Expanding International Opportunities for Students (Guatemala)

Submitted by Jessica Graves

Collaboration efforts between the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and the School of Human Sciences are will provide students, in both areas, with international experiences specifically as it relates to livestock capacity development. Jessica Graves and Susan Seal visited Momostenango, Guatemala for a survey trip where they had meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture, local government officials of Momostenango, and many farmer and/or livestock owners in the area. The trip provided insight related to the educational needs of livestock owners and Extension personnel. Graves and Seal will lead a study abroad during Spring Break 2017 that will allow students to immerse themselves in a rich culture with picturesque landscapes while working alongside farmers and Extension personnel to enhance facilities and management practice techniques that will enhance the lives of many.
A study is being conducted at the MAFES White Sand Branch Unit as a follow up to work conducted by Joe Buntyn for his MS Thesis in ADS at MSU. In the Buntyn et al. (2016) study, it was determined that cattle with higher genetic potential for marbling had better response to stress and immune challenge. One criticism of that study however, was that actual marbling values were never determined on the cattle. Therefore in the current study, our scope was to determine if marbling score at weaning would affect their response to the stress of weaning. Dr. Vann ultrasounded calves two weeks prior to weaning. Cattle were sorted into two groups (low and high marbling) based upon ultrasound. At weaning, following vaccination and de-worming, heifers and steers were separated into those two groups and moved into eight pastures (4 pastures per marbling group). Cattle were moved into stockpiled perennial grasses and were given a feed supplement at about 1% of BW. Supplement was added if the animals consumed feed offered the previous day. Cattle were weighed on d 14 and blood was collected to determine serum urea nitrogen, NEFA and antibody titer against IBR. Currently, the cattle are on day 22 (as of 9/23/16). Data measured will be performance, blood parameters and supplement consumption.
Corey White explaining the importance udder, teat, and body condition scoring at calving.
Upcoming Extension Events

Beef Extension – Dr. Brandi Karisch, Cobie Rutherford

- BQA Meeting: Sept. 29th in Tylertown, MS

Equine Events – Dr. Clay Cavinder

- Ranch Horse Clinic series is coming to Starkville in Spring 2017. Be on the lookout for the official dates.

4-H Events – Dr. Dean Jousan

- Mississippi State Fair: October 6 - 17

Dairy Events – Dr. Amanda Stone

Dairy Science Field Day
Come learn about what goes on inside a dairy cow and on a dairy farm—from anatomy to how milk is produced.
This free event is open to all 4-H and FFA members!
extension.msstate.edu/dairy

Save the Date!
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017 | STARKVILLE, MS

For more information, contact Amanda Stone at 662-325-8773 or amanda.stone@msstate.edu.
The team had an excellent day yesterday at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville first annual horse judging contest. It was a great learning experience in preparation for the All-American Quarter Horse Congress coming up in just a few short weeks! Looking forward to a successful rest of the season, Hail State!
2016 Refereed Publications:


