



Chickasaw County Team April 6, 2010

The Chickasaw County Team met on April 6, 2010 at 3:30 pm at the New Hamton Elementary/Middle School Curriculum Lab. There were 17 people present: Tammy Robinson, Shelly Gebel, Sue Ellen Kolbet, Kathy Babcock, Sherry, Jim Russ, Rachel Wobeter, Flannery Cerbin, Holly Merick, Jane Kolthoff, Michelle good, Nicki Bachman, Scott Michelson, Ann Mansfield, Robyn Vsteska.

Introduction Activity Responses:

Everyone introduced themselves and shared how they are connected to Food and Fitness.

Old Business & Reports:

Mr. Russ reported that the cooks were planning on attending the regional meeting for cooks on April 8.

Summary of program and discussion:

Rachel and Flannery gave a presentation on the Farm to School program and how it is working in other school districts. They told us about a \$50 composting bin for classrooms.

Robyn V. who teaches at Turkey Valley explained how the Farm to school program is working there. They have 13 to 15 families committed to helping for the summer. The plan to plant potatoes, tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers and pumpkins. They had an earth day activity which included youth from kindergarten, fourth grade and high school students. They have a boy scout who is going to build them a tool shed, trellis and benches as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Rachel and Flannery shared that Postville after school clubs are using the community gardens. Oelwein program is primarily FFA Students. Mr. Russ said he is exploring planting a garden in the "U" at the high school as a horticulture class project. He said the cooks were awesome after the last meeting. They were talking about surveying the kids "What do you eat?" Maybe giving them string cheese for completing the survey.

On Thursday April 8 there is another regional meeting for school service staff and students. There are several people planning to attend. There was a suggestion to include these people on the School Wellness committee.

There was some discussion on local foods and federal inspections this is something they are working on at the regional level to make it easier for growers. We talked about the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act and some of the changes that may be coming to food service.

New Hampton Rehabilitation would like some raised beds for their residents. Robyn shared that her children's 4-H club had built one for the New Hampton Care Center. Mr. Russ volunteered to go look at it and have his Horticulture classes make raised beds for New Hampton Rehabilitation. The FFA Chapter received a \$2500 grant from Monsanto for community service projects and he felt he could use some of the dollars if he needed to. Sue Ellen and Tammy R. stated there was dirt at the industrial park and volunteered to determine if some of it could be used for filling the raised beds.

Molly Gable, from the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, will be at the New Hampton Community Center on April 14 at 2:30 to conduct a Safe Routes to School Workshop. Laurie sent surveys about how kids got to school to all the Elementary school staff. The Safe Routes to School program has a way to compile the data to help us know how kids are getting to school. We wondered about asking the high school students why they do not walk to school.

In August we will visit Turkey Valley to see their Farm to School site.

Sue Ellen informed us that Rerouting of the Truck Route through New Hampton would be on the City Councils agenda at the June 7th meeting.

Action items for next meeting:

Work on raised beds.

Submitted by: Joanne Tupper