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The Ensminger Program: Activities in International Animal Agriculture

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Max F. Rothschild, distinguished professor and M.E. Ensminger Chair

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. The Ensminger School for 2010 is likely to be in Spain. A course in 2012 has yet to be developed.

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.