

Global Perspectives Program Report

May 20, 2013

Award Period: Fall/Winter 2012

Principle Investigator: Daniel Rule, Department of Animal Science, dcrule@uwyo.edu

Project Title: Research and Graduate Student Exchange – University of Wyoming and Universidad Autonoma Chapingo, Mexico

Amount spent: \$2,207

Summary: In December, 2011, I spent 10 days in Chapingo, Mexico, where I lectured at the Universidad Autonoma Chapingo, in the Graduate Program in Animal Production. My lecture topic was in my specialty of Lipid Metabolism. My host and colleague at Chapingo, Professor Max Huerta and I initiated development of a graduate student exchange between the University of Wyoming and Universidad Autonoma Chapingo. The Global Perspectives Grant program provided funds to host Dr. Huerta in Laramie to introduce him, as well as to further the development of the graduate student exchange. In August of 2012 Dr. Huerta visited Laramie where he lectured in the area of expertise, Mineral Metabolism, and toured the area, visited with Animal Science faculty, and interacted with producers during a Field Days held in Lingle, Wyoming at the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center. Development of the exchange continues, but has been stalled by time-consuming distractions that university legal representatives have been experiencing. We are hopeful that the goals of the Global Perspectives Grant program for which funding was provided will be fulfilled in the near future so that a fruitful graduate student exchange can be finalized.

Report:

Main results of activities planned in the proposal.

We were able to host Professor Huerta in Laramie in August, 2012. During this visit, Dr. Huerta lectured for four days on Mineral Metabolism in livestock and visited with faculty and students in the Animal Science department, as well as with several producers who attended his lectures. Dr. Huerta also was able to participate in a Field Days event in Lingle, Wyoming at the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center. In addition, Dr. Huerta, a graduate student, Emily Melson from the Animal Science Department, and I traveled to Fort Collins, Colorado where we met with Nutrition faculty and graduate students during a luncheon hosted by Dr. Terry Engle of the Colorado State University, Animal Science Department. The luncheon was specifically to host Dr. Huerta so that he could visit informally with graduate students and faculty from CSU Animal Science.

During Dr. Huerta's visit we met with Agricultural Experiment Station Director, Dr. Bret Hess, and discussed development and preparation of an exchange so that graduate students from both of our institutions could experience both institutions as formal graduate students or interns. Final development of the exchange requires university legal services at both institutions to agree to statements in such a document. This is the point at which the project has reached.

Future plans:

Future plans are to complete the agreements and to hopefully fulfill the goals of the project by hosting students from Chapingo, and having our students hosted by them.

Potential Impacts:

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The greatest impact will be input of student interest and effort by the graduate students from Chapingo who participate. Their energy and interest will be met with challenges in animal agriculture that both of our institutions and industries face. Our students who attend as students or interns at Chapingo likewise will bring back a new perspective to their work in our college.

University of Wyoming. The greatest impact will be the cultural exchange that will accompany such a program. Cultural diversity is an important aspect of the University's mission. What the students who intern with us, as well as what the students who intern with them bring to this aspect of University life will be invaluable.

State of Wyoming. Animal agriculture of Wyoming faces many similar challenges as do agriculture in many parts of Mexico. Arid climates, drought, and geologic areas of mineral excesses and deficiencies are issues common to us both. Ideas and approaches that are practiced and taught in Chapingo can be discussed in Wyoming with possible adaptation and with potential for positive impacts. Also, areas of research, such as Meat Science, Reproductive Biology, Livestock Production, Genetics, and Nutrition will be areas of animal agriculture that we can share and possibly expand to improve production in Wyoming and, with the same effort by Chapingo, in Mexico.



Professor Max Huerta lecturing on Mineral Metabolism during his visit the the University of Wyoming, Animal Science Department in August, 2012.



Professor Max Huerta observing cattle at the SAREC facility in Lingle, Wyoming during a Field Days event in August, 2012. He is actually evaluating their mineral status visually!



Pictured are Professor Max Huerta, Professor Terry Engle and his daughter during a luncheon visit with Colorado State University, Animal Science faculty and graduate students in Fort Collins, Colorado, August, 2012.



A Picture taken by Professor Dan Rule during his visit to Chapingo, Mexico at the Universidad Autonoma Chapingo in December, 2011. Pictured are graduate students and faculty during a formal presentation event in which graduate students presented their research findings.