how to perform this service on their own farms. We do not have a date yet but hoping to have one in the upcoming months.
- Our office works closely with the East Tennessee Nursery Association (ETNA) to prepare programs and conduct meetings. We will not be having our annual plant sale this year but we are currently planning to host one in 2023.
- Carter County will be hosting the Carter County Classic Horse Show on April 23rd. We are thankful that Double C Western Wear and Evening Breeze Arena Sponsored this event and made it possible for our youth and surrounding area.
- The Upper 8 is planning to host a horse seminar on May 7th at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center (RRRAC) pending speaker confirmation.
- Bristol Steer and Heifer Show will be on May 14th in Abingdon, VA. We host this show between the two states and thankfully we have several contestants from Carter County participating. The carcass show is held a week following the show for the finished steer exhibitors. The cut off for prospect is 900 pounds.

- We are going to host our very own multi-species livestock show on June 17th, the Carter County Classic, this show open to everyone. We will be running fair rules. We are very thankful that the Carter County Cattlemen's and the Carter County Farm Bureau has agreed to sponsor this event.
- We have continued to have an unusually large call volume and requests for farm visits. The office has handed out a lot of soil testing kits, so people are doing a good job prepping their soil for planting.

4-H Update:

- Emily will be returning to help with some 4-H events over the summer including 4-H Camp, portfolio competitors, and livestock training. Volunteers will be leading Wildlife Judging and Forestry Judging like they have in the past. Appalachian Fair Entries will continue as normal.
- 6 students attending 4-H Congress- 1 Citizenship Finalist, 1 State Essay Winner, 2 State Poster Finalists
- 7 students competing in livestock showing and dairy steer program.
- Online payments for camp through Ag Store will be established in April
- Jr. Camp Scholarships Available by application
- Academic Conference, Electric Camp, Shooting Sports, and Quilt Camp applications being accepted.
- Wildlife Judging practice is each Thursday from 4-5 at Farm Bureau for 4th – 12th grades. Competition in late May
- Demonstration Day Contest was held March 24th. 8 students qualified for regional competition
- All Star Conference for High School students will be April 8-10- 6 students attending
- Free Hunting/Fishing Licenses offered to youth ages 13-15 via postcard/partnership with TN 4-H and TWRA

TNCEP UPDATES:

- Approximately 350 students in 3rd and 4th grade in Carter County Schools graduated their healthy living series in Rudy Raccoon and Power U. 4th grade in partnership with 4-H.
- Students completed topics of Physical Activity, Fruits and Vegetables, Sugars, Fats, and Salt, 5 food Groups.
- 4th Graders additionally completed speech, poster, and trash model contests.
- 7 students in TEACH Homeschool Co-op at Memorial Presbyterian Church completed 6 classes in the series Adventures in the kitchen. Students have been exposed to a variety of healthy cooking techniques and have completed 6 recipes. Techniques have included dry and liquid measuring, cutting techniques such as slicing, dicing and chopping, utilizing heat techniques through microwaves and skillets, etc. Recipes have exposed students to salads, quesadillas, parfaits, trail mixes, and more.
- Eating Smart Moving More, TNCEP flagship program is being taught at Courtyard Apartments and Elizabethton Housing and Development to 13 participants, with 1 final class. Topics have included meal planning, unit pricing, nutrition labels, physical activity, food safety, fruits and vegetables and smart drink choices.

Public Comment:

- Mike Nidiffer: NRCS has hired Chris Higgins. He will work 4 days/10hrs. They will host an open house soon.
- 4-H position will post application June or July start date September or October.,
- Upcoming Ag Committee Dates will be May 10th, August 9th, November 15th at 4 pm.
Location will be determined

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m. Mark Tester and Bobby Blevins motioned and Tracy Buckles seconded.

The next quarterly meeting of the Agriculture Committee will be May 10, 2022.