

## **Ag Success Team Minutes 1/12/2012**

**In attendance:** Ann Obrecht, Duane Wood, Brian Gwin, Deana Hudgins, Dianne Shoemaker, Casey Hoy, Tom Stocksdale, Chris Finney, Katie Myers, Leah Miller, Fred Myers, Robert Stutzman, Rory Lewandowski, Maryanna Biggio

**Treasurer's Report:** No change to account balance.

**WEDC Report:** Starting in February WEDC will be sending a representative to the meetings. They are in the process of hiring someone to fill Brian's position. Brian gave an end of year wrap up report.

- An entrepreneur in Orrville is looking for processing space, equipment, labeling, packaging, etc. assistance for a shrimp venture.
- Diamond Ranch was initially looking for farmers in the area with open pen/stall hogs. This is currently on hold due to location limitation since Ohio does not fall into their definition of local.
- Greenfield Farms opened a new facility on Fredericksburg Road and they are moving all operations to the new location.
- Team NEO has 6 or 7 ongoing projects.
- Quasar has moved into Pounden Hall on the OARDC campus. They are planning on building 3 plants in Ohio but they will need help with ag, logistics and agronomy issues as they proceed.
- Kate Clancy is finishing up the Dairy Value Chain project.
- Annual Meeting February 2 at 7:30 Fund for Economic Future.

**AEEP Program Update (Maryanna):** No funds have been released for brown field redevelopment in 2012. The money has been transferred to Jobs Ohio. The status of funding for green space and farmland preservation is uncertain. There may be some funds provided by a small restricted capital bill. The DOA is moving forward with the application process. There is federal money available through the Farmland Ranch Protection Program.

A letter will be written to representatives in support of brown field and green space funding. The letter will be available to sign in the Commissioner's Office.

### **Round Table**

**Dianne** – There will be a dairy producers meeting February 3 at 7:00 pm at Jake's restaurant. The focus will be on famers, production or industry members 30 and under and they hope to make this a regular

meeting schedule. Please email Dianne names of anyone that may be interested. February 3 will be the Extension Ag Outlook Meeting at Fisher Auditorium at 10:30.

**Robert** – Working at Logee, Stutzman and Hostetler with Ron Holtman. He will be working on easement issues.

**Casey** – Brian Gwin is now working for AMP on a USDA project linking networks across state boundaries. Team NEO has received a grant to hire the first of the proposed Portfolio Managers who will cover 16 counties in NE Ohio and they will be housed at WEDC. Farm to Institution Guide is published on the AMP website.

**Maryanna** - The Killbuck Watershed Land Trust encourages land conservation and easements. They will possibly be hosting a seminar for landowners, bankers and financial planners this April.

**Rory** – There will be meetings on February 21 and March 6 from 7-9 pm regarding oil and gas lease considerations including social and environmental issues, water quality issues, etc. Landowners are invited to attend. Pesticide recertification will be available from Shearer Equipment at John Deere Days. Beef School will be offered as a four day web based training Jan. 26, Feb 2 & 16, and March 1. Sheep and goat training will be offered as a web based training on Mondays in February.

**Duane** – The North East Ohio Envirothon will be held in Kidron on April 25. The ODNR Task Force report has been released online and it promotes formation of Joint Boards and discusses possible legal representation for Joint Boards through the Ohio AG.

**Katie** – ODA will no longer support the annual Farmland Preservation Summit. OSU and Countryside Conservancy will step in to continue support. During 2012 breakout sessions will be held at local agencies. The Summit will return to a centralized meeting in 2013. Katie has been appointed to the International Farm Transition Network Board and they will be offering training for Certified Farm Transition Specialists.

**Leah** – The Dairy Gazing Meeting will be in Dalton January 26-27. There will be a meeting in Kidron on March 16 for Small Farm Solutions.

**Tom** – The Wayne County Fair Board has finalized entertainment for the 2012 fair. Wayne County was well represented at the annual Ohio Fair Managers Association Meeting.

**Deana** – The nutrient trading plan for the Tuscarawas watershed has received comments/suggestions from the Ohio EPA. We have incorporated the changes and upon approval from the Joint Board the plan will be resubmitted. Interest in pre-oil and gas drilling water testing continues to grow. I currently receive at least a call a week for more information.

**Adjourned**

**Next Meeting February 9, 2012**