

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SEMINOLE COUNTY AG ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 2020 Meeting

Monday, Nov 9, 2020

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Attendees: Morgan Pinkerton, Clay Archey, Rex Clonts, Jr., David Evans, Dennis Langlois, John Lommerse, Tom Minter

2:00 – 2:20 PM Welcome

Introductions

- Rex, David, Dennis, and Tom all attended in person. Clay and John tuned in by zoom.

2:20 – 2:40 PM Needs assessment

Paper/Virtual Survey

Discussion

Future expectations from the Ag agent

- Everyone completed the survey. If you did not complete the survey yet, please see the link in the email.
- This survey is for Morgan to get a better understanding of what needs there are in the county. It covered timing of programs, types of communications, etc.
- For communications, we want an email newsletter to include some updates for producers as well as available CEU classes. There is also potential to have a text message system for communicating as well. Morgan is going to investigate a new university system (SMS) to work on sending out email newsletters and text messages.
- Some notes of discussion of the survey include the following: Programming is better for agriculture in the middle of the season during lunch time.
- Online programming is limited to 2 hours otherwise people do not attend. In person events are better suited to all day or half day classes, but this does not apply well to online for some reason. Extension has had classes where only 1 or 2 people register for 4-5 hour classes and they are cancelled due to lack of registration. The 1-2 hour classes online seem to be very successful ranging from 11-410 live attendees.
- Need for Morgan to go out into the field. Morgan will apply for approval from UF to be allowed to make site visits. She must reapply about every two months and will apply to

2:40 – 3:00 PM COVID-19

Impacts on extension
Discussion of impacts in
Seminole County

3:00 – 3:15 PM CEUs and pesticide related programming

Upcoming classes
Ideas for future classes

3:15 – 3:35 PM Farm tour

Selecting a time frame
Preparations for Spring

get us through the end of the year. Please call her to schedule any site visits (407) 665-5554. She should have approval in 2 weeks.

- Desire to have agriculture classes bringing in experts to talk about ongoing research. Realistically, there needs to be incentive for people to attend like CEUs, certificates, etc.
- The office was closed for a while due to COVID 19.
- Extension office is now mostly open, but we are still doing all programming online until at least the end of the year.
- We are limited to 18 people, with a lengthy prior approval application, for in person classes. These classes are usually only approved if they are deemed essential by the university. This includes CEUs, pesticide trainings, and things of this nature.
- Pesticide testing is being offered once per month in the county office. Appointments are required.
- CEU classes are currently available online as webinars.
- In Seminole County, we have a monthly CORE class.
- In January-February, we will have a 6 week 1 hr webinar series for our landscaping pesticide licenses titled Landscape University.
- We will have some more agriculture CEU classes in 2021. You can expect the classes to be online for the beginning of the year and we may have more in person during the second half of the year.
- Farm tour will be virtual for 2021 and we are going to do a video (about 30 minutes). We will work with Seminole County TV (SCTV) to produce and air the video and also make it available through youtube and other social media. SCTV is a free resource to the extension agent. We would like to have a video highlighting agriculture in Seminole County and explaining a bit about the complexity of farming. Topics to include: row crop production, citrus/citrus greening, bee keeping and pollination, livestock and more. Morgan is going to reach out to SCTV to

begin this process and set up times to come film at different local operations. Farm bureau can also aid in any way if needed. Other potential TV option is the WUCF, Channel 24 Road Trip Series. We will share this video through many outlets including Rex's and Tom's social media following, the Seminole County Social Media sites, and more.

- Extension is also looking into a webinar series on "where our food comes from". This will allow us to teach classes on the basics of farming, the differences between organic and conventional, GMOs, and more.

3:35 – 4:00 PM Any other business

Meeting conclusions

- Dennis gave an update on colony collapse disorder and mention that this term is no longer being used. This is being caused by multiple hive problems all adding up. One of the major issues has been the Veroa mite.
- Dennis brought up the disconnect in Seminole County Permitting about agricultural permits. Morgan will reach out to permitting and see if there is any way she can aid in this process or be able to educate people on the process of getting agricultural permitting. Morgan is working with Liz Felter in Apopka to develop a class for new farmers, specifically in urban areas. This will hopefully be an online class available by the end of 2021. It will include topics such as permitting, food safety, site selection, diagnostics and more.