

2010

# The Ensminger Program 2009: The First School in Costa Rica and Other Activities in International Animal Agriculture

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## Recommended Citation

Rothschild, Max F. (2010) "The Ensminger Program 2009: The First School in Costa Rica and Other Activities in International Animal Agriculture," *Animal Industry Report*: AS 656, ASL R2575.

Available at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ans\\_air/vol656/iss1/96](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ans_air/vol656/iss1/96)

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# The Ensminger Program 2009: The First School in Costa Rica and Other Activities in International Animal Agriculture

## A.S. Leaflet R2575

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. This year a very successful school was held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Planning for a school in 2010 in Spain is underway.

### 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 Ensminger 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.

In 2009 an Ensminger school was held in San Jose, Spain. Please see <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/section/Ensminger/?pg=newschool> Six faculty from Iowa State University and 7 individuals from other regions of the world were speakers. The

conference was devoted to animal production in tropical regions and over 100 students, faculty and industry professionals attended from all over Central America. The next Ensminger School will be in Spain at Lleida University in the region of Catalonia Spain.

*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), Spain (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 three 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 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.

### 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 with Max Rothschild to discuss their ideas.