

**FARM PIG**

MINUTES

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018 at 4:00 PM

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY, TAHLEQUAH, OK

# Welcome – Jim Lauderdale, Co-Chair

After welcoming all attendees, Jim L. asked everyone to please sign-in and to include email so that everyone might be added to the email list.

Members in attendance: Jim Lauderdale; Jon Kuester; Kevin Lynch; Heather Gilreath, Teal Brooks, Barbara Corson, Debra Senese; Sandy Byard; Ed Nemple; Kari Barley; Cody Joliff; Beth Sanford; Dave Hruska, Deb Reid; and Pete Watson.

# New Business

## Purpose

“The members of the FARM PIG share an interest in agriculture: i.e., the husbandry of domestic animals and plants for the production of food and/ or fiber. The skills necessary for historical agriculture, especially in the pre-petroleum based era, represent a knowledge base that took thousands of years to develop. However, these skills are rapidly being lost. The preservation and perpetuation of these skills is the primary purpose of the FARM PIG.”

* Recent requests have been received for information on gardening, seed exchange and livestock breeders.
* Aside from the two main points in the purpose statement (as found on the FARM page of the ALHFAM website) about preservation and perpetuation of heritage skills, the PIG is also a great resource for networking.
* Members are encouraged to use the social media platforms that exist to connect with one another and share ideas and knowledge of resources.

## Farmer’s Boot Camp Workshop 2019

### Jim L. is in touch with Del Taylor and has the contact information for the Program Chair of the 2019 Conference.

### Ideas for future conference workshops are requested and may be posted on the Facebook page or emailed directly to the PIG Chair.

* Heather G. requested additional hands-on workshops that focus on basic skills.
* Pete W. agreed and suggested the PIG support a workshop that focuses on “The Top 10 Skills a Farmer Must Know.”
* Ideas for this list included:
  + - 1. Tool sharpening
      2. Knot tying
      3. Nail driving
      4. Cleaning and repairing tack and tools
      5. Splicing/making rope halters
      6. Lighting a fire
      7. Properly stacking wood
    - The list may continue to grow and could become a checklist for potential workshops in the future.

## Skills Workshops 2018-2019

### Reminder: FARM PIG will advertise any workshops related to FARM purpose – send content to Jim L. for posting in the eUpdate. Members may also post directly to the Facebook page.

### Jim L. will check with Heidi about making sure workshops that are open to FARM members is posted on the website.

### Debra R. noted the Midwest Open Air Museum is hosting a horsemanship/harnessing training (Date TBD).

* Debra R. also recommended a workshop or talk about harvesting cranberries in 2019 or similar crop/craft specific to the host site of the 2019 conference.
* Cody J. stated it is good to have workshops that benefit smaller agriculture museums, (i.e. chickens, kitchen gardening and bees).

# Old Business

## ALHFAM Historic Farming Facebook Page

* Jim L. encouraged everyone to post their current events on the Facebook page and when possible to include photographs and video to highlight the activities surrounding the events.
* The group was also encouraged to check out the resources on the FARM PIG website page.
* A recommendation by Debra S. was made to have a searchable database of heritage livestock. Jim L. suggested using the Livestock Conservancy website. Jon K. noted the FARM PIG has tried to create such a database before, but the information becomes out-of-date quicker than it can be published and the Livestock Conservancy keeps up-to-date information on breeders – regardless of site or membership in ALHFAM.

## ALHFAM eUpdate

* Jim L. encouraged members of the PIG to submit content for the eUpdate each month. This content may include, but will not be limited to FARM related events, livestock, gardening, seed exchanges or other historic farming.

# For the Good of the Order

* Jon K. notified the group that he was stepping down as co-chair and noted he would like someone to take his place. Barbara C. recommended that Jim L. could delegate jobs to other members.
* Debra R. passed around a copy of *Agricultural History* which focuses on agrarian diaries. She encouraged FARM members to use this periodical as a resource.
* Heather G. brought up revamping the **S**eeds **A**nd **P**lants PIG.
  + - 1. Everyone agreed this is relevant and can be “safe-guarded” in the FARM PIG until interest grows to a point that SAP can be a standalone group once more.
    - Jim L. reminded everyone about the plowing competition and encouraged participation.
    - Debra R. mentioned sources for research:
      1. Core Historical Literature of Agriculture: <http://chla.library.cornell.edu/> This includes the publication, Agricultural History, from its first issue in 1927 through 1965.
      2. For more about the Agricultural History Society (started in 1919, and ALHFAM began at an AHS conference in 1970) see: <http://www.aghistorysociety.org/>
      3. Cornell also has the following resource available: **Home Economics Archive: Research, Tradition and History** (HEARTH) <http://hearth.library.cornell.edu/>
      4. HathiTrust (an amazing resource): <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
      5. Archives.net (also amazing collection of materials no longer copyright protected): <https://archive.org/details/CAT31355474> (this is a link to a bulletin by George W. Carver on wild plums (mostly recipes).
    - Pete W. asked members to take videos, three minutes or less, for the skills database. This initiative will be offered as a FREE part of A.S.K. and a way to share knowledge, but also encourage ALHFAM membership.
    - Pete W. asked the open question, “What is the one skill the FARM PIG wants most to see on this database. The board wants to have 10 of these videos available by next year.
      1. Pete W. said any videos could be emailed to him or Heidi for posting on the website.
    - Pete W. reminded the group about the UNESCO initiative to capture skills and suggested the FARM PIG might contribute to this.
    - Debra R. and Jon K. mentioned sampling methods to determine density for hand seeding and manure application as a possible skill.
    - Other skills that were suggested for the “Skills Clips” include:
      1. Lead a horse
      2. Lead a sheep
      3. Lead a cow
      4. Trim a sheep’s hooves
      5. Clip a chicken’s wings
      6. Clean a horse
      7. Fit a horse collar
      8. Candle an egg
      9. Quick release knot for a horse
      10. Milk a goat or cow
      11. Tie a miller’s knot
      12. Drive a historic nail
      13. Sharpen a scythe
      14. Sharpen a saw
      15. Change a wagon wheel
      16. Tie a sheaf
      17. Make a shock of wheat
      18. Make a corn shock
      19. Make simple/field repair to harness
      20. Adjust a walking plow
      21. Grease a plow, manure spreader and mower
      22. Replace mower knife
      23. Split a rail
      24. Split firewood
      25. Basic livestock care
      26. Distinct crop culture for foodways
      27. Tanning hides
      28. Canning produce

# Adjournment

The meeting concluded at approximately 5:10 p.m. and Jim L. thanked everyone for coming.