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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



**December 2012**

**FLORIDA'S FIRST LADY VISITS FAVACA COLOMBIAN PARTNER**

**HAITIAN FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING**

**STRENGTHENING THE NICARAGUAN DAIRY SECTOR**

**PLEASE SUPPORT FAVACA TODAY!**

**FLORIDA'S FIRST LADY VISITS FAVACA COLOMBIAN PARTNER**

FAVACA was honored to organize the First Lady of Florida Ann Scott's visit to one of FAVACA's key partners in Colombia - the Colombian Institute for Family Well-Being or ICBF. ICBF's mission is to develop and protect infants, children and adolescents and safeguard the well-being of families in Colombia. Particularly for the poor, vulnerable, and disabled, ICBF provides education and healthcare and works to prevent child labor and incidents of violence. Several ICBF staff participated in [FAVACA's US State Department Colombia Professional Exchange program](#) and traveled to Florida for fellowships and hands-on training.



The First Lady met with and gave hugs and gifts to some of the children attending daycare at ICBF's main office in Bogota. Her visit coincided with Governor Rick Scott's 190-delegate trade mission to Bogota, Colombia, the largest in the country's history. The resulting business relationships are expected to bring \$40 million in new trade to the State of Florida.

**HAITIAN FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING**

The Croix-des-Bouquets Volunteer Emergency Service (CBVES) was initiated in 2010 by local citizens determined to improve the safety of the citizens in their community. Prior to CBVES, there were no other emergency response services in Croix-des-Bouquets and the surrounding area of over 3 million people. Earlier in the year, a Mack fire engine was

donated by the New Jersey Florham Park Fire Department - the first fire suppression vehicle in the town's history. However the engine was not being used since none of the volunteer firefighters knew how to operate it.

In collaboration with the [Singing for Change Foundation](#) and the [International Firefighters Assistance](#), FAVACA sent firefighters Gayl Nye, Johnny Gillins and Nathan Lasseur to Haiti November 4-8, 2012 to train 30 firefighters on fire engine operations including firefighter roles, equipment readiness and pump operations. In addition, 30 men, women and children were trained on first aid including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the Heimlich maneuver, and other safety precautions.



Since the training, the firefighters and CBVES have responded to numerous calls for assistance and helped to ensure Croix-des-Bouquet's 500,000 residents and others in the wider community receive lifesaving care.

### **STRENGTHENING THE NICARAGUAN DAIRY SECTOR**

The Cattleman's Association of Nicaragua held their third Congress from July 23-25, 2012, bringing together over 400 participants including leading dairy experts and the public and private sectors from across Central America. The Congress offered panels on milk and meat production and markets, food processing, and a variety of other topics. FAVACA recruited Dr. Lawton Stewart, Assistant Professor and Extension Animal Scientist at the University of Georgia, to travel to Managua, Nicaragua July 22 - August 5, 2012 to take part in the Congress as well as visit dairy farms. Dr. Stewart provided a lecture entitled "The Price and Market for Beef and the Challenges for Competing in the Global Meat Market," covering US beef industry trends and projections for the next decade as well as



the importance of nutrition and the impact of forage management on nutrition.

After the Congress, Stewart traveled to San Miguelito to visit a dairy farm belonging to the National Agriculture University to discuss the importance of nutrition, basic forage management, and the fundamentals of cross breeding with producers. Stewart then traveled to San Carlos and Nandaime in the South and Camoapa and Boaco in the North to teach participants in about nutrition and forages, genetic selection, and building racks to dry hay during the rainy season. Stewart recommended improving pasture management by removing weed species present in

the fields, implementing rotation grazing to allow grasses the optimal time period of 22-28 days to maximize growth and nutrition, harvesting grasses at a lower height and cutting at a higher residual height to increase the digestibility of the harvested forage and the rate of regrowth.

### **PLEASE SUPPORT FAVACA TODAY!**

Many of you have been volunteering and contributing to FAVACA for years while others have just begun - our thanks to all of you! For thirty years, FAVACA has been sending thousands of Floridians as ambassadors of hope and goodwill, focused on mutual development and growth.

Regrettably an annual appropriation from the Florida Legislature in place since 1986 was not funded for 2012-2013 - making your contribution and your willingness to share your FAVACA experience with your State legislators even more important! Our prosperity is inextricably linked with the social and economic gains of our neighbors in Latin America and the Caribbean. Please help us carry on our important work by contributing online at [www.favaca.org/donate](http://www.favaca.org/donate), sending us a check or calling us to join our efforts!

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

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