

National Farm Transition Network
Annual Meeting Notes
June 2005

The National Farm Transition Network business meeting was held on Sunday, June 12, 2005 and continued to Wednesday morning at the Hampton Inn in Manheim, Pennsylvania. Business meeting attendees: John Baker, Bill Dickinson, Marion Bowlan, Gwen Garvey, Peter Coughler, Marian Beethe, Scott Strothers, Dave Goeller, Cathy Twohig, Mark Falcone, Jesse Richardson, David Kimmel, Michael Holton, Amanda Tuttle, Joy Kirkpatrick, Deb Heleba, Andrew Smith, Deborah Giraud, Andrew Branan.

Current 2004-2005 NFTN board members:

John Baker, President – Iowa - term ending in 2007
Karen Stettler, Vice President (not present) – Minnesota – term ending 2007
Bill Dickinson, Treasurer - Virginia – term ending 2007
Gwen Garvey, Acting Secretary - Wisconsin – term ending in 2007
Marion Bowlan – Pennsylvania - term ending in 2007
Steve Schwartz – California - term ending in 2006
John confirmed the status of each board member's term.

New members nominated:

Michael Holton – Nebraska Center for Rural Affairs
Mary Embleton – Washington Farm Link - Cascade Harvest Coalition

Nomination by Steve, seconded by Bill and carried

Bill suggested adding Andrew Smith. Discussed having two delegates from a single state and Bill withdrew the suggestion.

Marion B. moved and Cathy T. seconded motion to elect that slate of candidates. Motion carried. New board members elected for a term of three years.

Treasurer reported that ten organizations have paid the Affiliate membership fee of \$500 for the year October 2004 – October 2005. Current balance in NFTN account is \$8,954 with outstanding commitments totaling approximately \$1200 to Marion to subsidize conference registrations and to Iowa for website development/updating. Board teleconferences are also covered by budget.

Affiliate organizations:

1. California Farm Link
2. Iowa Beginning Farmer
3. Minnesota Land Stewardship Project
4. Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
5. Washington Farm Link – Cascade Harvest Coalition
6. Pennsylvania Farm Link
7. Virginia Department of Agriculture
8. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture – Farm Link Program
9. Nebraska Department of Agriculture - Beginning Farmer Program
10. New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee – NJ Farm Link

Associate organizations:

1. University of Nebraska – Lincoln
2. Law Office of Jesse J. Richardson – Virginia
3. Manitoba Agriculture and Food – Winnepeg, Canada
4. North Carolina Farmlink

Old Business: Website

John reported on website move/updating/new design - \$2000 allocated:
new address is "Farmtransition.org" to get away from the Iowa site
Jenny is designing the "new look" – making it more of a national rather than mid-western look.
suggested using hyperlinks (with synopsis) to each state's web page
Scott would like to see the annual meeting notes on website
John suggest we hire someone to take notes on each state presentation
That could be part of the state synopsis
Bill suggested we look at the page and do some brain-storming as a group
Before the end of the conference (did this on Wed morning)
Dave asked if we tracked the # of hits, John said yes, quite a few, but no
in-hand
Program offerings should be listed on website – with links to details
Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, financial report, brief history of NFTN
John asked that further suggestions be emailed to him – he will keep board informed
As progress on site moves forward

Old Business: Recruiting NFTN members

Need to generate list of potential members, send introductory letter & packet of info
Contact state representatives that have attended in past years (MO, AR)
Marion sent invitations to Ag Law Group and State Commissioners/Secretaries of Ag
Ask everyone to make a list of potential members and email to John
Young Farmer Groups

Listed reasons why we want to encourage new members:

- There is a real synergy from these meetings
- Lots of innovative ideas
- Organization needs to exist for the good of the whole
- Survival of individual states – helps to have a national group
- Great learning experience for new program coordinators- shortens learning curve
- Need to get together to hear about new trends and funding opportunities
- Networking, making connections actually work!

Have representation at national events

John suggested everyone bring their displays to 2006 conference in Iowa to get ideas. Marion's
PA Link on display – very nice tabletop

Strategies to accomplish recruitment project:

- John will develop letter
 - Use 5 hardhitting sentences (testimonial) in letter
- Each state should develop 250 word report about their program to include in packet
- Send something now and follow-up in March/April 2006
- Need to focus on small number of groups
- Remember our mission: "To support programs that promote the next generation of Farmers and ranchers". Target should be Ag Educators/Professionals not young farmers
- Compile list – target 2 categories to begin with – decide what will be in packet

Assignment for doing outreach:

- Marion B. – Young Farmers organization, states that have attended in the past, Ohio
- John B. – Michigan Land Institute, New Hampshire Beginning Farmers group,
National Ag Bankers
- Kathy T. – Farm Beginning groups in Missouri and Illinois, Louisiana, North & South
Dakota
- Bill – National Farm Bureau, State Farm Bureau
- Steve – Assoc of Farm & Ranch Appraisers, American Ag Law group

Dave K. – Connecticut
Debra G. – National Association of Ag Agents
Marion Beethe – will contact Dept of Ag in states surrounding NE

New Business: Ideas for future NFTN conference

Build professional development into all conferences to encourage more attendees
May help members convince funder to allow participation in conference
What is professional development?
Use non-ag speakers to look at ag from different perspectives
Why not use some money & hire big name speakers
Host state could host conference in another state
Legal issues surrounding farm successions
How to do more networking
How to evaluate programs
Writing grant applications
Beginning Farmer legislation – have someone from USDA give presentation
Check out NASDA's website
Have Jenny give presentation on website next year in Iowa
Bring someone in who is expert in electronic communication
Suggestion that date of annual meeting be more consistent – July consensus

New Business: Report from policy committee

Committee members: Kathy Twohig, Mike Holton, Marion Beethe, Dave Kimmel, Dave Goeller, Steve Schwartz

Letter to new Secretary of Agriculture – acknowledging his support of beg farmers

Moved by Steve, seconded by Mike – carried

USDA Beginning Farmer Advisory Council applicant support letter

Applicants: Marion Bowlan, Marion Beethe, Steve Schwartz

Moved by Steve, seconded by Mike, discussion/moved by John to add

Joy Kirkpatrick as applicant. Motion amended, seconded and carried

Steve will draft letter and sent it to John.

Educational research ideas will be developed by committee and taken to NFTN

Board for discussion. Board conference call is open to all members.

Steve questioned putting information on website for non-member programs,

Will take question to next board meeting

Website should be unveiled at next annual meeting – changes will go public as they are created

New Business: Presentation by New York representatives

Ed Stair, NY Farm Link and Lee LaLaga, NY Dairy Specialist/lobbyist gave presentation about developing white paper on issues to be considered as the new Farm Bill is developed. Encouraged attendees to participate in an email discussion over the coming months.

Email addresses: Lee: swt2@cornell.edu Ed: aesb@cornell.edu

Other Business:

Bill suggested the budget be revisited at the next board meeting

David suggested talking to participants who have not become members and see what they would like for benefits

Cathy moved to adjourn the meeting, Steve seconded, motion carried.