



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development PRODUCER EDUCATION AND INNOVATION WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JANUARY 9, 2014

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jamie Jones and Kevin Sullivan, working group co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Other working group members present were:

Dr. Richard	Fu	Agrivoultion
Dr. Christoph	Geiss	Trinity College
Eileen	Hochberg	CT Northeast Organic Farming Association
Russell	Holmberg	Holmberg Orchards
Abbie	Maynard	CT Agricultural Experiment Station
Susan	Mitchell	CT New Farmers Alliance
Charlie	Viens	Charles Island Oyster Farm
Gregg	Wershoven	Mountain Top Mushrooms

Working group members Bill Davenport, Joe Geremia, Eloise Marinos, and the representative from the Board of Regents for Higher Education were absent.

Other Governor's Council for Agricultural Development members in attendance were Chairman Steven K. Revczky, Dean Gregory Weidemann, Henry Talmage, and Peter Orr. Agency staff included Stephen Anderson, Kurt Nieminen, Linda Piotrowicz, and Jaime Smith.

I. GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Jamie Jones provided an overview of the council, its Grow Connecticut Farms strategic plan, and progress to date.

II. INTRODUCTION OF WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Kevin Sullivan introduced the assignment that the Producer Education and Innovation working group will be undertaking in 2014, gather producer input on needs, identify gaps in producer education and research and development, and identify potential partnerships for providing that research and development, giving a brief history of work and findings leading up to the assignment. Working group members then introduced themselves and provided information about their specific experience and skills relevant to the assignment.

III. STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING DRAFT DELIVERABLES

The group engaged in an in-depth discussion about its assignment and came to consensus on the following: questions regarding the value of an online portal to farmers along with the specifics for education/training/certificate programs needs to be addressed at the upcoming agricultural town hall meeting schedule for January 29, 2014.

IV. TOWN HALL MEETING DAY

The group discussed the upcoming agricultural town hall meeting day scheduled for January 29, 2014, at the State Capitol.

V. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS

Kevin Sullivan recapped the highlights of the discussion and the next steps, which include working group staffer Jaime Smith to email out the contact list for the members and notes from the meeting.

Members will then word-smith the draft questions by 1/24/2014. Co-chairs Jamie Jones and Kevin Sullivan will report this information back to the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development at its February 4, 2014, meeting. The Producer Education and Innovation working group will next meet on February 27, 2014.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Kevin Sullivan adjourned meeting at 12:04pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jaime L. Smith
1/9/2014

DRAFT