CCA MINUTES DECEMBER 2, 2004 AT RYAN’S RESTAURANT IN
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: FRAN DEVILLE, MIKE VENABLE, JAY
STEVENS, MARTY POUSSON AND JOHN FONTANE.

MEETING CAME TO ORDER AT 11AM.
TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WERE:

1. PURPOSE OF CCA IS NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION. HOWEVER MORE EDUCATION IS SPENT ON PEST
MANAGEMENT. FRAN SUGGESTED WE HAVE MORE EDUCATIONAL
SEMINARS RELATING TO NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION.
2. CCA BOARD WILL TRY TO MAKE AVAILABLE MORE EDUCATIONAL
MEETINGS AVAILABLE FOR CEU’S.
3. THE LAIA MEETING WILL BE HELD IN LAFAYETTE, LA. ON JANUARY
12TH, AND 13TH. CLIFF SYNDER, KEN WHITMAN, AND DAVID LANCLOIS
WILL BE GIVING PRESENTATIONS AT THE MEETING.
4. FRAN MENTIONED THAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE ABOUT $8000.00 FOR
USE ON EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.
5. THE NEXT TEST FOR CCA POTENTIAL MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN ON
FEBRUARY 4, 2005 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. THIS WILL BE
ADMINISTERED BY MARTY POUSSON AND MIKE VENABLE.
6. FRAN SUGGESTED WE CONSIDER ONLY GIVING TEST ONCE A YEAR
SINCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS TESTING HAS DROPPED TO LESS THAN
5 PER YEAR. (NOTE: SECTION 1.21.1 IN THE CCA PROCEDURES MANUAL
ON PAGE 12 ALLOWS THE LOCAL BOARD THE OPTION OF ALLOWING
ONLY ONCE PER YEAR TESTING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY OF
EACH YEAR.)
7. JAY STEVENS WILL GIVE A “BACK TO BASICS” FERTILITY SEMAIRE IN
ALEXANDRIA, LA. AT THE DEAN LEE STATION ON FEBRUARY 1, 2005.
THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD FROM 8:30 TO 12:30. OTHER DETAILS TO BE
DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE.
8. A COTTON TRAINING SESSION IS USUALLY HELD IN JUNE OF EACH
YEAR.
9. WE WILL SPONSOR AN OCTOBER (LAST WEEK) 8 HOUR TRAINING
SEMINAR. 4 HOURS ON FERTILITY AND 4 HOURS ON PEST
MANAGEMENT.
10. FRAN SAID THERE IS LESS THAN 100 CCA MEMBERS IN LOUISIANA. WE
WILL REQUEST A LIST FROM THE HOME OFFICE. THIS LIST WILL BE
GIVEN TO JOHN AND WE WILL MAIL TO ALL MEMBERS A LETTER
ASKING FOR UPDATED MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, CELL
NUMBER, E-MAIL ADDRESS AND COMPANY AFFILIATION. THIS WILL
ALLOW THE LOCAL BOARD TO BETTER COMMUNICATE TO MEMBERS
ABOUT CURRENT AND UP COMING EVENTS.
11. MARTY SUGGESTED WE CONTACT THE NATIONAL OFFICE ABOUT SETTING UP A LOUISIANA WEB SITE. (NOTE: IN CHECKING THE CCA WEB SITE I FOUND THAT SEVERAL STATES HAVE THEIR OWN WEB PAGE. THIS IS AVAILABLE TO US AND I WILL CHECK THE COST ETC.) WE COULD PROVIDE A WEB SITE AVAILABLE TO OUR CCA MEMBERSHIP ON CEU DATES AND OTHER “LATE BREAKING NEWS” EVENTS PERTAINING TO LOUISIANA.

12. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN AND SECONDED BY JAY TO NOT ALLOW ANY LEEWAY ON THE 40 HOUR OF CEU’S PER 2 YEAR CYCLE. FRAN STATED THAT HE HAS ALLOWED A GRACE PERIOD IN THE PASS. THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (NOTE: I CHECKED WITH THE NATIONAL OFFICE AND WAS INFORMED THAT WE OVERSTEPPED OUR AUTHORITY. PAGE 16 OF THE POLICY MANUAL STATES THAT WE MUST ALLOW A “GOOD EFFORT LENIENCY PERIOD” IF A CCA MEMBER HAS 35 HOURS BUT LESS THAN 40 HOURS. WE WILL NEED TO REVISIT THIS ISSUE AT OUR NEXT MEETING.)

13. JOHN MENTIONED THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO PUT MORE PRESTIGE IN BEING A CCA MEMBER. MARTY SUGGEST WE PROMOTE A POSITIVE CAMPAIGN EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A CCA. FRAN NOTED THAT SOME MEMBERS GOT THEIR CCA MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE THEY WERE FORCED TO BY THEIR EMPLOYER. HOWEVER THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE EDUCATION OR BENEFITS. FRAN NOTED SOME MEMBERS HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR CERTIFICATION WHEN IT EXPIRED. THE BOARD WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO CHANGE THE IMAGE OF CCA MEMBERS.

14. THE QUESTION WAS ASKED IF WE HAD THE AUTHORITY TO WITHHOLD POINTS ON A TEST.

15. FRAN NOTED THAT THE CROP CONSULTANTS IN LOUISIANA ARE ANTI CCA PROGRAM. CROP CONSULTANTS ARE ALLOWED TO CHARGE A FEE FOR THEIR SERVICES IN LA. BUT STATE LAW DOES NOT ALLOW A CCA MEMBER TO CHARGE A FEE FOR HIS SERVICES.

16. THE QUESTION WAS ASKED IF NATIONAL RETAIL AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY’S ARE REQUIRING NEW HIRES TO OBTAIN THEIR CCA.

17. JOHN GAVE EACH BOARD MEMBER LITERATURE THAT WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE NATIONAL OFFICE.
   A) “WHY SHOULD I CARE IF MY CROP CONSULTANT IS CERTIFIED”
   B) “LOCAL CCA BOARD MARKETING EFFORTS”
   C) “IMAGE ENHANCEMENT MARKETING PROGRAM 2004”
   D) “CROP ADVISER OF THE YEAR AWARD”

18. MIKE GAVE OUT CARDS FROM SOUTHERN AGRI BUSINESS SERVICES LLC. WHICH GIVES TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE CCA MEMBERS WANTING TO TAKE THE TEST. WE WILL CALL AND GET COST AND OTHER SPECIFICS.

19. JAY SAID THERE IS AN ISSUE ABOUT DIFFERENT LABS AND THEIR TESTING FOR P IN SOIL SAMPLES. LSU USES THE STRONG BRAY
METHOD BUT MOST OTHER LABS USE THE MELICH 3 METHOD. NRCS REQUIRES THE STRONG BRAY IN THEIR PROGRAMS. ANOTHER ISSUE IS THAT LSU BASES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON MAINTENANCE BUT OTHER LABS USE A BUILD UP RECOMMENDATION. OTHER SUBJECTS ARE WHY SOME FARMERS ARE MAKING BETTER YIELDS. IS IT BECAUSE OF FERTILITY, MANAGEMENT OR ENVIRONMENT?

20. JAY MENTIONED THAT THERE IS A PUSH FROM THE INDUSTRY FOR LSU TO HIRE A RESEARCH AGRONOMIST. HOWEVER, THE FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

21. JAY MENTIONED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LSU AND OTHER PLACES MAY NOT HAVE KEPT UP WITH THE TECHNOLOGY CHANGES.

22. THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAIA MEETING ON JANUARY 12TH, AND 13TH 2005 IN LAFAYETTE. TIME AND DATE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.

23. JAY, MARTY AND JOHN DISCUSSED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON THE STATE EXAM THAT NEED TO BE REWORDED. JAY WILL REWORD THESE QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS AS HE SEES FIT. (NOTE: POLICY MANUAL ONLY ALLOWS FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS WITH 4 POSSIBLE CHOICES. PAGE 12)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:30PM.

THE FOLLOWING THREE CORRECTIONS WERE OFFERED BY JAY STEVENS AS EDITS TO THE DEC. MEETING.

EDIT 19. PRODUCERS WHO ARE COOPERATING WITH ANY NRCS INCENTIVE TYPE OR COST SHARE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SUCH AS EQUIP, NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT, AND NOW WITH THE CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM, HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO HAVE SOIL SAMPLES ANALYZED AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE ON A THREE (3) YEAR ROTATION. THE NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT, CODE 590, HAS BEEN IN EFFECT IN LOUISIANA SINCE JUNE, 2000. AS PER CODE 590:

SOIL SAMPLES AND LABORATORY ANALYSIS
“NUTRIENT PLANNING SHALL BE BASED ON CURRENT SOIL TEST RESULTS DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER SOIL TESTING LABORATORY GUIDANCE. CURRENT SOIL TEST RESULTS ARE THOSE THAT ARE NO OLDER THAN THREE (3) YEARS OLD. SOIL SAMPLES SHALL BE TAKEN EVERY THREE (3) YEARS OR AT THE BEGINNING OF A DIFFERENT ROTATION, WHICH EVER IS MORE FREQUENT. IF A SOIL TEST LABORATORY OTHER THAN THE LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER SOIL TESTING LABORATORY IS USED, THE LABORATORY SHOULD USE THE SAME PHOSPHORUS EXTRACTANT (STRONG BRAY) USED BY THE LSU LABORATORY AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE THOSE OF THE LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER. SOIL TESTING SHALL INCLUDE
ANALYSIS FOR NUTRIENTS FOR WHICH SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO DEVELOP THE NUTRIENT PLAN. BASIC ANALYSIS PLUS ORGANIC MATTER ARE THE MINIMUM SOIL TEST REQUIREMENTS FOR LOUISIANA.

NUTRIENT APPLICATION RATES
“SOIL AMENDMENTS SHALL BE APPLIED, AS NEEDED, TO ADJUST SOIL REACTION (PH) TO THE SPECIFIC RANGE OF THE CROP FOR OPTIMUM AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF NUTRIENTS. NUTRIENT APPLICATION RATES SHALL BE BASED ON LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CONSIDER CURRENT SOIL TEST RESULTS, SOIL TEXTURE, REALISTIC YIELD GOALS AND MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MAJOR CROPS GROWN IN LOUISIANA ON ALLUVIAL AND UPLAND SOILS ARE CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT 2 OF THIS STANDARD. NUTRIENTS SHALL NOT BE APPLIED IN EXCESS OF LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS. NUTRIENTS SHALL BE APPLIED TO EITHER OPTIMIZE YIELD OR REPLACE NUTRIENTS REMOVED FROM THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM IN HARVESTED BIOMASS. NUTRIENTS ARE APPLIED AT OPTIMUM RATES WHEN THE PRODUCER WISHES TO MAXIMIZE PRODUCTION OR WHEN SOIL TEST LEVELS FOR PHOSPHORUS AND/OR POTASSIUM ARE LESS THAN MEDIUM (LOW OR VERY LOW) ON CROPLAND OR THERE IS LESS THAN 60 PERCENT VEGETATIVE COVER OF DESIRABLE MANAGEMENT SPECIES ON GRAZING LANDS.”

MANY SERVICE COMPANIES SEND SOIL SAMPLES TO COMMERCIAL Labs WHICH USE THE MEHICH 3 EXTRACTANT, A MULTI-ELEMENT EXTRACTANT. PHOSPHORUS (P) EXTRACTED WITH MEHICH 3 IS NOT THE SAME AS BRAY 2 P. THERE IS LIMITED DATA ON CONVERSION EQUATIONS FOR P FROM MEHLICH 3 TO BRAY 2. A QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED ON THIS ISSUE FROM A SERVICE PROVIDER.

EDIT 20. BASED UPON RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA, THERE MAY BE A REQUEST FROM INDUSTRY TOWARD LSU AGCENTER ADMINISTRATORS TO HIRE A RESEARCH AGRONOMIST TO WORK ON SOIL TEST CALIBRATION/CORRELATION.

EDIT 21. THERE IS A GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT TECHNOLOGY CHANGES IN VARIETIES (RR AND BT TO MENTION A FEW), CROPPING SYSTEMS, IRRIGATION, LAND-LEVELING AND VARIOUS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, THAT HAVE MANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE AGRICULTURAL ARENA CONCERNED ABOUT FERTILIZER RESPONSES ON MAJOR CROPS.