**Sauk Valley Community College**

**July 24, 2017**

**Agenda Item 3.1.1**

**Topic: Creation of Campus Agriculture Test Plots**

**Mission: Sauk Valley Community College is an institution of higher education that provides quality learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of its students and community.**

**Presented By: Dr. David Hellmich and Dr. Jon Mandrell**

**Presentation:**

Under the leadership of Dr. Ryan Anderson and Dr. Jon Mandrell who worked with the Agriculture Program Advisory Council, the College is looking to utilize campus property to establish agriculture test plots. In this pursuit, approximately five-to-six acres of land north of the east parking lot and south of Alan Pfeifer Drive have been identified as a potential site. Additionally, there is a two acre plot east of the prairie on the east end of campus that could be used for test plots.

Test plots will provide the agriculture students and agriculture community an opportunity to examine the benefits, as well as limitations, of cover crops. The first step toward these efforts would take place this summer by identifying if any utility lines exist on the identified property. If all proposed plots are clear of utility lines, the next step would be the application of Roundup on the plots. Due to the density of the roots and sod, the plots will need to be tilled in the late summer or early fall of 2017. Once the seedbeds have been prepared, the cover crops will be planted, reducing the bare soil to the environment. Some cover crops, such as winter wheat, may be harvested or sprayed prior to planting. Pending which cover crop is used, the test plots consisting of beans can be later planted directly into the cover crop in the spring of 2018. Multiple methods and cover crops will be utilized to identify the most suitable farming practices for this region.