

Final Completion of Our Construction Program June 30, 2004

Industry Contacts and Working Groups - (Program Advisory Committee Members)

Timothy C. Visel, Coordinator - June 2003

The construction part of our program is finally coming to a conclusion. Therefore at the next combined Consulting and Industry Advisory Committee meeting members will be encouraged to join working groups associated with particular scope and sequences. Several examples of individual "working" partnerships already exist such as research projects with Yale, The New Haven Land Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service - UCONN Sea Grant, National Marine Fisheries Service and many others. These efforts have usually been a one on one relationship. The creation of a scope and sequence working groups provides the following benefits of meetings in groups of 6 to 8 members. We attempted this process in the year 2000 and delayed implementation to lack of labs and equipment.

- Curriculum/Education Development - members may be able to provide an example of industry applications related to the course and assist with guest speaker presentations, laboratory exercises and curricular resources - references, etc.
- Research and Cooperative Projects - seek partnerships to do cooperative research including monitoring sampling, mapping, restoration ecology such as the Faulkners Island Project, shellfish and finfish utilization and restoration, restocking, etc and many other example, i.e. Guilford Shellfish Commission.
- Employment and Placement Opportunities - members that are very interested in employment placements (reference the pool company that called so often a few years ago). John Roy did two employment and placement surveys

several years ago. He found a generally very receptive view of our SOE programs and many businesses wanted some follow up and potential placements.

It is a good idea to have a mix of members from all three categories (groups, can be larger than eight members) some can be selected from your industry contact list and all should relate to the course subject area. Meetings should be held monthly and minutes sent to me afterwards. There is no term or committee structure at this point. People may want to serve for a while and then act as a resource person. I have found it helpful to read industry journals, looking for trends or developments seeking interested members that represent that education field, research area or industry occupation.

Training of CDE's/Lectures/Field Trips

The "mix" of membership helps in meeting Vo Ag educational model goals, performance industry applications, senior programs in science and technology, year special topics and supervised occupational experience and employment (FFA teacher/advisors).

It is important that Vo Ag teachers develop working relationships with individuals related to fields of study. That is how Vocational Agriculture continually monitors, refines and updates our curriculum.

This is also the beginning of industry competencies and developing employment credentials.