

# The Ensminger Program: Activities in International Animal Agriculture

## A.S. Leaflet R2474

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### Summary and Implications

The Ensminger Program is an effort to improve and expand activities in international animal agriculture in the Department of Animal Science and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The program is funded by an endowment created by ME Ensminger and his wife. This program has several purposes and includes development of conferences in locations around the world, improving training and collaboration of foreign scientists and improved education and opportunities for Iowa State University undergraduates with interests in international animal agriculture

### Organization

The Ensminger program is organized by the M.E. Ensminger Chair with consultation by the Chair of the Department of Animal Science. Dr. Max Rothschild was appointed Ensminger Chair for five years in 2007. The previous Ensminger Chair was Dr. David Topel. The Chair works with faculty and students to optimize activities and opportunities in the department.

### Activities

Several activities are underway and can be viewed at <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/section/Ensminger/>. These activities include the following: 1) International Ensminger schools; 2) Ensminger Visiting fellows/scientists; 3) Sponsored seminars; 4) Travel and international activities in other countries; 5) Future development of a class in international animal agriculture and 6) to continue development and publishing of books formerly published by Dr. Ensminger and coauthors. *Ensminger Schools* are designed to be conferences that are offered around the world to help train people of different regions in modern animal agriculture practices. The schools, about 3 every 5 years, consist of 12-14 speakers of international stature and of which many are from Iowa State University. In addition speakers travel and learn about the culture of the host country. The next Ensminger School will be in Costa Rica in February 2009. Details and information can be seen at [http://www.ensmingercostarica2009.ucr.ac.cr/index\\_ingles.html](http://www.ensmingercostarica2009.ucr.ac.cr/index_ingles.html). The Ensminger School for 2010 is likely to be in Spain. A course in 2012 has yet to be developed. *Ensminger visiting scientists* are visitors that come and work in the department and seek some assistance from the

Ensminger program. To date we have had several visitors from the following countries: Uganda (1); South Africa (1); Italy (1); Korea (1) and the Philippines (3) These people come for several months or up to a couple of years. Projects have included training in molecular biology, quantitative genetics, meat science and animal science. One visitor from Uganda is a graduate student doing a MS and will be working on ideas to develop livestock production in Uganda to help family sustainability.

*Seminars* include sponsoring experts to come to Iowa State University. The program has supported for two years a series of seminars called "Feeding the World are we making progress" and individual; seminar titles can be seen at

<http://www.ans.iastate.edu/section/Ensminger/?pg=seminars>. These seminars give ISU students, staff and faculty opportunities to meet and hear interesting topics.

*Travel and International Activities* have included considerable activities in Uganda in the Center for Sustainable Livelihoods and can be seen at <http://www.srl.ag.iastate.edu/work/livestock/>. Other activities have included speaking in Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica and Korea. Other faculty have been partly supported to travel in Spain and New Zealand with student trips.

*International Animal Agriculture course* is presently being developed. The course will likely cover differences in animal agriculture around the world and may cover issues like sustainability, food production and environmental issues. The course is under development and will likely start in late Fall 2009 or 2010. The final activity is the *Ensminger book* series which are being authored by various Iowa State University faculty. These activities have continued for the past several years and additional books are expected in the coming two or three years.

### Opportunities for the Future

The world is becoming a smaller place. The purpose of this program is to expand those activities and to help faculty and students fund and participate more internationally. All interested parties are encouraged to visit Max Rothschild.