



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

NCACES Fall Meeting

September 20, 2024

12 - 2 PM

NC A&T Farm Pavilion

26 Total Attendees: Ann Savage, Derek Washburn, Travella Free, Susan Jake, Andrew Branan, Dannica Wall, Jonas Asbill, Chip Simmons, Marissa Cohen, Adam Fahrenholz, Hannah Talton, Sanjok Pouldel, Raymond Thomas, Betty Rodriguez, Cintia Aguilar, Biswanath Dari, Monique Brady, Naquita Brewington-McCormick, Fletcher Barber Jr., Alex Uzokwe, Kathleen Liang, Dale Monks, Matt Poore, Steve Hall, Ray McKinnie, Lee Menius

12 noon - 12:15 **Networking**

12:15 **Lunch (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Veggies, Sides)**

12:45 **Welcome and introductions (Patrice, board members)**

Patrice welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked to change the meeting around to have the administration speak first.

Administrative Updates

Dr. Dale Monks - NC State Extension

Dr. Steve Hall introduced Dr. Dale Monks.

Dale spoke about the upcoming Extension Director search. We have two interim directors: Dr. Sarah Kirby (County Operations and HR) and Dr. David Monks (Provost responsibilities, commodity groups and ANR). Both cover Extension budgets. The Dean has set up several listening sessions. Listening sessions with agents occur without administration as a part of those meetings. If you would like to have some impact on the focus points for the position, be a part of those listening sessions. The search committee member list has not been published. The timeline for the position being filled is likely going to be about a year.

Chancellor Randy Woodson will be retiring next June and a provost will also be retiring next summer. These positions could determine the timeline for the next Extension Director position. Rural row crop agent positions are very difficult to fill, so one challenge is providing expertise in those counties.

Another challenge is making sure we retain institutional knowledge with all of these transitions. Dale thanked the association for the opportunity to speak.

Dr. Ray McKinnie - NC A&T Extension

Dr. Matt Poore introduced Dr. Ray McKinnie.

Dr. McKinnie welcomed the association to NC A&T's Farm Pavilion. The new construction on the farm is the Community Complex. This will be a facility to engage the community with food/vegetable processing, kitchen, ice cream parlor, and food science laboratory. This will include bringing back "Aggie Ice Cream". A&T has recently hired a new Chancellor: James Martin II. He would like to visit the counties. A&T is still working on their Extension Dean search. He is hopeful that a new dean will be named by December. There is a lot of transition. Also hopeful that permission to build a new ag building will be given soon.



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

There are a number of new hires in Extension at NC A&T to continue building programs. Dr. McKinnie thanked the association for the opportunity to speak.

Patrice asked everyone to introduce themselves, including new hires from NC A&T.

Business Meeting (Sign-in sheet circulating)

Minutes from last meeting (Marissa)

Marissa gave an overview of the last meeting (Spring Awards meeting) and encouraged everyone to sign in before they leave the meeting.

Treasurer Update (Matt)

Matt gave an update on the accounts and memberships. Matt talked about the importance of becoming a member and paying dues. Venmo is now an option to pay dues and has been very instrumental in gathering fees. \$20/year memberships with \$100 lifetime memberships. We have talked about having sponsors so we can increase the quality of the meals; however, the cookout has increased the networking and sense of community. If the membership enjoys the cookouts, we can continue.

Our account balance is around \$3000.

Dues are based on a calendar year, so the request to pay dues will come out soon (January).

1:30

Speaker (Introduction, Marissa Cohen)

Dr. Dannica Wall

Working with Farmer-To-Farmer programs across the globe

Dr. Marissa Cohen introduced Dr. Dannica Wall.

Dannica spoke about her work with Farmer-To-Farmer, an international Extension program that connects farmers with U.S. experts.

The organization sends volunteers into communities around the world.

Dannica became involved with F2F in 2019. She has completed 14 assignments that cover all aspects of poultry production. Dannica has worked in Africa, South America and Asia. Dannica encouraged others in the group to become involved and submit applications.

2:00

Adjourn/Networking

Patrice asked everyone to check their emails for updates on the next meeting.

Steve talked about the upcoming NCJCEP meeting and asked for representatives for that meeting. It will be held

Next Meeting: We are looking into options to possibly hold our next meeting during the State Extension Conference. If not, we will hold our Winter meeting via Zoom. Once we have a date set, Marissa will send out a calendar invite.

2024 Executive Committee

President - Patrice Dollar (NC A&T)

2024 General Board Members

Biswanath Dari (NC A&T)



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

President Elect – Dannica Wall (NC State)

Secretary - Marissa Cohen (NC State)

Treasurer - Matt Poore (NC State)

Parliamentarian – Beatriz Rodriguez (NC A&T)

Website Coordinator – Ann Savage (NC State)

Past President – Steven Hall (NC State)

Lee Menius (NC State)

Charlotte Glen (NC State)

Katryn Eske (NC A&T)

Robert Andrew Branan (NC State)

Derek Washburn (NC State)



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

NCACES Spring Awards Meeting

May 10, 2024

11:30 - 2 PM

NC State Beef Unit, Lake Wheeler

11:30 - 12 noon **Networking**

Patrice asked everyone to introduce themselves.

12 noon **Lunch (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Veggies, Sides)**

Welcome and introductions (Patrice, board members)

Patrice asked everyone to introduce themselves.

12:30 **Introduction of speakers (Drs. Rich Bonanno and Ray McKinnie)**

Provide extension updates, new announcements, and information on what they see on the horizon for Extension and for their universities

Matt Poore introduced Dr. Rich Bonanno.

Dr. Bonanno

Dr. Bonanno talked about the field labs, such as the beef farm, that are generally focused on research and teaching. The university is always looking for ways to expand the farms so we can be as self-sustaining as possible. The university recently acquired about 17 acres on Lake Wheeler.

Dr. Bonanno congratulated the faculty who were promoted this year and others who successfully completed new degrees. He also talked about the promotion and tenure process. We have been looking at the departmental spending allocations. CALS is very different from other colleges at NC State because we aren't only receiving state monies. We have federal and state allocations, as well as county monies. Legislative pay increases are only on the state portion of salaries, which means the college has to find money to match the other components of the salaries.

He has been asking DELs to consider what metrics could be used to help equitably distribute funds based on their extension models. Is there a simple way that could be used across all departments to measure productivity of Extension employees on campus? If we could choose 3 metrics, what would they be? Publications? Social media or web hits? Developing and/or directing meetings? How can we translate our impact into quantifiable metrics?

There are some new hires in the college: David Crouse will be the new associate dean for academics. Megan Jacob will be joining as the replacement for Harry Daniels (basically the dean of the faculty - RPT). The administration is very close to signing a new MOU between NC State and NC A&T Extension to formalize the extension agreement between the universities.

They are also working on MOUs for each county - 93/101 signed. 39/101 counties were lock-in for the former agreement, whereas over 70/101 have agreed to be lock-in, which includes supporting title and degree promotions with county dollars in addition to the state funds.

Matt Poore introduced Dr. Ray McKinnie. They have worked together for the last 30 years, starting their careers working together to support the meat goat industry.

Dr. McKinnie



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

Dr. McKinnie thanked NCACES for the invitation to speak. Many of the issues Dr. Bonanno spoke about similarities to those at NC A&T, especially with the encroachment of housing near the farm.

The Chancellor of NC A&T has announced his retirement and there is a search underway for a new Chancellor. The incoming person will need to ensure the forward momentum is maintained. There is also a dean search underway for the college. Several interviews have been conducted. Similar to the Chancellor position, they need someone willing to keep momentum moving forward, rather than making changes.

The College of Ag is continuing to hire, grow and expand in Extension, Research and Teaching, focusing on advancements in technology and science. There is an administrative burden on much of the college.

There have been a number of resignations and retirements, but the college is attracting amazing talents that are building the college back even stronger. Very optimistic and excited about the future. There are also facility challenges that are being addressed to develop areas for the new hires and existing employees to work.

1:00 **Business Meeting (Sign-in sheet circulating)**

Minutes from last meeting (Marissa)

Marissa talked about the minutes from the Winter meeting.

Andrew Branan motioned to approve the minutes.

Derek Washburn seconded the motion.

Treasurer Update (Matt)

Matt thanked the group for participating in the cookout meetings. He thanked Steve Hall for his support for this type of meeting.

We have a combined \$4,000 in our accounts, which is fairly stable. One of the challenges has been getting members to pay their membership dues. Venmo has helped tremendously.

Matt did send a reminder to annual due paying members asking them to pay their dues and there was an excellent response. Lifetime membership dues are supportive of our events, but they don't continue to grow the accounts.

We have discussed sponsorships from programs. This needs to be discussed further.

We have a very active board. We need to continue to support and promote participation in the program. Please encourage other members to join.

Adam Fahrenholz motioned to approve the treasurer's report.

Katryn Eske seconded.

Membership (Matt)

About 40 active lifetime members with another 14 annual memberships. We want to encourage those who are lifetime members to remain active in the association.

Nominating Committee, Awards Committee Program Presentation (Lee)

Lee is new to the nominating committee and awards review committee. There were excellent nominations this year.

Dr. Jimo Ibrahim from NC A&T was the award recipient for the Outstanding Specialist. He was unable to join us today.



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

Outstanding Program Team: Dr. Dari talked about the Heirs Property Project and how excited they are to be awarded for their work as a team.

Dr. Biswanath Dari

Dr. Kurt Smith

Dr. Andrew Branan

Dr. Noah Ranells

Each team member talked about the amazing amount of teamwork that went into developing this project and their complimentary skills.

Outstanding Work Supporting County Programs

Johnny Rogers with his work in the Amazing Grazing program

2:00

Adjourn/Networking

Look for more information about our next meeting in the Fall.
