

WELLSBORO AGRI-SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

GRAND CANYON FFA

225 NICHOLS STREET
WELLSBORO, PA 16901

PHONE (570) 724-3547

Advisor: Melanie Berndtson
mberndtson@wellsborosd.org

FAX(570) 724-3027

e mail:

Wellsboro Agriscience Program
Advisory Committee Meeting **Minutes**
March 18, 2025 7:14 pm
Meeting #2

1) Welcome & Purpose of the meeting

The meeting began with introductions.

The Tioga County Dairy Princess greeted the group and provided a message on consuming dairy products.

a. Purpose

The main purpose of an OAC is to strengthen the career and technical education program by making recommendations for program improvement and providing technical assistance to assure the most up to date curriculum content and appropriate applications of technology.

Advisory committees are a vital link between the career and technical education program and business and industry. In addition to state requirements to establish advisory committees, career and technical administrators, teachers and citizens recognize the value of community participation in the discussion of career and technical education issues. Advisory committees assist in assuring the relevance of the career and technical education program to the community and increase public awareness of the program. Committee members representing business, industry, labor and the general public bring a unique perspective to education and training programs. They provide a viewpoint which is invaluable to the career and technical education program.

b. Goals

- i. Provide recommendations to update, modify, expand, and improve the quality of the occupational program.
- ii. Support and strengthen the relationship between business, industry, and the community, and education.
- iii. Make recommendations to strengthen and expand the curriculum and provide assistance in implementing these recommendations.
- iv. Articulate long term goals and objectives of the occupational program to parents, employers, and the community
- v. Assist in identifying needs, determining priorities, and reviewing and evaluating curriculum

2) Grand Canyon FFA Activities 2024-2025 –

Garrett Kaltenbach, Grand Canyon FFA president provided an overview of recent activities of the Grand Canyon FFA. The group conducted a Wreaths Across America

community service project in December, laying 600 wreaths in the Wellsboro Cemetery. In January members participated in the PA Farm Show by showing livestock, receiving Keystone FFA Degrees, Horticulture displays, FFA Jackets and the Ag Issues team was scheduled to present. The bus trip got snowed out, and Ag Issues was cancelled but other members still participated. The Ag Issues team competed later in January and was 1st place in the state.

In February students held FFA week and partnered with local business Komodo Gelato for a fundraiser. The ACES leadership conference was held and the chapter held their annual pancake breakfast on March 1st. Area public speaking was held in late February and many members competed. Two speakers qualified for Regional public speaking along with the parliamentary procedure team.

In March, students conducted ag literacy day, students have been running the chapter sugar shack, they held recruitment day, attended the Clint Owlett and Gene Yaw Legislative Breakfast, and State Legislative Leadership Conference. Coming up soon will be the Area Maple Contest, Egg My Yard, and Ag Safety Day. The chapter banquet will be held on April 9th, and all advisory committee members will be invited.

3) FFA Alumni Updates

The Tioga County FFA Alumni will be holding a chicken BBQ on April 5th at the parking spots across from the green and the courthouse in Wellsboro. The Alumni currently has senior scholarship applications out and they were due on 3/15. Scholarships will be handed out at the FFA banquets. The jacket ceremony went well and they will continue to hold it at the fairgrounds if possible.

5) Overview of the program

A) 2025 - Program Changes for the new year

Students are actively scheduling courses. No action has been taken on the adding of a lab period for plant science and animal science. Students have been asking questions about some courses being every other year. That is difficult for students to schedule, and they are adjusting to this process. It takes more planning for a student to map out their schedule.

B) Letter of support needed - Yearly

Tim from DCNR volunteered to write one of the letters. Dan Bower will ask Chris Bower of Monroe Tractor to write a letter.

C) SAE Report

Mrs. Berndtson provided an SAE report to the group sharing some highlights and active projects. She explained that all students are creating a display board about their project for the FFA Banquet.

D) Intro to Ag as a science credit -

Mrs. Berndtson said that the year has gone well offering intro to ag as a science credit and she is excited to see the next year of this class being offered for science credit.

6) Recruitment

A) Middle School Ag Club

Middle school ag club has been going well and the students have been doing an excellent job preparing for this.

B) Recruitment Day Community Activities (Pancake Breakfast, Ag Literacy Day, Ag Safety Day, Egg My Yard)

The students are planning this for Wednesday 3.18. They will be making ice cream doing a chocolate kiss rose, and doing some Id to help 8th grade students learn about our program.

Mrs. Berndtson explained some of the other programs happening including Floral of the Month and Dog Grooming will be starting up again.

8) Issues facing the school (or colleges in the career path)

Certifications are going well, students are worker protection standard certified. Currently students are working on tractor safety certification. We just received a new articulation agreement with SUNY Cobleskill. Students are also progressing through their dual enrollment with Penn College in the horticulture program.

- Greenhouse progress - There has been no new progress on the building a new greenhouse. The back greenhouse fan fell off the wall and the maintenance repaired it quickly as it was needed to start raising our plants. In January something failed in the computer system of the front greenhouse and the heat turned off over a weekend. The maintenance didn't notify Mrs. Berndtson until Tuesday and then a solution wasn't found until a couple days later, but most of the plants had died.
- Continued compliance expectations
 - At least four representatives from industry, and at least 50% of the attendees are from industry.
 - 8 students in a program
- Update on Program reapproval & Perkins Review

Amy Coots shared that we are up for our state audit soon.

10) Curriculum, Facilities, Equipment/Supplies, Employer Satisfaction Report and Self Evaluation for OAC - See checklists from PDE CTE

a) Needed Equipment

Greenhouse - Progress and recommendations

- [Program Wishlist](#)

b) Mrs. Berndtson shared the program wishlist and asked for any questions about the items.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve the program wishlist and items for Perkins funding this coming year.

_____Tim K made the motion, Stacey C. Seconded it, motion passed unanimously. _

11) NOCTI Test 2025

2025- Written test 4/14, Practical test 4/____ Evaluator:

Stacey has agreed to be the proctor for the test again. Mrs. Berndtson and she will work together to select a date in late April.

12) National Technical Honor Society - Mrs. Berndtson said this organization is slow but building. They are looking for ideas for community service projects. Tim Morey suggested tree planting. Amy offered that she has money to conduct K-4 title 1 fun nights and those can be held at any time.

13) Feedback from advisory members

Ag and Environmental Career Fair - Mr. Cain, Mrs. Berndtson's student teacher presented a project he is working on to host an agriculture and environmental career fair for students. He discussed what he has done so far.

Taylor agreed there are few local opportunities. Tim asked if this would be indoors or outdoors and encouraged us to look at outdoor or on location areas. He said there had been a career fair at Mt. Pisgah state park for several years that was a good event. Sarah liked that this allowed individual businesses to share about what they do as a career even if they didn't have any positions or were not hiring.

The group discussed the value of interview skills.

15) Adjourn _____ Tim K moved to adjourn the meeting and Tim M seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:26. ____