

HENRY COUNTY
ANNUAL GRASSROOTS MEETING
SUMMARY FORM
August 10, 2011

Please briefly summarize discussion related to needs regarding the following areas of the County Plan of Work:

Strategic Program Initiatives

Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan:

1. Educating parents about calorie values, portion control.
2. Advertising – get the word out to the local communities.
3. Encourage families to eat meals together.
4. Plant gardens.
5. Find more ways to advertise the farmers markets.
6. Have posters on nutrition facts at farmers markets.
7. Stress and Coping
8. Good Diet
9. Keep children fit
10. Sex education for teens or preteens
11. Educating senior adults in our county on health and wellness.
12. Provide info regarding effects of pesticides and agricultural chemicals on health of humans and livestock.

Workforce Development:

1. Department of Education needs to offer more technical & vocational programs – skills for service related jobs. Do not have trained people in the county to get companies to come in here.
2. Buildings and spaces for companies to move into is a problem. Need to be better prepared.
3. Make the necessary connections to allow or to encourage new businesses in our area.
4. Jobs are an issue.
5. Shipping, transportation is a problem in the county.
6. Going off to college and not coming back to the county to work.
7. The entire county needs to learn how to cooperate together.
8. Largest water aquifer in the US is in Newville. What can be done for the person that owns this land? What kind of business can be brought here to utilize this resource?
9. Slaughter packing houses.
10. Big ranchers are thinking about converting to feed lots.
11. Cattlemen need to keep working on getting a facility in Henry County.
12. What kind of jobs input can the new Osteopathic Medical School, coming to Dothan, have in Henry County?
13. Need to be able to provide classes for youth/young adults on skills needed the world today.
14. Help those needing jobs get connected with job possibilities in the area.
15. Provide/assist with mentoring programs for young farmers.

Safe and Secure Food Supply:

1. Teach proper food preparation and refrigeration. Encourage people to buy US grown food.
2. Advertising – get the word out there allowing the public to know.
3. Manufacturing of peanuts in the county instead of sending them out of the state.
4. Need research on skins of peanuts – good for heart health.
5. Food grown in the USA.
6. Soybeans – food for fish.
7. Catfish farmers are going out of business.
8. Tilapia can be grown to survive cold weather in the winter.
9. Farmers Markets
10. Food Ministries
11. Educating the youth on growing and preparing food.
12. Distribute info on food labeling, effects of irradiation, and how to safely wash and remove poison sprays from vegetables and fruits before eating.

Financial Literacy Across the Lifespan:

1. Parents – children learn from example.
2. Don't buy unless you can afford it.
3. Financial Literacy needs to be addressed at the 7th to high school level.
4. Teach youth about farm management.
5. Major pressure on local banks to make loans, but the government makes it hard for banks to loan money. If it's a risky loan, their rating can go down. Government is trying to take over local banks.
6. Helping children and teens to develop good sound consumer and financial skills so they have a good household.
7. Educate those who aren't able to manage their own personal business. Need to be educated so they realize bankruptcy is not the best option.

Sustainable Agricultural and Forestry Systems:

1. Restore crop insurance to help existing farmers.
2. Encourage participation in farm programs such as CRP.
3. Wood pellets to heat poultry houses.
4. Very important since agriculture is our # 1 industry in Henry County.
5. Provide info on establishing "Victory Gardens".
6. Provide canning and freezing workshops.

Environmental Stewardship:

1. Plant trees – a renewable resource
2. Utilize our abundance of kudzu.
3. Protect the environment by recycling more and helping keep pollution down.
4. Protection of the environment is vital to maintain a clean and healthy county.
5. Stress importance of cover crops, mulching and composting.
6. Conduct more rain barrel workshops.

On – Going (Base) Programs: (Added by committee members)

1. 4-H
2. Prosper – 6th & 7th grades
3. NEP
4. EFNEP
5. Agronomic crops/CRD/Livestock/Forages
6. Home Horticulture/Commercial Fruit & Vegetable
7. Family & Consumer Science
8. Need to continue 4-H Youth Camp. Kids really enjoy this program.
9. Youth at risk programs.
10. Teaching a young man how to act and behave like one as well as the young ladies.
11. Help our farmers.

County Program Initiatives:

1. Farmers Market
2. Farm City Program
3. Peanut Pod Blast Program
4. Forestry/Wildlife Programs
5. 4-H Livestock & Livestock Show Team
6. 4-H Horse Club
7. Assist the local CPA and accounting offices to host seminars on budgeting, balancing check book and the importance of good credit and how to maintain good credit.
8. Healthy Homes
9. Help young adults with preparing for a job interview.
10. Help educate young people be aware of our agricultural heritage.