

# Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



July 2010

## Orlando Haitian Diaspora Workshop A Success

### Nutrition Standards Increased for Livestock in Haiti

### Improved Water System in Nicaraguan Pastures Provides Advances in the Quality of Dairy Farms

### Jamaican Sign Language Interpreters Increase Capacity at National Conference

### FAVACA on the Move!

#### ORLANDO HAITIAN DIASPORA WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

With the support of [Tupperware](#), FAVACA hosted a Haitian Hometown Association workshop at the [University of Central Florida \(UCF\)](#) in Orlando on Saturday, July 17th, 2010.

Approximately 40 members of Haitian Hometown Associations and other organizations that strive to help towns across Haiti recover from the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti six months ago gathered at [UCF's Harris Engineering Center](#) for a day-long workshop to network and build fundraising and financial accounting skills. In the past year, FAVACA hosted several Haitian hometown association workshops in Boca Raton, Davie and North Miami Beach. Based on a request from Nancy Charles of [Orange County Public Schools](#), and a member of Haiti Help Med Plus and the Orlando Haitian community, FAVACA began the organization of a workshop. FAVACA veteran volunteer [Jim Mueller](#) guided the fundraising and organizational development workshop and Tania Delinois, a FAVACA volunteer



who provided post-trauma counseling in Haiti post-floods and post-earthquake, provided a session on proposal writing. The purpose of the workshop is to build the capacity of Haitian Hometown Associations to better access funding available for Haiti's recovery and rebuilding. "It is instrumental to include the Haitian-American community in every

aspect of Haiti's reconstruction," underscored FAVACA's Executive Director Demian Pasquarelli. "We are thinking outside the box to promote the integral involvement of Haitian-Americans through volunteering their skills, suggesting target projects in Haiti and partnering in a demand-driven approach to Haiti's development."



#### NUTRITION STANDARDS INCREASED FOR LIVESTOCK IN HAITI

Livestock in Haiti is an additional source of income for families and often considered a Haitian's piggy bank since these animals are sold when families need to send their children to school or pay for a major expense. A relatively recent addition to many households is the domesticated rabbit since rabbits breed quickly and offer a source of protein. Since raising rabbits is a new operation for families, some problems have arisen due to improper feeding practices. [Partners of the Americas](#) requested the assistance of a FAVACA volunteer to provide a training on rabbit and goat nutrition to help relieve some of the health problems of rabbits and ensure goats are eating and drinking properly. Dr. Brian Rude of the

[Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University](#) answered the call to volunteer and traveled to Haiti from June 6 through June 21, 2010. Rude's first task was to become familiar with animal (rabbit and goat, primarily) production systems and feedstuffs, understand advantages and shortcomings faced with the production of these animals; and identify potential feedstuffs to enhance nutrient management. Once Rude was able to identify foodstuffs to enhance the nutrient management, he held classroom and field sessions to educate and train students regarding the importance of and need for proper nutrition for production animals such that they can eventually be of assistance to animal producers. Rude worked with groups in the southern department of Haiti such as the American University in Les Cayes and agricultural groups in Aquin, and also provided training to groups in Grand Boulage and northern department of Haiti in towns just outside of Cap Haitien. Rude was able to recommend to rabbit raisers to use a stable diet, consistent moisture content in their diet and removal of parasites to reduce incidents of diarrhea and other problems. Rude also recommended that especially goats and cattle have more access to water in their diets.



#### **ADVANCES IN PASTURE FORAGE IMPROVES DAIRY FARMS IN NICARAGUA**

The dairy value chain in Nicaragua is based on milk produced from tropical forage that has its growing cycle and development coincide with the rainy season (May – November), which in turn effects the growth during the dry season (December – April). When the waters levels diminish the pasture and forage reduce drastically, affecting milk production and cattle health. To guarantee the quality and quantity of milk produced on dairy farms, the agricultural coops of San Francisco de Asís, Masegüito Cooperative, Lacteos Nicaroa Cooperative and students from UNA Camoapa and UNI Managua, all associated with [Partners of the Americas](#), requested a forage and water resource specialist to train farmers to more effectively manage resources in pastures and farms. Yoana Cecilia Newman, Assistant Professor at the [University of Florida's Agronomy Department](#) in Gainesville traveled to Managua, Nicaragua June 1-16, 2010. Newman's research at the university focuses on forage systems for livestock production, nutrient management, and alternative uses for traditional and new landowners. While in Nicaragua, Newman carried out an assessment of the milk production systems in relation to the availability of water for cattle and the production of forage in several different agro-ecological regions. After evaluating the availability of



water and the pasture quality, Newman trained farmers and technicians on basic forage production focusing on specific forage plants, forage quality and pasture management. Newman recommended to farmers to grow more legumes in pastures such as perennial peanuts and to plant a grass called Brachiaria as a base to increase the nutrition of dairy cows. As a result of the training, Newman was able to provide farmers with a forage calendar for Nicaragua which instructs farmers to plant certain forage and legumes in their pastures during specific times of the year.

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#### **JAMAICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS INCREASE CAPACITY AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Since 2000 the [Jamaica Association for the Deaf \(JAD\)](#) has been spearheading reform in deaf education through the implementation of a bilingual approach. These efforts have been positively impacting the thirteen schools for the deaf on the island. To help implement this approach, FAVACA has been providing volunteers to the JAD for over ten years to guide implementation of a bilingual approach to deaf education. A national conference on deaf education was being held in Kingston and 150 deaf and hard of




hearing persons were in attendance. To allow for full participation in the conference, JAD requested the help of FAVACA volunteers to provide translation services and sign language interpreting since the capacity of interpreters in Jamaica could not accommodate such a large conference. Nationally certified sign language experts Terri Bugler of Atlantic Beach, and Melanie Clemons of St. Augustine, traveled to Jamaica July 1-10 to work with JAD to increase the capacity of and confidence in the sign language skills of interpreters and teachers. The volunteers were able to provide instruction on sign language linguistics, bilingual instruction, storytelling and behavior management. As a result of this training, Jamaican interpreters' skills were upgraded to ensure their skills meet international standards.

### **FAVACA ON THE MOVE!**

FAVACA Program Manager Chris Beyer is relocating and will be joining the FAVACA South Florida office. FAVACA Program Coordinator Angelina Klouthis has moved to Bogota, Colombia where she will support new FAVACA projects in Colombia! Congratulations on both of your new endeavors!

**FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas**

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|---|---|--|
| <b>Miami Office</b>   | <b>Tallahassee Office</b>                                       |  |
| <b>7220 NW 36th Street, Suite 608</b>                           | <b>1310 N. Paul Russell Road</b>                                |  |
| <b>Miami, Florida 33166</b>                                     | <b>Tallahassee, Florida 32301</b>                               |  |
| <b>(305) 470-5070</b>   | <b>(850) 410-3100</b>   |  |
| <b><a href="mailto:favaca@favaca.org">favaca@favaca.org</a></b> | <b><a href="mailto:favaca@favaca.org">favaca@favaca.org</a></b> |  |

Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean and the Americas through volunteer service.

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