

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**
November 9, 2023 6:45 pm
Meeting #1

1) Welcome & Purpose of the meeting - **Meeting called to order at 6:42 pm and started with an introduction of members**

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 2023-2024 --

Garrett Kaltenbach, Grand Canyon FFA President gave an overview of activities of the Grand Canyon FFA chapter. FFA members held a consignment auction on the same weekend as the Early Days festival at the Tioga County Fairgrounds. A safe tractor

driving team won 1st place against 5 other teams during the early days festival the same day. The chapter held a greenhand week, put up cornstalks on main street, held a chicken BBQ to support members attending the National FFA Convention, attended the Fall Leadership Conference, the Keystone International Livestock Expo, and the Owlett and Yaw Ag Breakfast. The Conduct of Chapter meetings team participated at the National FFA Convention earning a Silver rating and two graduates achieved the American FFA Degree there. In the near future there will be a State FFA officer visit and students will be participating in several activities at the PA Farm Show. The chapter will conduct the Wreaths Across America community service activity on December 16th.

3) FFA Alumni Updates

Stacey Coolidge gave an update on the FFA Alumni. The group attended the Sabinsville Fall Fling and pressed apple cider. The group thought it was a great activity to demonstrate an agricultural process and get kids interested. The group voted to sponsor 10 FFA jackets for both the Cowanesque and Grand Canyon FFA Chapters.

5) Overview of the program

- A) 2023- 8 period day The new schedule is providing some challenges and adjustments. Especially with the dog grooming which is impossible in one 40 minute period. Mrs. Berndtson is considering options like having double periods or a lab period, or having courses every other year to accommodate these needs.
- B) Letter of support needed - Yearly
- C) SAE Report Mrs. Berndtson provided updates and a report
- D) Intro to Ag as a science credit - proposal update - The district is asking for standards to include this as a possible science credit - Both the ag general and ag mechanics track would be able to use this to open students schedules.

6) Recruitment

- A) Middle School Ag Club - This is being revamped to be an after school activity this year. and career oriented. The mobile ag lab was brought to the elementary school.
- B) Community Activities (Homecoming fair, Hometown Science Fair on the green - used the mealworm display to attract attention, Jakes Event - With the wild turkey federation)

7) Scope and Sequence update The horticulture program of study has been removed and the ag general program of study is being adjusted. The scope and sequence has removed all but two of the shop class credits, and will add intro to foods. Students must have 2 credits per year to be a concentrator. Students can use 1 credit per year of SAE credit towards the pathway.

Taking away the shop credits creates some separation between this scope and sequence and that of the ag mechanics pathway.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve the updated scope and sequence for the Ag General Program of Study ___Tim Kaltenbach Sr. made the motion, Bryce Wetherbee seconded it, motion passed. _____

8) Issues facing the school (or colleges in the career path) There are three students taking the Penn College Intro to Horticulture dual enrollment course this year. One student who

is a first year student at Delaware Valley University achieved 18 articulation credits towards her degree there.

- Greenhouse progress This is complicated and slow moving, the grant has been lost.
- 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 (Mrs. Coots)

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 There is a need for an additional van for CTE or a program uses. Some members suggested a short bus. One member identified that the EMTA get rid of their old buses on a regular basis for a very small amount of money. Tim Kaltenbach Sr. Made a motion to approve the items on the program wishlist, Taylor Leach seconded the motion. Motion passed via unanimous consent.

b) Supplemental Equipment Grant Proposal

11) New program industry certification approvals

a) Game of Logging - Approved

Other certifications that are offered in the pathway are the worker protection standard and the youth for the quality care of animals program.

11) NOCTI Test 2024

2023- 2 completed the NOCTI pretest in October They will complete the test in April

12) National Technical Honor Society Mrs. Berndtson is starting this program this year for the CTE area. This will help with program excitement and support, student excellence, and student recruitment.

13) Feedback from advisory members

Members wanted to go back and discuss the program timeline. The advisory members think that there should be less focus on getting more students in classes like animal science, and more focus on teaching the whole program like environmental science to make sure students can complete the program.

15) Adjourn _____ Joe Hewitt made a motion to adjourn and Dan Bower seconded it - motion passes via unanimous consent. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm _____

Ag Program Wish List:

*Agriscience/CTE Van - \$75,000

*Shed - \$15,000

*Greenhouse - \$300,000 - \$500,000

*Program Barn & Land - \$500,000

Parliamentary Procedure Supplies/Study guides

Breakout box locks/supplies

Hydroponics cart

Dog Cage Wall Rack \$2000

Dog Cage Dryers - \$1000

Hydraulic Dog Grooming Tables (2) \$2000

Lab Tables - 4 @ \$800 (replacement tables)

Game of Logging Training	\$1000
Vernier Sensors (updates to wireless sensors)	\$1000
Pavers & Fire Pit Kit- Hardscaping Practice	\$1000
Vacuum pump - Maple Syrup	\$3000
Reverse Osmosis system - Maple Syrup	\$1000
Maple small equipment	\$500
Aquaponics System (\$9,800 deposit)	\$22,000

Utility vehicle for maintaining the maple project/woodlot \$15,000

Shrubs - ID garden outside the AG room

Soil bins

\$ to create a STEM/Science fair or SAE exposition night

Equipment for vet science CDE

Equipment for forestry CDE

\$ to allow kids to get artificial insemination certification

Lighting for reptiles

Plant ID Books - possibly homemade

College Visit \$\$ transportation

Beehive (Grant) maybe an observation hive

Grant ideas:

Wreath project
Hunger banquet

Outdoor study area

Order list:

Ag General * Ag Mechanics

Wellsboro Agriscience Program Updates



Students have interacted with a variety of local groups this fall including the Wellsboro Rotary, Potter Tioga Farm Bureau, and attending the Clint Owlett - Gene Yaw Agriculture Breakfast.

STUDENT CERTIFICATIONS:

Students have been working through a variety of industry certifications this fall. Certifications students have received or are working on include National Safe Tractor and Equipment Operation, Worker Protection Standard, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals and Private Pesticide Applicator Certification.



Community Connections

Wellsboro students taught local youth about wildlife fur and track identification in partnership with the local National Wild Turkey Federation Chapter at the Fall Jakes Event. Students did a fur trivia game and wildlife track plaster casting.



COLLEGE EXPLORATIONS

This fall Wellsboro Agriscience sent 10 students to Penn College Build My Future Day and 9 students to Penn State for a college visit. We have 3 students enrolled in Penn College Dual Enrollment Intro to Horticulture Course this year.



Career Development Competition Success

Wellsboro Agriscience students have been busy competing in a variety of contests this fall including a local soils and forestry contest, local safe tractor driving contest, and the National FFA Convention where a team of students in Conduct of Chapter Meetings earned a Silver level finish. Additionally two graduates received their American FFA Degrees at the National FFA Convention.



Greenhouse Update

Our greenhouse project has been at a stand still, Mrs. Berndtson continues to wait to hear more recent progress on a revised timeline for the project. Other projects in the district are taking priority at this time.



Instructor Corner

Mrs. Berndtson is serving as the Past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators this year. She will be training other teachers and trainers in a veterinary science curriculum this spring. She has attended several professional development trainings this summer and fall on topics including electrical code, success in CTE, and dendrochronology.

Mrs. Berndtson is CASE Curriculum Certified in Animal Science, Plant Science, Intro to Ag, Natural Resources, Small Engines, Ag Business, and Middle School Ag

Stay in touch with us! You can follow Wellsboro Agriscience and Grand Canyon FFA on Facebook and Instagram for more regular updates and postings about community events.

Our program continues to partner with the Tioga County FFA Alumni and Supporters group. You can find more information about this group on their facebook page, or ask Mrs. Berndtson how to get



