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| Pennsylvania Coat of Arms | **South Central Mountains****Regional Task Force**  |

Agriculture Working Group Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 18, 2022

The March 2022 meeting of the Agriculture Working Group was held at Marzoni’s Restaurant in Altoona.

**In Attendance:**

Jennifer Johnson, Chair, PDA

Joe Diamond, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Ryan Weston, PDA

Elizabeth Santini, DVM

Bill Clouser, Clearfield County Conservation District

Evalyn Fisher, MCM Consulting Group, Task Force Program Management

**Current Affairs:**

Ryan: Long-horned ticks are number one on the most wanted list – they can cause death in humans! Spotted Lanternfly spread will result in a few more quarantined counties this spring. Some vacancies are being posted and positions filled.

Bill: Educational activity is on-going, but no in-person training yet. .

Joe: Eight pesticide training sessions were completed both in-person and virtual; probably will repeat the method next year. Somerset County is planning its Farm Safety Day in May and an Ag Career Day later. Rural road safety week is next month, and several counties are sponsoring activity. State legislative conference is end of the month – the Capitol is open again. Regional Farm Bureau Day was March 8, 2022, in Johnstown (one topic: is it real or is it an alternative? – e.g., plant based – most tasters had fun with it).

Task Force/Evalyn: It’s that time of year that the task force is collecting the current equipment needs of the committees. Evalyn and Jennifer will send an email to the full membership asking for input. Symposium is back in person and is May 6, 2022. To register, go here: <https://members.scmrtf.org/events/scmrtf-symposium/register>

Jennifer: 2022 working group meetings are set and posted on the task force website and on an attachment to these minutes. Region V has hired a veterinary field officer to succeed Dr. Santini – Jennifer Burroughs. Steve Brown, PSU Extension, has accepted a job with the Lancaster City Fire Department but plans to stay involved with the working group; Linda Fetzer is the PSU Extension POC for now. High Path Avian Influenza – the bad one – is on the rise all over the country and Canada but not in Pennsylvania and Ohio (good bio-security?); use the USDA website for monitoring (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/home/>); bio-security plan templates are available from PDA. May meeting may be cancelled if HPAI becomes all-consuming in Pennsylvania.

For the May or July meeting: Jennifer would like to do a round table of all the organizations on the working group and their capabilities in a large-scale incident; an overview of the task force or some words from the task force chair might be appropriate, too. She would like to talk about conducting a tabletop exercise in the fall, also.

June 4 and 5, 2022 in State College will be a statewide training for CART members and leaders.

**Next Meeting:** May 20, 2022; noon; Marzoni’s Altoona.

**Adjournment**: 2:45 p.m.

*Attachments*