FARM PIG MINUTES
11:30 A.M., SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019
SAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS,
MIDLAND, ONTARIO, CANADA

I. Welcome – Jim Lauderdale, 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. Deb Reid volunteered to take notes for the meeting.

Attendees (16 signed in): Jim Lauderdale jim@tacomaparks.com David Fowler dfowler@khistory.org Greg McGee stampman59@gmail.com Jeremy Robson sjrobben@execulink.com Rhys Simmons rsimmons@osv.org John Davis jdavis@okhistory.org Deb Reid debrar@thehenryford.org Cliff Jones ctjones@execulink.org Dave Hruska dhruska@osv.org Cody Jolliff cjolliff@GrapevineTexasUSA.com Joel Johnson joelj@tacomaparks.com Phil Andrus philip.andrus@monmouthcountyparks.com Peter A. Freisen peterf@digshistory.org Ann Culek culek@metroparks.net Barbara Corson hooftales@msn.com Wind Chapman Wind@LMLHC.org

Farm chair – Jim Lauderdale, co-chair since 2016 at Baton Rouge. Agenda prepared and sent to members before the conference.

A. 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.”

II. New Business

A. Crops Survey Results

Jim reported on crop survey (Spring 2019). Sixteen responded to questions: Who’s growing heirlooms? What documentation? Do you have seeds that you are willing to share? Jim will submit results to the FARM PIG page. Recommendation to do this every couple of years. Corn – most popular, then pumpkins, wheat & tobacco, and others.

B. Plowing Match SOP

C. Skills Training and Preservation Initiative

- **Farmer's Boot Camp Workshop 2020**
  Skills training ALHFAM emphasis, so there will be hands-on featured and a Farmers’ Bootcamp at Old Sturbridge Village during 2020 conf. Rhys Simmons is coordinating ALHFAM 2020 workshops (e.g., drywall masonry). Dave Hruska has contacts with local ox drovers who demo traditional methods at OSV (in costume). They work with 4-H (used to teaching people); participate in the fair circuit (used to public). Could offer clinics on learning to drive, logging, stone boat, cultivating; cradling rye (likely a bit green in late June for ALHFAM); cart work (building a square load in an ox cart and/or wagon); haying if possible. Other domestic / farm – milking, dairying (butter making, cheese making).

- **Top 10 Most Endangered Skills**
  Ed Schultz asked FARM PIG to itemize 10 most endangered “farm” skills (in an effort to begin Skills Training & Preservation Initiative; specifically the film clips): Ed is STP manager for FARM PIG and wants to start with most endangered (and needed) skills: Sheaf stack, binding with straw (some filming at Old World Wisconsin years ago), hay stack, grafting scions & buds (apples other fruit trees, buds would be appropriate for June; specialists in Agricultural Extension Service or through contacts via a commercial orchard); ox shoeing. Keep thinking about this; let Jim Lauderdale know.

- **Suggestions or upcoming workshops**
  Upcoming Workshops: FARM PIG has offered dairying at Volkening Heritage Farm (Jon Kuester); Texas Living History Association (Cody Jolliff) format had to be taught (no powerpoints/laptops). Well received and put everyone on an equal footing. Other workshops included Farmers’ workshop (Dave Fowler), chicken butchering, plus other small-town subjects (printing, blacksmithing). Done in partnership with Mt/Plains Museum Assoc. Several from outside the region attended (Maryland, New Jersey, Arkansas). Jeremy Johnson, In Canadian Central Region: Farming 101 always useful. Most staff need basic farming & general husbandry training; have limited knowledge on what things are or how they use or fit in. Trying to develop a format that can travel. Equipment identification and use: e.g., an automatic sheaf stacker/binder. Dave Hruska wondered what the critical knowledge is, and to develop training around that. Peter Friesen mentioned that Ed Schultz has started a Tidewater Historic Farmer network, sharing tobacco seeds, visiting each other’s sites.

  Cliff announced that the 50th anniversary committee is featuring work from the past 50 years over the next year, between now and the 2020 conference.

  Upcoming events: Send them to Jim each month (or more often) so he can share with ALHFAM.org

III. Old Business

A. **ALHFAM Historic Farming Facebook Page**
  ALHFAM Farming Facebook. Active: e.g., Cody harvested winter wheat at Nash Farm, Grapevine, TX. Jim L. has been sharing agricultural clips from the Civil War Digital Digest (plowing with Oliver plow), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j49wDv5uDeo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j49wDv5uDeo). Cody showed corn planting on a grid (check-rows), in hills.

  Skills clips can be shared on the Historic Farming facebook page.
B. ALHFAM eUpdate

- Reminder: FARM PIG will advertise any workshops related to FARM purpose

ALHFAM’s E-Update goes out each month. Jim sends email. Please send him news! Events! Skills clips, etc. Please share!

C. FARM Co-Chair

Jim Lauderdale wants a co-chair. Please volunteer. The more folks involved the more active.

D. Round-table

Barb – thinking about 2020; session on animal health and restraint to examine; determine if they need care.

Cliff – working with ALHFAM’s 50th anniversary planning committee.

Wind – believes that making history relevant is essential. That’s the bottom line, and if he can’t do that, he and his volunteers don’t do it. He’s growing 18th century crops a distance from other crops to avoid crosspollination.

Joel - Fort Nisqually -- Seed swapping; limited land makes saving seeds challenging. Volunteers help, but there is a lot of seeds needed.

Rhys – identifying who has farmed at OSV in the past and trying to get them together for the 50th anniversary meeting (Jay Adams; Bruce Craven helped start ag program at village).

Dave – send FARM PIG ideas for 2020 ALHFAM programming

Jim N – plowing match, Wednesday, 8 am near hotel. Novice, Apprentice, Expert class. One or two draft-horse teams; 1 plow. Open invitation, come on!

Phil (Longstreet Farm) - trying to diversity crops; pest problems (deer). Parks don’t allow firearms, but what about bow hunting. Wind suggested electric fencing. What happens to crops that can’t be fed to livestock? Can park grow hemp for fiber or seed?

Peter – Mt. Vernon grew hemp (it took a while for them to get permits and had to go through Virginia Tech to get seeds, schedule inspector). Bureaucracy (state and national) slowed seed acquisition, etc. Peter thought they water retted it. Peter wrote his MA grad paper on hemp. Discussion: “Hemp for Victory,” produced by USDA 1942. Jeremy mentioned grain reapers modified to cut hemp, and that John Deere made a machine for use by Ontario hemp farmers. The Henry Ford has photos in collection.

Ann – purchased 3 new draft horses recently. Prices high. The Henry Ford came and got pigs and seed. Slate Run has heritage varieties of grain (Democrat Wheat and Progress Oats). Also asked about a person with severe wheat allergy and how the wheat harvest will affect her.

Greg – new thing at Hunter’s Home – bee keeping, using skeps. Dave mentioned Worcester, MA bee keepers. Skeps are not legal in all states. Folks encouraged using modern frames because it is getting harder to keep bees.

Dave – As in Williamsburg. FARM PIG needs to keep workshops going throughout the conference. We work in outdoor spaces everyday and that’s where the training needs to occur.
Cody – seconded Dave’s comments, and urged FARM PIG to engage non-farmers in all classes, i.e. some from TX Living History Assoc are growing heritage gardens for the first time from seeds they received at the workshop. ALHFAM stresses the skills.

Jeremy – translating information from book to practical application essential.

Deb – reported on Tools & Tillage: a periodical that featured research on farm tools from the Neolithic through Medieval era (probably more recent), published through the Danish National Museum from the 1960s through 1980s. It is going to be digitized through a German University and will be available through ALHFAM ASK (eventually). Coming to you from the EXARC and AIMA. She is also collecting comments on 3-D printing (thankfully Alan has a session at ALHFAM 2019). Last, in preparation for her 2020 Presidential Address at the Agricultural History Society conf, she wonders what you first think of when you hear the word “Come-Along.” What does it mean to you? pulling calf; wench (pulley lever rachet to make work incrementally easier; two pulleys block and tackle idea; wire cable; handy; with a come along and a shovel you can accomplish a lot……… Chain or rope.

IV. Adjournment
Meeting concluded in time for dinner (aka lunch).