

Minutes from Meeting of Representatives of the Animal Services Advisory Board & Agricultural Preservation Board

5:00 to 6:30 p.m., September 24, 2012.

Present: David Stancil, Howard McAdams, Annette Moore, Kim Woods, Judy Miller, Suzanne Roy, Bob Marotto, Kris Bergstrand

Nuisance Animal Noise: Review and Discussion

1. **Introductions and Subject Introduction:**
Bob explained history of complaints of noise from rooster crowing from two county residents, leading to creation of ASAB subcommittee investigation and report.
2. **Agenda Approval:** Unanimously approved.
3. **Report Background and Findings:**
Suzanne gave summary of the subcommittee activity. Data collected from other NC counties and input from attorney Annette Moore resulted in a recommendation of no change to local animal noise ordinance to include roosters, however, the subcommittee proposed that the situation be monitored going forward, as it possible more issues like this will arise
4. **Legal Considerations:**
Zoning of much of the county is combined farm/residential, including locations of property of concerned citizens. Annette explained the Sheriff's decision not to cite rooster owner for noise above 50 db as was measured in one case. Also Dave described the broadening of the definition of "farm and/or farming" during last two sessions of the state General Assembly. This, and the findings of no consistent enforcement of animal noise-related laws in nearby counties contributed to the decision of the subcommittee. As more folks move to county, there will be more cases of "coming to the nuisance" and current laws favor the farmers.
5. **General Discussion:**
APB members expressed appreciation for work done by the subcommittee and agreed that this is an ongoing issue as more residential development takes place in the county, however, since the laws favor the farmers, not much can be done except encourage potential home buyers to be aware of how the protections farm operations have in the county. While existing agricultural operations are reluctant to give out information to the public inquiring as to potential noise or odor issues, the tax office can give potential buyers information about use of adjacent properties that could affect home sites they may be looking to purchase.

Farmers keeping roosters can get advice on proper housing and insulation from the state Ag Cooperative Extension service also.

6. Nuisance Animal Noise Going Forward:

APB will look into including information on the county website related to farm/residential zoning so that potential buyers of county residences can be informed about potential for noise, odor, clear-cutting, etc. (Dave and/or Bob to contact Carla Banks about putting information on website). The ASAB will continue be available for public input on animal noise issues.

7. Continuing ASAB and APD Collaboration:

Both groups want to coordinate rapid response to emergencies involving farm animals/large animals. Examples given were transport truck accident, especially on major highway and livestock loose on roads due to fence breakdown and/or sever weather. A truck accident on I-40 would have 911 first responders present, and many of those folks have connections to local farmers. APB is familiar with most areas in the county and contacts neighboring farmers in emergencies it assist with managing loose livestock. They will plan to update contact information.