

**Rural Life Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
1-28-20**

Present were: Billy and Hope Brey, Robert Fischer, Jeff Rice, Cameron Braman, Ronnie Edge, Donnie Cecil Mike Mullican, Jerry Knott, Lindsey Hagan, Sissy Thompson and Richard Murphy.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes were approved as published.

**Old Business:**

**1. Rural Life Celebration 8-9-20 Preplanning:** Robert Fischer suggested that we inquire if the cost of the Owensboro Convention Center would cost less if we were to rent the upper room versus the lower room. Richard agreed to make that inquiry. Regarding food purchase, the Committee agreed that the meat for the event would be purchased in equal parts from Jimmy Gillis and George Bittel. The Committee and Bob and Terry Knott as the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Committee also selected the Daviess County Pork Producers as the recipients for the Be like Rick Award. Sissy will be asked to contact The Daviess County Pork Producers including the chair Pat Thompson to invite them to the event. One on one invitation to younger farmers was recommended as a means of encouraging a younger crowd to attend the event. The Committee asked Richard to contact Kirk Kirkpatrick to see if he would consider being the master of ceremonies for the event again this year. Jimmy Gillis Jr. will be asked to speak on behalf of Hillview Meats to talk about their operation as the meal is being served.

**2. Farm Labor Report:** Committee Members indicated that dark tobacco will likely take a big cut in production this year because the prices likely to be reduced by one half from last year. This could affect the need for farm laborers. Because of the reduction in price for dark tobacco, many farmers are considering switching to the production of hemp. There have been problems with payment for the delivery of goods to hemp processing plants, especially one in Daviess County. A discussion took place on the day of this meeting in Beaver dam Kentucky to try to clarify solutions for the problem.

**3. Legislation Being Considered by the 2020 Kentucky Gen. Assembly:** one bill in particular has the possibility of hurting Kentucky farm laborers and farming. This is Senate Bill 1. Richard passed out information on the bill and encouraged Committee Members to read through it and consider calling their legislators.

**New Business:**

**1. Any Business Committee Members May Wish to Discuss:** Discussion followed on how to improve the Rural Life Celebration. Lindsey suggested that reminders to potential participants closer to the event were needed. These reminders should be distributed using a number of social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Select calls and group texts to participants would be beneficial

as well. To increase the likelihood that younger members of the community would attend the event, it was recommended that an outreach be made to the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Attractions that might attract some families would be pedal tractors and ponies to ride.

The need for information about succession planning was discussed and Lindsey offered some ideas about some of the essential elements of a plan. Lindsey was asked to provide the Committee Members with several resources on succession planning for farmers and their families.

**2. Future Goals for the Committee:** this matter was tabled due to time constraints

**3. Staff Report:** Richard share information on the number and increase of farm bankruptcies especially in the dairy industry within the past year. Richard also shared information on the importance of investing in our food supply chain in this country.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next scheduled meeting is set for March 24, 2020. As agreed by the Committee, the date for this meeting would depend upon planting conditions for the next crop. Richard will be in touch with Committee Chair Billy Brey to determine when the next meeting will actually occur.