
MEETING MINUTES

PARTICIPANTS: See sign in sheet

COPIES TO: All parties, File

PLACE/DATE OF MEETING: HCISD Ag Farm / Dec. 15, 2010 MINUTES BY: Benito Lozano III

PROJECT: HCISD Ag Farm

PROJECT #:1028

Discussion Items:

1. Mr. Tapia quickly reviews last meeting's minutes.
2. Joe Stevens distributes document of recommended needs and primary concerns, and proceeds to guide committee members through existing facility. Notes are indicated below each major discussion topic.
3. Possible visit of San Benito Ag facility, Weslaco Ag facility, and Callalen Ag facility discussed.
4. Next committee meeting scheduled for next year.
5. Existing facility & Requirements/Needs:
 - a. Climate controlled
 - Building should exist as one structure with everything under one roof, with concrete floor draining to perimeter trench drains.
 - Structure should be of a sealable barn type with roll down doors on all sides. Currently, make-shift weather protection is rigged by participants and parents. With the inconstant weather patterns of the region, roll downs doors would provide for ease of accommodating to the change in weather. This would also cut down on livestock becoming susceptible to illness due to exposure to constant weather changes.
 - Overhead coil heaters preferred. Need for the elimination of heat lamps which pose a fire hazard.
 - b. Unwelcomed wildlife
 - Birds pose a big problem for show animals as they feed on the livestock feed and proceed to defecate in said feed, which can then be ingested by the livestock causing illness, and in certain situations can be fatal.
 - 8 foot high chain link fence around perimeter of site. There have been instances of dogs finding their way in and killing livestock.
 - Rodents find their way into existing wooded feed storage bins. Should be made of metal to eliminate this issue. An example of such is presented to committee. Size

of said “cabinets” to be large enough for multiple sacks of feed and tack/equipment—approx: 4’x3’x3’; San Benito facility has good storage arrangement.

- Mist type fly control was discussed; insect control is mandatory.

c. Livestock Pens

- 150–160 multipurpose pens. Pens to be portable with ability to be disassembled and reassembled. These are greatly advantageous to accommodate changes in types of livestock being raised. Ideal size is 6’x10’
- Pens are preferred to be hot dipped galvanized. Existing powder coated pens are beginning to show signs of rust.
- Floor of pens to be concrete with an area in each to be partitioned off for a bed of wood shavings. Partition to be 6” high, removable, and made of a material durable against liquid and animal gnawing. Lexan proposed as a possible material for partition.
- 6” high shield along bottom edge of gates and pens to discourage livestock from placing limbs through spacing when laying down and possibly becoming hurt due to such.
- Floor of pens to slope to rear for ease of cleaning into floor drains with clean-out buckets.
- Pens to be equipped with bowl waterers for hogs with adjustable height stems. Joe Stevens mentions a special waterer that is activated when hog pushes lever. Reduces amount of wasted water. Current water system is wasteful and not conducive to how hogs drink.

d. Climate controlled storage

- Refrigerated area for storage of medications.

e. Video surveillance and access

- Video surveillance to accommodate long term recordings. Would hold students accountable for feeding and care of their animals.
- One main card-access front entrance. Card access system allows for tracking of personnel coming and going from facility. Question is posed of whether such system will be tied to student ID or will it be a separate card. One suggestion is that it be based on students’ enrollment ID but physically a different card from their student ID. There is also question of cost of such system; what sort of cost will be incurred from having to renew card issuance every year?

f. Scale systems

- Food scales to adequately predict and assess livestock weight gain, including tables and scales for feed.

- Specific animal weight digital scales to be centrally located in pen areas. Scales to be recessed into the floor with top surface to be flush with finish floor. Having them fixed increases life of scale. Life span of current portable scales is approximately 2 years. Portable scales are to still be utilized for off-site uses.
- g. Compost and sand “pits”
 - Location for waste and clean sand. Three sided enclosed area of approximately 12’Wx20’Dx4’H. Separate allocated spaces to be adjacent to one another. This area to be located near barn for ease, or remote with trailer assistance. Should accommodate front-end loader.
- h. Site Circulation
 - Site should be planned to accommodate maneuverability of agricultural equipment. The largest of what would probably be 32’ livestock transportation trailers.
 - Allocate space on site for storage of 4 of above mentioned trailers.

Additions and/or corrections to these minutes should be sent to mega@megamorphosisdesign.net within seven (7) days of receipt.
