

Introduction to the Ensminger Conference Proceedings

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This edition contains papers from the recent conference entitled “Conferencia Internacional Ensminger para la Ganadería”. This conference was devoted to livestock production in Honduras and Latin America and featured ten presentations about cattle production by scientists from the United States, Canada and Colombia. The talks, and subsequent papers published in this issue, included information on beef and dairy cattle nutrition, health, reproduction, genetics, biotechnology and their applications for small holders. The conference was held May 13-14, 2016 at Zamorano University in Honduras and attended by nearly 300 livestock producers, industry personnel, students and faculty. The conference was jointly planned by Zamorano University and the Iowa State University as part of the Ensminger International Livestock Program. It also received financial support from various industry groups such as Inversiones MORAVIA, Soluciones Logísticas RAFEM, Grupo ALIANSA, ANAVIH and ZINPRO.

The Ensminger program is a unique effort to improve and expand activities in international animal agriculture in the Department of Animal Science and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. The program is funded by an endowment at Iowa State University created by the late Dr. M.E. Ensminger and his wife. Dr. Ensminger was an animal scientist who spent much of his career at Washington State University. He was well known for the 22 books that he published on a variety of animal science and livestock subjects and internationally for his work in the animal sciences. He travelled widely beginning in 1966 and he held “Stockman Schools” for producers and later International Agriculture Technology Schools called affectionately “Ensminger Schools” for scientists and educators in several countries. During his lifetime, he visited 70 countries and the schools were held in Latin America including Cuba, China and the former Soviet Union. Many Iowa

State University professors were asked to speak at these schools. At his death, a large endowment was given to Iowa State University and this made it possible for Iowa State University to continue the tradition of the schools. The schools are about three every 5 years, consist of 10-11 speakers of international stature of which many are from Iowa State University. Speakers travel and learn about the culture of the host country. This year, speakers came three days before the conference and learned about agriculture and culture in Honduras, thanks to efforts by Zamorano University.



Figure 1. Ensminger medal given to speakers that commemorates the joining of the International Ag Tech Schools with Iowa State University to present Ensminger Schools about livestock production around the world.

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In addition to the schools, this program has several purposes and includes increased collaboration with international scientists, improving training and collaboration of foreign scientists and improved education and opportunities for Iowa State University undergraduates with interests in international animal agriculture. The Ensminger program is organized by the M.E. Ensminger Chair in collaboration with faculty from the host university. Dr. Max Rothschild was appointed Ensminger Chair in 2007. Recent schools have included those in San Jose, Costa Rica in 2009, Lleida, Spain in 2011, Lima, Peru in 2014 and Zamorano University in 2016.

The conference included the following presentations:



Aplicación de principios de nutrición de ganado lechero en la producción de leche y carne con ingredientes tradicionales y alternativos. Hugo Ramirez, Ph.D. Iowa State University.



Optimizing beef cattle nutrition from conception to consumption. Patrick Gunn, Ph.D. Iowa State University.



Es posible enfrentar el cambio climático y producir más leche y carne con sistemas silvopastoriles intensivos. Enrique Murgueitio Restrepo, Dr. Fundación CIPAV, Colombia.



The physiology of heat stress: a shift in metabolic priorities at the systemic and cellular levels. Robert Rhoads, Ph.D. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



Healthy udders and feet & legs = healthy cows & happy dairy producers. Leo Timms, Ph.D. Iowa State University.



Looking ahead: applying new genomic technologies to accelerate genetic improvement in beef cattle. Angela Cánovas, Ph.D. University of Guelph, Canadá.



The current and future uses of biotechnology in animal agriculture. Alison Van Eenennaam, Ph.D. University of California at Davis.



Modern reproductive technologies to improve cattle production. Curtis Youngs, Ph.D. Iowa State University.



Animal welfare assurance – impacts on cattle production and export markets. Suzanne Millman, Ph.D. Iowa State University.



Applications of technology for livestock for small holders to meet global food production. Max Rothschild, Ph.D. Iowa State University.

The world is becoming a smaller place. The excellent meeting at Zamorano University and the sharing of research and production information in this issue of Ceiba helps to fulfill the mission of Iowa State University “Science with practice” and the motto of Zamorano University which is “Learning by doing”. Future Ensminger conferences are open to suggestion and all interested parties are encouraged to visit with the Ensminger Chair to discuss their ideas. Sponsorship of activities both at ISU and international are open to consideration.

Finally, a big debt of thanks is owed to Zamorano University and the conference organizers and Dr. Abelino Pitty for helping to make this issue of Ceiba possible. Muchas gracias.

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