

Southeast Kentucky Sheep Producers Association (SEKSPA)

Fourth Quarterly Educational and Informational Meeting (Via Teleconference)

October 29, 2020

Attendees:

Patrick Angel, Lester and Dorothy Brashear, Larry Brashear, Jessica Madison, Gerald Crowe, Guy Taylor, Chris Pierce, Glenn Williams, John Grider, Tiffany Nolan, Daniel Bell, Brenda Richardson, Karen and David Taylor, Kevin Stewart, Ashley Dixon, Joyce Kiebler, Tammy Sizemore, John Hershberger, Brett Gant, Monty Turner, Tiffany Ericson, Tom and Becky Jones, Emily Merritt, Candace Mullins, John and Lawana Scoville, David and Karen Taylor, James and Gabriel Cordes, Lucas and Hanna Roy, Cleason Martin, Will Bowling, Micah Wiles

Guests: Dakota Burrell, Aleta Botts, Jordan Kidd

Officer's Reports

President- Dr. Patrick Angel opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and welcomed all the attendees. Roll Call was done by county. The secretary reports that there are 38 in attendance. Dr. Angel reminded members that it is time for everyone to renew membership in SEKSPA.

Membership dues are still \$10 annually.

Also, all classified advertisements on the SEKSPA website will soon be purged. Anyone who wants to keep an ad on the site should resubmit the request and new ads should be requested by email or by calling Patrick. Any member may put up an ad.

Dr. Angel announced that he had been elected to the board of the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association. He is not resigning from SEKSPA. He is dedicated to keeping the interests of sheep

producers in southeast Kentucky in the forefront by being more connected to the state organization.

Vice President- Mr. Brashear introduced Mr. Dakota Burrell, who has a degree in agriculture and works at the Buckhorn Children's Center, a residential treatment center for girls. The school has started an agricultural therapy program for the clients. The school has goats, chickens, and rabbits in the program and wants to add sheep. As most of the girls come from other parts of Kentucky, this is a new experience for most of them. Dr. Angel assured Mr. Burrell that SEKSPA members would be very supportive of the program at his school.

Treasurer- Mr. Scoville reports that our account contains \$844. 00. Membership fees have only been used to pay the Secretary of State for our non-profit filing fee and \$1.00 per month to the bank for the account fee.

Secretary- Minutes of last quarterly meeting in July were read.

Special Reports

By-Law Review

Aleta Botts from the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) was introduced and reported on the status of our association by-laws as she has reviewed them. She has worked with other nonprofits in developing by-laws. She relates that it is normal to review by-laws and make changes as necessary. She had the following recommendations:

- 1) She can provide guidance to ensure that they are legal and workable.
- 2) By-laws should provide transparency and predictability in the workings of the organization.
- 3) SEKSPA by-laws appear to need some revision to bring them into a better state.

- 4) A small group committee should work on revising the by-laws.
- 5) KCARD can provide guidance to the committee, but SEKSPA membership will make the final decision.

Guy Taylor made a motion for the President to appoint a by-laws Committee to review and make revisions to our by-laws for the membership to consider. The motion was seconded by Emily Merritt. A request was made for the minutes from tonight's meeting to be sent out to the membership as soon as possible. As there was no further question or discussion, a vote was held. The motion passed unanimous.

Dr. Angel thanked Ms. Aleta Botts for her advice and guidance

Farm Credit Mid-America Grant and Value--Added Producers Grant

Mr. Chris Pierce introduced Mr. Jordan Kidd from Farm Credit Mid-America, a farmer owned cooperative that provides financing to farmers in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Guy Taylor and Chris had approached Farm Credit Mid-America for a bridge loan to help cover the matching funds required for the Value-Added Product Grant to pay KCARD half of the cost up front. Instead of getting a loan for that amount, SEKSPA was guided by Farm Credit Mid-America into applying for a grant from Farm Credit, which has now been awarded, in the amount of \$25,180. This allows SEKSPA to pay KCARD to initiate the feasibility study and to be reimbursed that amount through the VAPG. This will allow SEKSPA to use the \$25,180 for other projects. (One of the projects previously discussed was a shared mobile animal working chute to be used by SEKSPA members. Another project was to make the Wilderness Trail cattle accumulating facility in Laurel County more amenable to handle lambs.)

Guy Taylor updated the membership on the status of the VAPG to be conducted by KCARD and discussed a timeline (this was clarified by Ms. Botts) November 1- the study begins; the study is concluded in 3 months; the Action Plan will be developed after the study.

Chris Pierce made a motion for SEKSPA to accept the \$25,180 grant from Farm Credit Mid-America. Kevin Stewart seconded. No questions for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Angel thanked Mr. Kidd for the generous grant.

Agriculture Production Co-op Possibility

Mr. Will Bowling described reclaimed surface mines in the eastern Kentucky coal fields, particularly for reclaimed mountain top removal operations, that are now unused grasslands. Mr. Bowling sees these settings as opportunities for small ruminant (sheep) production. These lands have not been used because of the mine soil compaction, difficulty to drive fence posts and its low productivity. He and others have viewed this as an opportunity somewhat in the manner that is done in the western US. The western model utilizes immigrant laborers through the H2A program work visas. The model for southeast KY would involve small, medium and large sheep producers pooling resources to acquire the sheep, a herder to tend to the sheep, and all the supplies required to graze a large (800-1200 ewes and the lambs they produce) band of sheep on grasses and forbs found on reclaimed strip mine property. Mr. Bowling and others see this as a huge opportunity for east KY sheep producers. This enterprise is in its initial stages. Mr. Bowling gave his cell phone number for any interested person to contact him. Both he and President Angel made it clear that the Agriculture Production Co-op is not a part of SEKSPA but may be compatible with the mission and goals of our association.

In the time for discussion, President Angel asked if a survey of SEKSPA membership would be helpful to determine if this project is viable. He asked for a motion relative to conducting such a survey. Mr. Kevin Stewart made a motion for SEKSPA to help facilitate in an investigation into the proposal by Mr. Bowling. The motion was seconded. Mr. Gerald Crowe interjected that this program was bringing in migrant workers that may take jobs from Kentuckians and that it sounded as though there would not be opportunities for small and medium farm investors. It will benefit migrant workers and

outside investors, not east Kentucky farmers. He related a similar co-op that was done years ago in Kentucky. It failed when the grant money ran out, he says. Kevin Stewart stated that a migrant worker who knows sheep could train local people to do the job. Mr. Crowe continued to state his case that the idea would not work. Mr. Bowling replied that east Kentucky needs jobs and that there are few Kentuckians that would stay with a sheep flock 24-7. Secondly, this would be an investment opportunity for the people in this area. He advised that this is an initial investigation into whether or not this would work. Mr. Crowe continued to state that this would not work for small producers. Mr. Bowling admits that there are no guarantees, but that he would like to see if this could get off the ground and be an opportunity for small investors. Mr. Stewart stated that he sees this as an opportunity to expand for small sheep producers. Daniel Bell said that sees this as an opportunity, as well. He asked if the program would also include the marketing strategies being investigated by KCARD for SEKSPA. Mr. Bowling stated that it would be separate from SEKSPA. Dr. Angel repeated the motion for SEKSPA to help facilitate the investigation of the concept of creating a sheep cooperative as described by Mr. Bowling through a membership survey. The motion passed. Mr. Bowling gave his phone number and email address (will.e.bowling@gmail.com and 606/599-6077) and asked members to contact him at their convenience in the next few weeks. He continued to state that there is no pressure.

K-CARD Feasibility Study

Dr. Angel asked Alita Botts to readdress the Feasibility Study timeline. She reiterated that the study would begin November 1 and conclude in February. After that, SEKSPA will develop an action plan. KCARD can lend assistance and even readdress the study later in the year as need be. KCARD will also explain how they performed the study for SEKSPA.

Round Table Discussion

Dr. Angel asked David and Karen Taylor if they are buying lambs. They stated that they are buying Katahdin ram lambs that are intact at 60 to 80 pounds. David's number is 606/305-8297.

John and Lawana are selling lambs.

Dr. Angel advises that David Sommers is looking for solid white Katahdin rams with good conformation. John Scoville says he has several registered rams to sell.

Dr. Jessica Madison states that Oct. 30 the Amish community is having a fish fry to benefit their community. It is at 305 Pond Lick Road Anville, KY, in Jackson County.

Mr. Gerald Crowe states that on Dec. 19 and 20 they will begin their Shearing Days and the first and second week in January. Beginning the last weekend in Jan. and for the following seven weekends they will have Lambing Days Events for folks to come see and bottle feed lambs. Then the first and second weekend in March there will be an "On the Farm Craft Days". Other days will follow throughout the year. The admission is \$5 adults and 10 years and under are free. Updates will be on his website and Facebook page.

Mr. Kevin Stewart says Gerald makes great products for sheep, especially gates.

Treasurer John Scoville states that he is resigning his post as treasurer due to lack of time. Wants us to "put it in the works." Dr. Angel thanked him for his work and sacrifice. John states that his resignation is effective "whenever". Dr. Angel asked for volunteers to serve as interim treasurer. Ms. Emily Merritt stated that she would love to be more involved in the organization and would take the position. Mr. Scoville reminded that it would be for the remainder of the 3-year term. Mr. Kevin Stewart made a motion that the membership

accept Ms. Merritt as interim treasurer and that her name will be added to the back account and that John's name will be removed. Mr. Gerald Crowe second. Mr. Scoville suggests having the vote the next meeting due to needing time to deal with changes at the bank. Mr. Stewart reiterated that we accept her as a volunteer interim treasurer and work out the transition and have a membership vote for permanent Treasurer in January. The motion passed.

Ms. Merritt states that she will work with Mr. Scoville privately to facilitate the transition.

Mr. Lester Brashear gave a brief market report in which both Richmond and Bowling Green report that lambs were holding near or the same as at the same time last year.

The President, again, asked for members to not give up on the organization and to renew their membership.

John Scoville has guard puppies to sell.

The next quarterly meeting will be on January 28, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

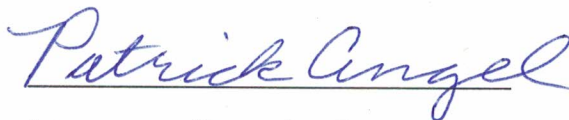
Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Brashear, SEKSPA Secretary



[signature of Secretary]

Date signed 3 Nov. 2020



[signature of President]

Date signed Nov. 3, 2020