

Augusta County Agriculture Industry Board Minutes

Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Augusta County Government Center Smith West

Members in Attendance: *Sonny Balsley, Jeremy Shifflett, Cole Heizer Keith Phillips, Doug Horn, John Benner*

Absent: *Andrew Crummett (with notice), Willie Ruleman*

John opened the meeting at 6:30. The minutes from the September 1st meeting were reviewed.

Old Business:

Augusta County Meat Judging Team Thank You

John passed around the Thank You card from the 2022 Augusta Meat Judging Team. The team placed 7th in the national contest.

Augusta County Ag Appreciation Event/Gala

John gave some updates on the Augusta Ag Appreciation Event/Gala. Several other sponsors have committed including Houff, Augusta Health, Augusta Farm Bureau Federation, On the Farm Radio and Augusta Equipment. John asked the members if they wanted a table/booth display at the event. The members decided that they would. The booth could display Augusta Ag facts from the Ag Census, as well as cover things the Augusta Ag Industry Board has supported (including 4-H stockman's and meats teams). John mentioned that all members would have a ticket for the Gala as a table sponsor. John stated he and Doug could work on the display to have good signage for Augusta County and the Ag Industry Board.

New Business:

FY23 Budget Discussion. Available Budget \$5,760. John mentioned that the Augusta County 4-H/FFA Market Animal Show & Sale would be interested in support for the sale ring or one of the large barns. The Market Animal Show's fundraiser is February 4, 2022 at Augusta Expo. John also mentioned that the Market Animal Show is looking for a sponsor of the cash record book awards for the David Fiske Recordbook Award. The awards are tiered for each age bracket; senior kids, intermediates, and juniors and award \$200 for first, \$150 -2nd, \$100 -3rd, \$75-4th, \$50-5th.

Sonny Balsley moved that the board dedicate \$4,500 for the ring or barn sponsorship, and up to \$750 for the David Fiske Recordbook Award. All members voted in the affirmative for this motion and it was adopted.

FY24 Budget Discussion. John and Doug asked the members what they would like to consider as initiatives for the FY24 budget. John went over a proposal for an Extension intern. In the past, the Ag Industry Board did fund an Extension intern with some of their funds. An Extension intern can be funded by VCE and a locality. VCE pays for ½ the cost, the locality pays the other ½. The local cost is expected to be \$2,400. The total number of hours for an intern over the timeframe May-August would be 400 hrs.

John went over some potential tasks an intern would work on. Intern would be responsible for updating the ANR mailing list, helping with crop field plot layouts and variety trials, designing flyers for 4-H and ANR programs, helping with 4-H camp details, assisting with cow calf producer survey data and beef

research projects. Additionally, an intern would be able to assist with the youth and open shows at the Augusta County Fair.

Jeremy Shiflett mentioned he would like to expand the youth development fund pool to enable support for 4-H groups and clubs to carryout a special event, FFA chapters to send students to National Convention, and participate in other national events and contests. Jeremy also mentioned that support for scholarships could also be designated. A scholarship for a Vet Tech student through BRCC is one such need that has been identified.

There were questions about the county's view on supporting scholarship. John mentioned that qualifications could be clearly stated out for a scholarship. Another possibility would be for the Ag Industry Board to support an established scholarship fund or a scholarship fund that has recently been started. John mentioned that a youth sheep producer scholarship may be one such effort that could be identified to support.

The board agreed to put together a budget request list for the county, and ask for time at a BOS meeting to go over the listing for the fund request. John and Doug stated they would work on such a listing. Sonny Balsley and Jeremy Shiflett stated they would be willing to assist in coming to that session.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.