

SENECA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT BOARD
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
10/3/7

- **Call to order** by Jeff Cassim at 7:10 pm
- **Members Present:** Jeff Cassim, Julie Thompson, Greg Wadhams, Doug Freier, Harriet Haynes, Patsy Amidon, Kevin Swartley, and Shawn Bossard
- **Previous Meeting Minutes:** Kevin motioned for acceptance, Greg seconded – approved.
- **Ex Officio reports**
 - County planning rep: Working on municipal farmland protection grants. Sending one in for Lodi and Covert. Junius will be looking at impacts on Rt. 318 development.
 - Real Properties rep: none
 - Farm Bureau rep: Immigration issues still at forefront. Fertilizer testing also an issue. County annual meeting coming up, encouraging all to attend.
 - Environmental rep: Julie Thompson’s farm is the first farm to be awarded the Lake Friendly Farmer sign for the Cayuga Lake Watershed. AEM work is continuing – SWCD has potential funding of \$6000, pending their board approval, to seed Jim Capron so that he can continue doing AEM work in the county.
 - Board of Supervisors rep: Nothing new to report – mentioned announcing the CCE Harvest Festival at the last Board of Supervisor meeting.
 - Agri-buisness rep: Discussed the fertilizer testing bill, and the Farm Bureau policy statement regarding the bill. NYSABA is in favor of the bill with slight wording changes. Mid-west already gearing up for 2008, with record crop prices. Lots of wheat being planted locally.
 - Farmer rep: Well into fall harvest. Yields are varied, but not as bad overall as thought earlier in the year. Will be less than last year, but hopefully with better prices, year won’t be too bad. Hay prices are \$200+/ton. Prices help, but input costs are higher as well. Fayette working on zoning – slow going.
 - CCE: Discussed central and north district status. Discussion ensued on the penalty fees paid for taking land out of the district prematurely. It was suggested that Farm Bureau take up the issue of raising the penalty on the state level.
- **Old Business:**

- Discussed two GIS maps – one the central district, re-digitized, joining the tax maps with the district map. It was suggested using the maps as tools for PDR applications that may come in. Harriet will get a screening tool from the Cayuga County farmland protection board. Shawn will meet with Harriet to fine tune/double check Central District.

- **New Business:**

- Discussed a fence regulation from the town of Waterloo. Harriet will look into the matter to verify that this went through or not. The board looked at the legislation, and agreed with Farm Bureau that this was a poor law that would negatively affect agriculture.
- Dave brought up the issue of wood burning furnaces. The Town of Romulus wants an overall ban. Dave is concerned that this may impede agriculture, as Amish use these furnaces to heat greenhouses. It was suggested that Ag & Markets to an ag practices review to see how they would come down on this issue before regulations were passed.
- Doug reported on the hay cutting machine belonging to the group that is putting in a hay drying system at the Seneca Army Depot. Bugs still need to be worked out, but it is continuing.

- **Adjourned** at 8:55 – Kevin motioned, Doug seconded.

- **Next meeting**

Respectfully Submitted

Shawn Bossard
CCE Seneca County