

Ford County Farm Committee Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2025 – 4:30pm in the Sheriff's Boardroom at the jail.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32

Roll Call – Tom McQuinn, Garrett Kerber, and Greg Niewold Present; Sarah Mussman and Cindy Ihrke Absent; Public in Attendance Nick Purcell

Agenda Approval – Motion Tom McQuinn; 2nd Garrett Kerber ; Motion passed

Public Comment – Nick Purcell, tenant of Farm #3 asked for coordination of all parties involved to avoid any problems with access from the road to the old pasture prairie site. Greg Niewold stated he would coordinate lines of open communication between all parties, but did not foresee any issues because hunting season starts after harvest, and the site was burned and reseeded last year.

Old Business – None

New Business -

Discussion took place regarding the schedule for accepting cash rent bids for County Farms 1 & 2 in late August or early September before any farmers would start harvest. This timeline would allow the bid winning tenant to take advantage of input discounts for the 2026 crop year, while also being able to better plan for the upcoming crop year(s). There was no dissent toward this timeline. No action taken.

Discussion on CRP Lease Language. Mr Niewold stated he and States Attorney Killian had a meeting on March 13 to further revise proposed language. Mr Niewold stated the language will likely resemble the cash rent lease and make sure the fiduciary duty to the taxpayers and citizens is protected and addressed. Mr Kerber asked if an amendatory clause would be included, as well as if any other counties have ground enrolled into CRP or similar, and how they enrolled as a government entity knowing a CRP contract is 10 years minimum, while a single lease can be 5 years maximum per state law. Mr Niewold stated that Mr Killian is looking into the legality of holding 2 bids simultaneously, one for years 1-5, and the 2nd for years 6-10. As of the committee meeting there had been no knowledge provided either way on that discussion. In response to Mr Kerber's comment of any other counties doing such things Mr. McQuinn commented he believed this all started in Shelby County, but was not completely sure. Mr Niewold asked that the committee send he and Mr Killian specific language they would like considered in the agreement. No action taken, ongoing work/discussion.

Discussion/Possible Action on hiring BCS LLC to conduct soil testing, reporting, and fertilization recommendations on Farm #3 prior to the 2025 crop year. Motion made by Mr Niewold, 2nd Garrett Kerber. Motion passed unanimously to send to the full board for approval.

Safety Report -

Adjournment – Tom McQuinn motion, Garrett Kerber 2nd; Motion passed. Adjourned at 4:52pm.