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Happy Holidays



FAVACA Newsletter

December 2011

ANGUILLA HOSPITALITY SECTOR RECEIVES LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Anguilla is an island with very few natural resources. The country relies heavily on the tourism and hospitality sector and repeat tourists are especially critical. Anguilla offers a wide variety of food services from casual to fine dining, however many supervisors in the food service industry lack the critical skills required to lead in a very competitive environment. Hoping to change this trend, the Anguilla Community College's Director of Hospitality Studies Sharon Richardson reached out to FAVACA for training on leadership capabilities.

FAVACA veteran volunteer Dr. Joseph West, former Dean and Professor at Florida International University's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, traveled to The Valley, Anguilla from October 8-16, 2011. He trained 12 supervisors on basic concepts of leadership and behavioral management. West was able to stress the importance of effective interpersonal communication and the need to motivate employees. The training was well received and participants have started to use the knowledge gained to more effectively manage their departments, improve efficiency and increase productivity.

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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING STENGTHENS DAIRY SECTOR IN NICARAGUA

The National Livestock Association of Nicaragua (CONAGAN) aims to increase the capacity of the dairy industry by providing ongoing training to producers and extension agents, primarily in areas of artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, nutrition, forage quality and storage and business management. CONAGAN observed detrimental health issues related to pre and post pregnancy care which was hindering milk production. To resolve these health issues, CONAGAN requested FAVACA's assistance in collaboration with Partners of the Americas to recruit bovine health experts. FAVACA volunteers Dr. Benjamin Newcomer, Clinical Instructor/Food Animal Medicine Residency at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University, and Dr. Rick Peyton of Valley Veterinarians in Tulare, California traveled to Nicaragua at the end of October 2011.



Training Participants involved in the delivery of calf through C-section.

Drs. Newcomer and Peyton conducted training sessions and practical workshops for approximately 70 extension agents, university veterinary students and dairy farmers. These training sessions focused on a variety of health aspects for pregnant cows, including artificial insemination, postpartum diseases, colostrums, fetotomies and C-sections.

In one of these training workshops participants were able to prepare the animal for surgery, make the skin incisions, manipulate the uterus and suture the incision at the end of the procedure. After the in-depth training, participants felt more knowledgeable about diagnosing and treating health issues for pregnant cows.

HAITIAN JOURNALISTS INCREASE INVESTIGATIVE SKILLS

Media outlets and journalists outside of the capitol derive the majority of their news from press conferences or press releases from Port-au-Prince rather than reporting on major issues like politics, the economy, international development, and human migration or local issues. The Union of Haitian Journalists (UHJ) in the Northeast Department of Haiti requested FAVACA's assistance to train journalists to increase their capacity to create investigative reports. FAVACA recruited Kathie Klarreich of Key Biscayne, a Knight International Journalism Fellow at the International Center for Journalists. She partnered with Jacques Desrosier, a graduate of Kiskeya University and a member of the Association of Haitian Journalists.

The requested training focused on investigative skills, but also covered basic reporting skills to ensure participants had a solid understanding of reporting. They traveled to Ouanaminthe, Haiti from November 16-21, 2011 to carry out training exercises, which included defining investigative reports, differentiating investigative reports from regular reports, developing a hypothesis, identifying the elements of an investigation, conducting interviews, researching and compiling story components, building resources and cultivating sources, and creating a comprehensive investigative plan. The nearly twenty participants are now able to develop a hypothesis and an investigative plan and will continue to consult with the FAVACA volunteers to complete a real investigative story. Participants were also able to build their network of investigative journalists to validate investigation findings.

GRENADA BEEKEEPING EXTENSION SERVICES CAPACITY INCREASED

In May 2011, St. George University established the Eastern Caribbean Bee Research and Extension Center to serve as a beekeeping outreach center for farmers and the agricultural sector in Grenada and the Caribbean. Dwayne Mitchell, Extension Specialist in Livestock and Apiculture at St. George's University's School of Veterinary Medicine, asked FAVACA to provide an expert in beekeeping extension services to help increase the capacity of more than 70 extension agents on pest management, pollination, general apiculture industry knowledge, hive production and honey harvesting information.

FAVACA contacted Jerry Hayes, Apiary Inspection Chief for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry, who agreed to volunteer his expertise from November 27-December 4, 2011. Hayes was able to present on extension services at the Bee Research and Extension Center's planning meeting and participate in St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine's Public Health and Safety First Responder Exercise. Additionally Hayes trained the Soubise Women's Beekeeping Cooperative on beekeeping fundamentals, pest management and hive production and donated beekeeping equipment to the cooperative. As a result of this training, the Center will be better prepared to test miticides for Varroa mite control and assess extension officers additional training needs.



Members of the Soubise Women's Bee Keeping Cooperative who received training from Favaca volunteer Jerry Hayes.

COLOMBIA PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE UPDATE

In response to its Colombia Professional Exchange program supported by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, FAVACA received over 300 inquiries and more than 100 applications. Additionally the first US Fellow Phil Rincon traveled to Tulua, Valle de Cauca, Colombia from December 9-23, 2011. He worked with La Red, an umbrella organization for hundreds of small nonprofits and associations throughout the Pacific Coast that provides capacity building and leadership training. Rincon assisted La Red in acquiring skills to become more competitive in seeking international grants. Rincon and La Red also hosted organizational strengthening workshops for 80 participants from 67 grassroots groups.

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