

Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee

March 12, 2024

4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Steuben County Annex Building, Conference Room C/D

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Joe Castrechino, Allison Lavine, Ed Merry, Chris Comstock and Kevin Peterson

Staff: Susan Walker, Tess McKinley, Katelyn Miller

Meeting facilitated by Allison Lavine

1. Call to Order 4:31pm

2. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2023 at 4:31 pm

Everyone has reviewed the meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes as presented made by Ed and seconded by Joe. Carried unanimously.

3. CCE Updates:

Susan Walker, CCE Steuben Updates - Doing Seed to Supper and a Community Gardening Series going on.

Looking for a host for a pesticide workshop.

June 12 – Berry Production Workshop with Pesticide credits

July 13 – Mortality Composting workshop facilitated by CCE and taught by DEC and Soil and Water. Hoping Phil Weaver will host. Tess will send Phil Weaver's info to Susan.

Tess McKinley, CCE Steuben – Farm Trail Day and Veggie Van and Chairman's Meeting

Katelyn Miller, SWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team – Dairy Added Tour tomorrow

NY Pork Producer Meeting coming up March 23 Waterloo

Insecticide trial in Steuben to try some alternatives

4. Member Input and Updates –

Explore Steuben, Kevin Peterson – Helping with Farm Trail Day. Updating 2024 video for Farm Trail Day and will put money towards marketing – doing new Finger Lakes Farm Trail website.

Mud Creek Bison Ranch, Chris Comstock – Farm doing great, expecting about 225 babies are coming, booking out for weddings in new location. Struggling to find employees.

Lismore Dairy, Ed Merry – Process of milking parlor project. Hoping by late spring will have parlor up. Fair Life milk plant going up in Webster and cheese in Franklinville. Only sell wholesale milk. Haul own milk.

Swine, Joe Castrechino – Piglets are being born!! Still selling halves and wholes. 5 sows. John Perry is the butcher.

Ziegenvine Homestead, Allison Lavine – Ziegenhagen – Have campers staying for Eclipse. Bad year for tapping maple for farm. Need support for vet care to do a herd check with various animals. Perry Vet was recommended. Dr. Mix from Elmira was recommended and so was Bath Vet Clinic, along with Dr. Cornell in Jasper Troupsburg.

5. Old Business – None

6. Updates by Committee Members

New Business:

DEC couldn't stay on PAC, so Chuck Susick from Soil and Water is joining the PAC.

Farm Bureau Meetings are the same time

7. Future Meeting Dates for 2024

May 14, July 9, September 10 and November 12.

8. Adjourn – Motion by Chris and Ed seconded. All approved at 5:26.