

Global Perspectives Report

Kristi M. Cammack and Scott Lake

Assistant Professors – Department of Animal Science

Objectives: The overall goal of this project was to develop relationships with the Universidade Federal De Pelotas, Brazil, to help initiate a UW travel course and to begin research collaborations with Universidade Federal De Pelotas faculty. The first objective was to establish Universidade Federal De Pelotas as a host site for our International Experiences in Agriculture course. The goal of that course is to expose upper level undergraduate and graduate level students to global agriculture. As agriculture and its impact on the economy, environment, and human health becomes much more global than local, we believe that exposure received in such a course could be instrumental in developing views of agriculture.

The second objective of this proposal was to establish collaborations with faculty at the Universidade Federal De Pelotas. Probably the most important aspect of setting up a good collaboration is having a desire and common interests. We have already established that we have similar research interests with Dr. Pimentel and his graduate student, Cassio Brauner, in the area of carcass quality, reproduction, and genetics in beef cattle. As part of this trip, our objective was to meet with other faculty and research scientists to develop collaborations in these same areas of interest.

Summary: Our host for this trip was Cassio Brauner, Dr. Pimentel's Ph.D. student. Cassio was a visiting Ph.D. student in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wyoming last year. During his time here, we worked closely with Cassio as he completed his research projects. Cassio was responsible for organizing tours and meetings for this trip. The following is day-by-day summary of our activities:

- Saturday, October 2: Arrived in Pelotas and checked into hotel.
- Sunday, October 3: Tour of nearby beachfronts and Pelotas town square.
- Monday, October 4: Traveled to Research Station. We met with research scientists, technicians, and graduate students. The station's research emphasis is on beef cattle, with some sheep research also conducted. One main research focus is genetic selection for tick-resistance in cattle. Continental breeds are being introduced into the Brazilian beef industry; however, the Continental breeds are not resistant to ticks like indigenous breeds. Another research focus is meat quality. Currently, the Brazilian beef market does not grade carcasses, and there are no premiums for carcass quality. However, as Brazil enters the global livestock market, the need to improve carcass quality is apparent. The research station also hosts a bull test off-site. We traveled to that location to see their feed intake system and testing station.
- Tuesday, October 5: Work day at Universidade Federal De Pelotas. This was our first of two days spent at the University. We each presented talks in the morning.

An interpreter was needed to communicate to the audience of ~80 faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Lake presented information on the U.S. beef industry; Dr. Cammack presented her research on feed efficiency in cattle and sheep. Following the talks, we toured the rest of the university, including the veterinary school. We also met with other faculty interested in establishing collaborative relationships. These faculty have interests in interactions between animal nutrition, reproduction, and underlying genetics, which fits perfectly with our research programs. During our visit, Pelotas was hosting the state (Rio de Sol) livestock shows and auctions. Late in the afternoon we attended the Montana bull judging. Montana is a popular composite breed in Brazil. In the evening we attended the Montana bull sale. We did learn that bull sales are a much more social event in Brazil than in the U.S.! We also met with many representatives of different breed associations.

- Wednesday, October 6: Work day at Universidade Federal De Pelotas. This was our second day at the University. We each again presented talks in the morning. Dr. Lake presented information on his reproduction research program; Dr. Cammack visited about opportunities at the University of Wyoming. After the talks, we both had students approach us with interests in coming to the University of Wyoming either for a semester study-abroad, or for a M.S. or Ph.D. program. We will continue to follow up with those students. In addition, Cassio presented the research he conducted at Wyoming for his Ph.D. program. We attended the Angus judging show in the evening, followed by a visit to a traditional Brazilian barbeque restaurant where we were allowed “behind-the-scenes” to watch meat preparations.
- Thursday, October 7: Travel to Uruguay. Pelotas is ~one hour from the Uruguay border. We took the opportunity to travel to Uruguay in the morning, and returned to Pelotas in the afternoon. We toured the rest of Pelotas in the later afternoon, and finished with a Uruguay restaurant in the evening. It was interesting to see the differences in preparation and cooking styles of Uruguay versus Brazilian foods.
- Friday, October 8: Feedlot visit. We traveled ~two hours to visit a truly integrated operation. The same individual owns the feedlot, packing plant, and restaurant. We arrived at the restaurant at noon, and ate Brazilian barbeque there. We then traveled to the feedlot nearby, from where the beef at the restaurant came from. After touring the feedlot, we went to the main ranch headquarters, and saw the variety of breeds that make up the Brazilian cattle herd – anything from Angus to Nellore. We returned to Pelotas in the evening to attend the Angus bull sale.
- Saturday, October 9: Travel to family farm. We traveled to just outside of Pelotas to a small family farm. This was a multi-generation operation, with the father overseeing the operation, and the son in charge of the day-to-day management. The farm also works with the University, and is the site for

different field trials. We met with the graduate students currently working on the farm.

- Sunday, October 10: Travel back to the U.S.

Future Collaborations: Dr. Luiz Francisco M. Pfeifer has similar interests to Drs. Lake and Cammack. Plans are in place to collaborate on heifer development project during the spring of 2011. Additionally, Drs. Lake and Cammack are authoring a grant with Dr. Pfeifer to be submitted to the USDA in late January, 2011.

Summary: First, the necessary relationships and site visits are in place to successfully develop an agriculture travel course. Brazil is among the world leaders in many facets of agriculture and this course will broaden students global awareness of agriculture production. Opportunities for student exchanges and internships remains a strong possibility. Finally, the trip provided an opportunity to develop a collaboration that has the potential to result in numerous research projects, publications, and granting opportunities.