

**URI Cooperative Extension Small Acreage Livestock Education Program Steering
Committee Meeting Notes
January 5, 2007, 9 – 11 AM, URI Coastal Institute in Kingston, Room 117**

Attendees: Kenneth Ayers
Jerry Bertrand
Holly Burdett
Tara Germond
Whitney Langone
Fred Launer
Courtney Lipski
Alyson McCann
Don Minto
Chris Modisette
Marcia Morreira
Maila Schwartz
Judith Swift
Heidi Wright
Katheryn Zuromski

Introductions and reviewed role of project steering committee.

- Provide link to target audience
- Information exchange -- related projects and programs
- Provide review and input on Project components
- Serve as a resource for referring issues that can not be addressed by the scope of the Project.
- Meet twice a year

Brief review of project objectives and timeline

- 3 year project – funding September 2006 – September 2009
- Year 1 – conduct needs assessment of target audience
- Year 2 – information from needs assessment will be used to develop education program. Gather and train interested volunteers.

Review current progress

- Discussion on AVS 102 student lab exercise. Peckham farm serves as an excellent demonstration site – showing both challenges and examples of good practices. It will be a valuable site for further training. The challenge is in familiarizing students and future trainees with Peckham Farm – self-assessment tool assumes you own or work at property. Majority of students were involved – it got them thinking – and showed the self-assessment tool to be fairly easy to use. More information about lab exercise on website. Interest in conducting the class exercise again next year – suggest including a lecture period to prepare students for lab – dry run of new education program.
- Reviewed current Project website – site will be expanding content and changing to better appeal to the target audience, www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes.

- Holly and Alyson will be attending the National Water Program Annual Conference at the end of January and are submitting a poster of the Project.
- Needs Assessment – reviewed draft survey and focus group questions. Discussion on better defining and describing target audience (who/what is commercial) and being sure to stay linked with NRCS. Discussed potential outreach and participation outside of the 4-H Program. Discussion on other livestock surveys recently conducted, potential barriers and incentives for completing the survey.

Other business:

- Discussion on extent that animal health issues will be covered. RI DEM Division of Agriculture has information that should be referenced. Example: Avian Flu, Hoof and Mouth Disease, etc.
- Discussion on other related projects – RI Raised Meats Cooperative, Southern RI Conservation District Livestock Survey, RI RC&D educational brochure on horse manure composting, URI CE Master Composter Program.
- Discussion on thinking about potential “Hot Button” words and issues – to assist with developing education program.

Wrap up / next steps:

- Next steering committee meeting will be in the summer of 2007 after the needs assessment has been conducted and the data analyzed.
- Project staff will provide additional updates through emails.
- Project staff will organize and conduct focus group meetings and mail surveys.

Adjourn