

# WELLSBORO AGRI-SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

## GRAND CANYON FFA

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Wellsboro Agriscience Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting **Agenda**  
**March 14, 2024 7:30 pm**  
Meeting #1

1) Welcome & Purpose of the meeting **Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm and began with an introduction to 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 reported on activities recently. Students participated in the farm show. They had 3 keystone FFA Degrees and 13 alumni jacket recipients. The students completed a successful fundraising strawberry sale. They had FFA week celebrations including a stall day where they raised funds for the food bank. At the beginning of**

March they held a pancake breakfast that raised \$2000 for the Tioga County Fair Beef Barn. An ag literacy day event was held at the Charlotte Lappla school. Students attended the State Legislative Leadership Conference in Harrisburg. A recruitment day is being planned for the end of March, the FFA Banquet will be on April 17th and the advisory committee is invited. State Convention will be held at the end of the year.

### 3) FFA Alumni Updates

Stacey Coolidge gave a report of the Tioga County FFA Alumni. The group helped with the pancake breakfast that was held by the chapter. Applications for a scholarship were released. The scholarship will be awarded at the FFA banquet. The group is holding a chicken BBQ on April 6th. They also help out with the FFA consignment sale, and giving out FFA jackets.

### 5) Overview of the program

#### A) 2024 - Program Changes for the new year

Mrs. Berndtson discussed that courses will be offered on an every other year basis. There was discussion on how that could impact the program.

#### B) Letter of support needed - Yearly Tim Morey and Kris Bower volunteered to provide letters. Eric Rider is also willing to provide a letter

#### C) SAE Report

Mrs. Berndtson provided a report about SAE projects and the number of hours students have conducted this year. In 2023, students completed 191 total projects for 12,682 hours. These projects had a direct investment of \$57,591 and a total economic impact of \$120,992

#### D) Intro to Ag as a science credit - proposal update

Mrs. Berndtson updated the committee on the Intro to Ag as a science credit, she attended a curriculum committee meeting recently to present this topic area. The committee approved the proposal, and the item was passed at a recent school board meeting

### 6) Recruitment

#### A) Middle School Ag Club

Mrs. Berndtson reported on the middle school ag club that has developed to be a great recruitment resource. The FFA members have been doing a great job preparing and working through the lessons each month. They are looking forward to continuing the program through the rest of the spring and in the next school year. Mrs. Berndtson also discussed this as an opportunity and a potential stepping off point to have some middle school classes in the future. She cited some great things happening in some other local schools with Middle School FFA and Middle school agriculture classes.

#### B) Recruitment Day

Mrs. Berndtson reported that a recruitment day will be held in late March with the 8th grade students to promote the program. Students will be conducting the activities to highlight the program and the benefits of being involved.

#### C) Community Activities (Pancake Breakfast, Ag Literacy Day, Ag Safety Day)

Mrs. Berndtson reported on recent activities and some that will be held in the months ahead held by the FFA members to stay active in the community. The maple sugar

shack has been a highlight again this year, but the members did not open during Maple Weekend. Instead members toured maple sugar shacks in the area.

Tim Morey reported that Springfest at Hills Creek State Park will be on May 18th if the students want to participate.

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

- Greenhouse progress There is nothing to report at this time - unfortunately no progress has been made because of continued other projects that the district is completing at this time.

Mrs. Huck confirmed that the middle school renovations project was continuing to take time and resources and no movement had taken place on the greenhouse project

- Continued compliance expectations
  - At least four representatives from industry, and at least 50% of the attendees are from industry.  
We met this expectation for this meeting.
  - 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

Mrs. Berndtson mentioned a safety need that was brought to the attention to the district for crash bars on the external doors.

Mrs. Huck said that they were aware of the project and safety improvements were made to the administration building this year. Next year safety improvements were being made to the high school building.

#### a) Needed Equipment

Greenhouse - Progress and recommendations

- [Program Wishlist](#)  
Mrs. Berndtson shared that many of the items on the list were also included on the budget, some of these items would be listed for Perkins funding for this year as well.

#### b) [Supplemental Equipment Grant Proposal](#)

Mrs. Berndtson reported that according to the state, the supplemental equipment grant item from this year was approved, but the district had yet to receive notification of the approval or the amount of money that it would be approved for.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Stacey Coolidge moved to approve the wishlist, Tim Morey seconded the motion, Motion passed via unanimous consent \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Bower asked if there was any sort of ranking system for the wishlist. Mrs. Berndtson said she internally had a ranking system but it wasn't written on the list.

She let the group know that she could make a revised version with a ranking system and share it.

11 ) NOCTI Test 2024

2024- Written test 4/15, Practical test 4/18 Stacey Coolidge

Mrs. Berndtson reported on the NOCTI test for the end of program assessment for this year.

12) National Technical Honor Society

Mrs. Berndtson reported on the progress of the National Technical Honor Society this year.

13) Feedback from advisory members

No additional feedback was given.

15) Adjourn \_\_\_\_\_ Stacey Coolidge made a motion to adjourn, Tim Morey seconded the motion and the motion passed via unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.