

## NOC Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 19, 2014

The Spring meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Board was held at the TS Fork Restaurant in Tonkawa, Oklahoma at 6:00 pm. Board members present were: Tricia Moore, Dr. Kurt Campbell, Bart Cardwell, Dr. Cheryl Evans, Dr. Judy Colwell, Anita Simpson, Sheri Snyder, Mary Steichen, Keith James, Calvin Crumrine, and Scott Blubaugh. Guests in attendance included: Dean Jason Johnson, Jared Givens, NOC Livestock Judging Coach and Livestock Judging Team members, Hunter Royal, Jamie Buchanan, Tiffany Costner, Cody Yandell, Cody Rowell, and Cache Norton

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Introductions were made and we welcomed Scott Blubaugh as the newest member to the Board. Invocation was given by Livestock Judging Team member Hunter Royal and dinner was served.

Following dinner, the board heard from each of the Livestock Judging Team members about the success of the team and what the opportunity to travel and compete has meant to each one of them. Coach Jared Givens also shared some experiences from the judging team and thanked NOC for the opportunity to lead the group. There was also discussion about the need for a full time Livestock Judging Coach in order to build the program.

Tricia Moore gave a report on the Agriculture Interscholastic Contest that was held January 29<sup>th</sup>. NOC hosted about 730 high school students who competed in various subject areas. Dr. Kurt Campbell gave an updated report on our program numbers. The number of students in our Agriculture program is increasing and we are beginning to draw more out-of-state students who have an interest in our sheep program.

Bart Cardwell gave an update on the activities at the NOC Sheep Center. The sheep program continues to grow and is producing champions not only for NOC but for many individuals who have purchased sheep from our flock. Bart also shared with the group about a grant opportunity that we are working on through the Department of Labor. The emphasis of this grant is to create some certificate programs for Technical Agriculture Services with emphasis on spray rig operations and sheep AI/embryo transfer services. The Agriculture group is hopeful about being awarded the grant and asked the Board for their input for industry partners that might be interested in partnering with NOC for funding and internships. There was much discussion generated concerning this type of program and the Board seemed very interested, particularly in the spray rig operator certificate and felt there is a great need for this type of training in the local area. There was much discussion about the possibilities that this type of program would have.

Sheri Snyder provided information about the current status of “Ag” dollars in the NOC Foundation and also gave an update on the scholarships that are available to the Agriculture students. She shared with the group that the scholarship committee had recently approved additional funding for the Livestock Judging Team.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.