

SR-PLN – ANR Committee

February 12, 2025

1pm Central / 2pm Eastern

Present: Becky Barlow, Dan Goerlich, Rich Bonano, Tim Coolong, Shane Gadberry, Whitney Elmore, Dale Monks, Leonard Githinji, Sanjun Gu, Saqib Mukhtar, Trent Irby, Adam Kantrovich, Jason de Koff, Mark Blevins, Uma Karki, Roger Merkel, Karnita Golson-Garner, Chris Mullins, Ashley James, and Angel Ford.

Becky started the meeting at 2:02. She announced that the SR-PLN summer meeting will be held in Atlanta from August 18 through 21 and the next ANR Committee meeting will be May 14 at 1pm Central / 2pm Eastern.

Dr. Bonano had two discussion questions for the group. The first related to pesticide recommendations in general, specifically written recommendations that growers still have or use that may be out-of-date. The second discussion topic related to questions posed by Dr. Domona Doye from Oklahoma State regarding on-line resources. Discussion centered around the following questions:

1. Is there a written version of the survey?
2. How often is it updated ...also how do we deal with outdated copies that people still use?
3. Is there an online version?
4. How often is it updated...if not at least annually, how do we deal with outdated information
5. Is there interest in regional publications?

Thoughts to ponder:

There is always the question about liability with outdated information, written or online and having the dates that they are revised is critical.

The label is still the law. We are providing recommendations, and our publications do not replace the label...applicators still need to follow all label directions

From surveys submitted thus far a couple of things were evident:

Everyone has a written version of their pesticide manuals and these are usually updated annually. Farmers especially want a written version to keep in the truck or storage shed for convenience and because the internet is not always available.

Not everyone has online versions but those that do are usually updated annually.

The horticulture faculty (fruit, veg, ornamentals) are more likely to have joint publications across states. Row crop faculty publish primarily state by state and are not sure about joint publications.

This was the survey form: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B4vlzXhzmek58cUNzg0WSJ-e3ng9zrz7OAYNsRE2v0/edit?usp=sharing>

These are the responses Dr. Bonano received:

Alabama

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10A8irpbPLJUfNI0v3df-k9VNiELOJc64yCFAeS_65zs/edit?usp=sharing

Arkansas

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o0f7KfuQByA7EesHi2nVKHCCy3oZbcLU5wwAz6SKmkw/edit?usp=sharing>

Georgia

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zh43KCwxaNWz2ZJOR2xK4pHJ0VMAtaSI/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116456320368978583942&rtpof=true&sd=true>

North Carolina

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ori-QpQXn1r4W96txkBPan4QOs_HQTnT9RU1yrkFuSk/edit?usp=sharing

Mississippi

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MlqRpDW2DP-vS1A-ysqZHQkl2TrHaMagcz1Rw3QAI5g/edit?usp=sharing> (ornamentals)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sML04bs855e7z_Ylf6-XETXXDO1ka1VncvUZIKVbpNI/edit?usp=sharing (row crops)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10IJYj_cxl-9O6aUDN7E52xdJzm7jwi19/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116456320368978583942&rtpof=true&sd=true (turf)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wawmslgDQAgA72kUJLjeQFTXYUBPW-b7FpdTdUqoO-l/edit?usp=sharing> (turf)

Oklahoma

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L3cYya62lgGdS-yRMKm5-yXldBu-SuCPSSjNGJk4kuo/edit?usp=sharing>

Tennessee

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ke2u0jS8CsDHcRe_qqoPfISWo9VcSnQpfeuPDvKLfrA/edit?usp=sharing

Directors would appreciate feedback on the matter of multi-state publications, specifically if there is an appetite for doing this. The ANR Committee will continue the pesticide resource conversation at the summer meeting.

Becky turned the meeting over to Dr. Zachary Brym for a presentation on agrivoltaics and agroecology. The presentation was recorded for those that were not able to attend the meeting and would like to view it.

Dr. Bonano invited the committee members to initiate a conversation and potential partnership with Alexis Pascaris, Agrivoltaics and Energy-Water-Land Nexus Researcher, with the Strategic Energy Analysis Center. Becky forwarded Alexis's contact information to the committee members.

Dr. Bonano had been asked to provide suggestions for approaching federal grant holds. As of last Friday, February 7...

Different federal agencies are communicating at different levels. USDA has been fairly quiet, perhaps because the Secretary has not been confirmed yet. Brooke Rollins has indicated in public statements verbal support for infrastructure, rural communities, HPAI, disaster funding, and protecting farmers from trade and tariff policies. It will be important to tell staffers at the upcoming CARET meetings about the impact of grant holds. DOGE has not been to USDA yet. Capacity funding does not appear that it will be impacted. In general, wait until you hear something...don't anticipate. Protect your people. Stay away from big-ticket grant purchases.

Open discussion. Dan asked the group for input regarding how their Extension systems have engaged in the past with federal block grant funds, in this case the upcoming Congressional appropriation to support agricultural producers impacted by natural disasters.

Becky reminded the group to submit written Plan of Work updates. One has been received thus far, as follows:

Plan of Work Updates

Due to a full meeting agenda, Plan of Work updates were requested to be submitted in writing. One Plan of Work update was received.

Update for the Plan of Work item entitled "*Explore Existing Programs and the Need for a Small Ruminant Quality Assurance Program*" submitted by Craig Wood, Acting Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension at the University of Kentucky.

Existing programs identified: Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance (SSQA) run by The American Sheep Industry Association. Also, the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Association is revamping their Quality Assurance Program, as follows:

There will be an Online component with:

- Approx. one hour video that everyone needs to watch that defines SRQA, basic principles and impact of quality assurance on the industry.
- One additional required video approximately 30 minutes in length that a producer will choose from their interest areas. Topics will include antibiotic use and stewardship, proper equipment and handling and biosecurity.
- Certification is good for 3 years.

- To complete recertification, producers will watch the mandatory 1 hour again, then choose either one of the videos listed above or another of three topics that may include processing and genetic selection (to be determined).
- The in-person component will be offered in 2025. This will be a train the trainer model where Extension agents are trained in chute side quality assurance using kits developed for each Extension area. Participants will still watch the 1-hour mandatory video but agents will have hands on lesson plans to teach the other topic areas. Materials will be adaptable to classroom use if live animals are not available to the agent.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:16p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Goerlich (Virginia)

Secretary