

**Clayton Town Hall Meeting
September 27, 2007**

Bruce Hinrichs convened the meeting in the Clayton Civic Center at 1:20 p.m. He introduced Extension agents present and introduced Dean Catlett, who made opening remarks and introduced the associate deans. After their remarks, the floor was opened for questions and comments.

Mike Running, Clayton town manager, applauded David Graham as a local hero during the recent blizzard. He said attracting agricultural industry was important to the town and asked for a point of contact for economic development. (Dean Catlett said he would make representatives available on demand, based on specific needs.) Running said there was need help to address odor and dust issues related to local feedlots.(LeRoy Daugherty said work in Amarillo with NMSU consortium partners could address the issue.)

Bill Cantrell, NMSU alumnus and real estate appraiser, suggested expanding the horse programs at NMSU. (Tim Ross said that was being done with establishment of a ranch-horse team and focusing the breeding program on ranch horses.) Cantrell asked about the status of the horse arena. (Dean Catlett said three locations for an arena were offered on campus.) (Paul Gutierrez said extension equine programs would be a priority for focus next year.)

Joyce Runyan, 4-H volunteer from Tucumcari, expressed concern that there were not enough opportunities for degree programs from NMSU offered at a distance and transferring credits was a problem. (The dean and associate dean recounted efforts in that direction including the Harding county initiative with the high school consortium.)

Barbara Shaw of Mosquero lauded Blair Clavel for his work on the Harding county initiative.

Jayne Burchard of Des Moines Schools expressed appreciation to NMSU for help related to their library and she invites more involvement.

Carl Price, president of High Plains Products, expressed concern for the way economic development work with NMSU involving him had been conducted. Though he was grateful for help, he thought communication could have been better.

Shelly Carter, a Union County 4-H volunteer, said she was proud of the local extension office. She was concerned that there was a need for base budget increase for operating expenses. She was also concerned that New Mexico not require premise registration for animals being shown at fairs by 4-H'ers. (Paul Gutierrez said base budget increases were top priority for the coming year. Bruce Hinrichs said Blair Clavel was representing extension on the state animal identification committee to address such issues.)

Brenda Bishop, Quay county director, asked for more information about the wind Energy center being discussed in her region. (Robert foster of the NMSU College of engineering was identified as a contact).

Midge Graham, encouraged NMSU to get involved with the Rural Education division of the Public Education Department. She also said there were regional education cooperatives to work with as well. (There were several other related comments).

The meeting adjourned for informal interaction at 2:25 p.m.