

Minutes
Agricultural Committee
University of Tennessee Extension Carter County
November 2, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Present: Aaron Jack, Mike Nidiffer, Bobby Blevins, Vickie Clark, Emily Barton, Lacie Young, Karissa Cornett, Mark Tester, Tracy Buckles
Absent: Kathleen Wilson, Travis Hill, Robert Acuff

Mark Tester called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll was called: a quorum was present.

Aaron Jack moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

The minutes for August 17 meeting were reviewed. Bobby Blevins moved to approve, seconded by Aaron Jack. Mark Tester abstained since he was not present at the August Meeting. The minutes were approved.

There were no public comments.

Old Business:

- Ag Committee Membership: The committee member list was reviewed. There were no changes.
- Building Maintenance:
Vickie Clark reported on three building maintenance problems.
 1. The broken windows have been replaced.
 2. Locks for the back door and several side doors still need to be replaced. This has been reported to county maintenance who have placed a purchase order for new locks. Mark Tester will check to see if this can be expedited.
 3. The tree over the parking lot is dropping limbs and there is a concern that they will fall on one of the cars parked there. Bobby Blevins has talked to the Electric Company. They are willing to trim back the side facing the road and power lines. Mike Nidiffer moved that we get a quote from Appalachian Arbor Scapes, Adam Hoover 423-557-7759. Bobby seconded the motion. Motion passed. Vickie suggested we have him also look at the low hanging branch on the fir tree that makes it difficult to see oncoming traffic when you pull out of the parking lot. Mike asked who would be liable if someone is hurt or property is damaged by the trees. Bobby will contact the arborist and see if we can get this project moved forward.
- Civil Rights – a memo from Ashley Stokes, Dean of Extension, October 11, 2021, was read to the committee to remind everyone of our commitment to compliance with civil rights.

New Business:

- Christmas Tree Lighting – Emily Barton shared the plans for the Community Christmas Tree Lighting around the Frazier Fir in front of the Extension Office. The Lighting will be Saturday, November 20, 2021 . Carter County Bank oversees the program. 4-H members will give a history of the tree. A stage will be set up in the front yard of the Extension Office for singing and

caroling. Additional Christmas events will be held at Covered Bridge Park at the conclusion of the ceremony.

- Heating & Air Unit – Earlier this month, the heating unit froze up. Ron Kirby from maintenance came over and got it repaired.
- UT Everywhere You Look – Randy Boyd, President of UT, visited Carter County in his statewide tour. He shared the impacts of the University of Tennessee for our county. These are attached to these minutes.
- County Employee Raise – Mark shared that the county commission voted for a 4% raise for all county employees. Thank you to the commissioners from all of us!
- Retirement & Interim Director – Vickie Clark announced that she will be retiring at the end of this year. An interim director will be appointed by the Eastern Region Extension Office to serve until the position is filled.

Program Updates:

Agriculture Update:

- Master Beef course is being held at State Line Drive In in a weekly series throughout the fall for producers needing this certification.
- Beef Quality Assurance and Pesticide Certifications are being given by appointment to many local clients.
- TAEP applications have been submitted for 2021. This program brings grant dollars to agriculture producers to advance their operations.
- Programs for Master Beef, Master Small Ruminant, and Horse programming are being planned for 2022
- Artificial Insemination (AI) school is being planned for 2022 season at the request of producers. This is a career opportunity for those who hold this certification.
- Pregnancy Check workshop is being planned for the 2022 season at the request of producers. This training allows producers to better plan their herd for better financial success.

FCS Update:

- FCE Eastern Region Advisor – helped plan Leadership Day
- Co-Parenting Classes – Arranged for continuing classes, Sarah Ransom from Johnson County, will do face-to-face classes monthly and Lydia Hoskins, Sullivan County, will offer virtual classes monthly.
- Skills Up – Partnered with TCAT, Red Legacy and Recovering Soldiers
- Pressure Canner Checks – continue to check gauges and respond to canning questions
- Unaka High School CTE Advisory Board – serving on committee
- 4-H Quilts – Helped 4-H'ers finish binding
- FCE –Meals on Wheels workshop, prepared 2022 Yearbook, and made plans for continuing clubs.

TNCEP Update:

- Power U and Rudy Raccoon Nutrition Lessons being delivered to 17 3rd and 4th grade classrooms in County schools. All classes are in their second lesson out of 4 currently.

- Community fall garden was successful with the TEACH Co-op at the Memorial Presbyterian Church. Students grew spinach, broccoli, cauliflower, beets, swiss chard, carrots and herbs. Currently finishing the series with cooking with garden vegetables. 4 lessons left.
- Eating Smart Moving More wrapped up 6 series lesson with Red Legacy Recovery
- 22 enrolled seniors in Eating Smart Moving More at the Senior Center with 1 more lesson left next week
- Partnering with Cloudland Elementary to deliver a basic nutrition lesson to Headstart parents
- Partnering with Senior Center to deliver MyPlate lessons

4-H Update:

- Returned to Full In-Person 4-H Club Meetings in every 4th-7th grade classroom in Carter County Schools.
- 4-H Speech and Poster Contest are underway!
- State winners in 4-H Photography, Poster, and Portfolio!
- Luke Anglin will represent Carter County at National 4-H Congress in Atlanta in November!
- Coached 20 6th-12th grade students from the city, county, and homeschool systems in 4-H Forestry and Soil Judging. Students competed at districts and regionals.
- Two students competed at the state level in 4-H Forestry
- 16 students competed at district soil judging and district forestry
- Served as a leader at district soil and forestry judging
- Reviewed Curriculum for State 4-H program in Forestry and Citizenship
- Developed beginner curriculum for State Electric Project Area
- November begins Ag Literacy Month. Read Agriculturally Accurate books to students of all ages. High School and 4-H volunteers are scheduling to read to younger students at city and county systems and homeschool groups.
- 4-H Homeschool and Honor Club are meeting regularly with 25 students attending
- 11 students are eligible for the Honor Club and All Star levels of achievement.
- Hosting an Agriculture Scholarship Application program with local high schools November 11 on Zoom.
- 4-H Winter Contest Day will be December 14 at Hampton High School. Public Speaking, Decorated Cookie and Photography contests will be judged. Judges are needed.
- 4-H will have a float in the Christmas Parade.
- Facilitating Youth Programs and leadership opportunities with the Carter County Cattleman's group.
- Appalachian Dairy Beef Feeder Calf Program is taking applications and has 6 members.
- Chick Chain Auction in September was a success! 2022 Applications will be available in December.
- Coached eight students for outdoor meat cookery- students have requested further culinary classes.

- Lacey planned a fall tailgate on October 14th with the collaborative- Wayne and I taught grilling and food safety and helped students cook a meal.
- Special Interest Groups- 7th- 8th and homeschool have requested basic cooking classes. For the first lesson, students will learn basic food safety and make whole-wheat pancakes.
- Currently planning a summer culinary series that would begin in June and close at the end of July. Students will learn food safety, measuring, and basic cooking skills. Depending on success, will consider monthly culinary classes after piloting summer series.
- Planning Winter Workshop- this is an upper 8 event that will be held at the Sullivan County Extension office. Students will participate in numerous activities including baking, floral design, art, and soap making.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting of the Ag Committee will be February 1, 2022.