

Agriculture Advisory Meeting
August 4, 2021
Via Zoom at 9am

ATTENDANCE

Dr. Howard Brown, Illini FS; Nick Chatterton, VVEDS; Matt Hoose, Prospect Bank; Brandy Marron, DACC; Dr. Penny McConnell, DACC; Myla Munro, Illinois Extension Office; Ted Olson, Nutrien Ag Solutions; Mynda Tracy, Illinois Extension Office; Kerri Thurman, DACC

REPORTS

There was a report on the new courses that have been developed through the last year; Ag Sales, Ag Safety, and Intro to Precision Ag. In the UAS course the students are utilizing the Drones. Students in the program benefit from a variety of equipment including small drones, Phantom Drone, and Steve m200. The drones use Ipads and controllers to program flight patterns. An aquaponics system was installed with fish, to grow plants. The students learn to check nitrogen cycles, PH, and bacteria levels. A Farmbot was also installed, this is a robot that is controlled by a desktop and phone app with CNC on tracks. The bot has soil sensors, a weeder, and a camera and is able to take soil and water measurements. The Farmbot will be used in Crop and Soil Science classes.

Articulation is being finalized with Murray State, so that students can complete an online Bachelor's degree. Currently 2 students are taking advantage of this partnership. This partnership gives family farmers an opportunity to complete their degree, with in-state tuition all online.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

The members discussed on-going future changes to the Ag program in the form of adding a AAS non-transfer degree that includes more ag specific courses and hands-on elements. An Ag Tech certificate was also talked about. The discussion included applications of utilizing Field U-Plus w/ Climate, a thermal camera, and the DACC's new field robot with GPS purchase.

As the members focused on the development of a new 1 year certificate or 2 year degree they honed in on what should be included. Courses in pesticide (perhaps using a simulator sprayer), drones, soil/crop, precision, and welding for mechanics. The members felt that these four credentials were necessary 1) Applicator License 2) FFA Exam 3) CDL 4) Certified Crop Advisor.

Attention turned to our PAS Chapter, which replaced the Ag Club last year. During Covid-19 restrictions we had students compete in the Virtual State Competition. The competition included beef, ag sales, and

floriculture. We had one student that won the floriculture competition and went on to compete nationally. This year the PAS students will plan to attend the Farm Progress Show and hopefully have a chance to compete in person.

Working with 4-H Extension, Brandy wants to have a Regional Drone competition that includes area high schools coming to DACC. This fun contest will be used as a recruiting tool.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR There were no items from the floor.

DATE of NEXT MEETING TBD 2022

MINUTES SUBMITTED by: Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Osborne

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Administrative Assistant
Business and Technology