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Cornhusker Economics

Cooperative Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Faculty Exchange Program Finishes Third Successful Year

The Agricultural Economics Department recently completed its third year of involvement in USDA'S Faculty Exchange Program. This year we had five participants instead of the usual four; they came from Russian, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan. While in Nebraska they took classes, developed new course outlines and wrote articles that they will use on their return to their universities. While in the United States they traveled and learned about our business and work with the Scottsbluff Extension Service, learning about extension and distance education. All these things were designed to help them make changes when they return home. The following are their impressions of the U.S. and Nebraska, along with some thoughts on the Faculty Exchange Program.

**Iryna Davydova, Associate Professor
Kharkiv State Academy of Food Technology
and Management, Kharkiv, Ukraine**

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln I have been a visiting professor as a participant of the Faculty Exchange Program of the Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. This program is designed by the USDA to increase young faculty's knowledge of and ability to teach modern market economics and agribusiness courses, and has successfully existed for several years. Staying in the U.S. I have deepened my knowledge about market economy and its American model, particularly about the regulation of agriculture and current issues of agrarian development concerning food safety, globalization, value-added agriculture and farmer's problems. I have learned about the main principles of U.S. agricultural economics and the American education system, agricultural education as a synthesis of teaching, research and consulting, and about the organization and functioning of Extension Service and distance education.

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	12/28/01
<u>Livestock and Products,</u>			
<u>Average Prices for Week Ending</u>			
Slaughter Steers, Ch. 204, 1100-1300 lb Omaha, cwt	\$77.00	\$66.71	\$64.18
Feeder Steers, Med. Frame, 600-650 lb Dodge City, KS, cwt	*	86.90	*
Feeder Steers, Med. Frame 600-650 lb, Nebraska Auction Wght. Avg	103.83	93.35	92.31
Carcass Price, Ch. 1-3, 550-700 lb Cent. US, Equiv. Index Value, cwt	121.23	105.57	101.29
Hogs, US 1-2, 220-230 lb Sioux Falls, SD, cwt	37.75	34.50	*
Feeder Pigs, US 1-2, 40-45 lb Sioux Falls, SD, hd	*	*	*
Vacuum Packed Pork Loins, Wholesale, 13-19 lb, 1/4" Trim, Cent. US, cwt	119.13	98.10	106.00
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 115-125 lb Sioux Falls, SD, cwt	70.00	56.62	*
Carcass Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 1-4, 55-65 lb FOB Midwest, cwt	152.00	124.80	129.62
<u>Crops,</u>			
<u>Cash Truck Prices for Date Shown</u>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Omaha, bu	3.37	3.09	3.04
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu	2.09	1.96	1.87
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu	4.82	4.30	4.02
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Kansas City, cwt	3.87	3.62	3.51
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN, bu	1.24	2.37	2.32
<u>Hay,</u>			
<u>First Day of Week Pile Prices</u>			
Alfalfa, Sm. Square, RFV 150 or better Platte Valley, ton	110.00	115.00	115.00
Alfalfa, Lg. Round, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	68.50	77.50	75.00
Prairie, Sm. Square, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	97.50	105.00	105.00
* No market.			



We met with leading professors and extension specialists of the Department, and took part in the events organized for faculty. I attended classes: AECN 346 World Food Economics, Professor W. Peterson; ECON 885 Government and Labor, Professor C. Thorp; ECON 983, Advanced Microeconomics, Professor Betina Klaus; FINA 363 Principles of Investments, Professor Donna Dudney; AECN 141 Agricultural Economics, Professor Ron Hanson; and MNGT 422 Small Business Management, Professor R. Kimbrough. This set of selected courses has helped me to deepen my knowledge of theoretical and practical data in economic issues of food industry development, its market structure and new forms of business, which could be implemented in the Ukraine. The professors of the University were very helpful, always open for discussion and they shared their experience generously. Their assistance improved my academic knowledge and professional training. I learned about new teaching methods for different audiences, which methods would be interesting to use in work with undergraduate and postgraduate students, the methods I especially would like to mention are student consulting work and simulation games.

I designed new course outlines for teaching when I returned to Kharkiv State Academy of Food Technology and Management, collected materials for lectures and seminars and case studies for the above mentioned courses. My academy specializes in training specialists in food technologies, economic and management, food industry equipment and food science. After I come back home, I will try to incorporate practical examples into my classroom teaching to make the subjects less theoretical and more relevant to the students.

I took part in many meetings, events, interdepartmental food and nutrition seminars and gained interest in a research group on social capital investigation. I learned about the activity of the Food Processing Center at UNL, its educational and scientific mission and had meetings with leading specialists of this center.

Besides this I learned a lot about the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; New Mexico State University, Las Cruces; University of California-Berkeley and California Polytechnic State University. It was very helpful to discuss various critical points in agricultural and economic education compared with situations in the Ukrainian universities. During this program I took part in field trips where we were acquainted with different types of agricultural producing and processing enterprises in Nebraska and the Southwest U.S. We learned how agricultural systems function in market-based economies, extension service, cooperatives and how marketing channels for agricultural products operate. Here is an Ukrainian expression: "Show me once tell me 100 times." This program really showed us attainments of American education and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. I made many new friends here and learned more about the American lifestyle. I want to express my gratitude to all of the people who provide our program.

Almaty Technological University Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Each year visiting professors from the Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan come to Lincoln as part of a Faculty Exchange Program which is organized by the USDA. The program helps them to learn about teaching experiences of agricultural economics in the U.S.A. The Faculty Exchange Program is sponsored by the U.S. government and has been in existence for six years. The Agricultural Economics Department has been involved in this program since the spring of 1999. The visiting professors are to exchange teaching experiences which would help them to revise courses which they teach in their home universities, develop new ones, develop curricula, learn new teaching methods, etc. An opportunity to be in a new environment, to see the teaching process at UNL and other American universities, to observe the classes, to learn about the state of agriculture in Nebraska and in the U.S., etc., are to give the teacher and scientist a chance to gain new experiences and to be able to trace the new ideas in the modern economics.

Being a participant of the Faculty Exchange Program, I have learned the organization of agriculture and agribusiness, the organization and work of Extension Service, the organization of Distance Education in Nebraska and in the U.S. and of course, I have learned about new teaching methods used at UNL and other universities; developing curricula, revising courses and collecting materials for seminars and articles. Having taken two field trips we have visited states to the north and south from Nebraska, seen a lot of agricultural enterprises, met with farmers, entrepreneurs, businessmen and producers. It was a great opportunity to observe the agriculture of different climatic zones of the U.S.

The professors at the University have shared their experience with pleasure and I want to say thank-you to all of them especially to Dr. Terrence C. Sebor and to Dr. Richard Perrin. I am very thankful to all of the people who were involved in the Faculty Exchange Program and I would like to say words of gratitude to Susan Miller and Lynn Lutgen.

Olga Arkhipova
Omsk State Agricultural University

During my stay as a participant of the Faculty Exchange Program-2001 and studying at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln I had a wonderful time and received a lot of impressions. I collected all of the necessary materials to make some essential changes in the course outlines at my university.

During my stay at Lincoln I attended classes that I am interested in and had consultations with professors of the Economics Department. All the classes were very interesting and useful for me. All the professors are very competent, kind and responsive. Attendance of classes helped me to understand more deeply the methodologies of teaching of agricultural economics courses, and also the use of computers in the educational process. Meetings with professors and discussions of the course contents helped me to better understand the structures of given courses and different aspects of each course. An access to the library materials gave me the possibility to get the necessary information for the courses that I attended and for the subject of my research work. Thanks to unlimited access to the Internet I could gain all the web information that I needed.

At the University I learned the specific features of the U.S. educational system, the application of advanced methods of teaching, the use of the Internet in the educational process and general principles of the preparation and revision of curricula. In addition, I could compare curricula and content of the lectures of my university with curricula at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As well, I got a lot of new knowledge in the area of agriculture, market economy, the work of the U.S. Extension Service and Distance Education. A special English class and communication with the American people helped me to improve my English level.

We also had two field trips. I think that these trips were undoubtedly a valuable experience from both the theoretical and practical viewpoints. I visited many farms, agribusiness enterprises, food-processing enterprises, cooperatives and distribution organizations, and learned how they organized their production and marketing activity.

I took part in many meetings, seminars and picnics of faculty, graduates, international students and visiting scholars of the Department of Agricultural Economics. I enjoyed them and made a lot of new friends. All of the Americans whom I met here were friendly, they always provided assistance and support. I have really enjoyed my stay and training in the U.S.A. People shared with us their knowledge and experience with pleasure. And I appreciate very much the welcome and hospitality of all the people with whom I visited during living in Lincoln. Also, I want to emphasize that all the questions that I had according to

my living and work during the visit to UNL were solved in the best way.

Every time I needed assistance I was sure that I could count on the help. I would like to thank all the people who have a part in this program: our supervisor Lynn Lutgen, Susan Miller and Susan Ellis for their hospitality, kindness and for their continuous help.

Oleksiy Krasnorutskyy
The Kharkiv State Technical
University of Agriculture, Ukraine

The Faculty Exchange Program (FEP) involves professors of agrarian universities of CIS countries with the purpose to increase economic courses teaching quality. The program is organized and financed by the USDA and has functioned for six years. The purpose of the program is to give the possibility to teaching staff that participate in the program a chance to get acquainted with the content and teaching methodologies of economic courses implemented in the foremost U.S. universities. Four American universities from Pennsylvania, Colorado, Minnesota and Nebraska took part in this years FEP. The program also creates the possibility for collecting materials for the home universities of the participants, and revising those that existed in those universities courses, etc.

During our stay in Lincoln and working with our supervisors Lynn Lutgen and Susan Miller, we have visited some classes in UNL in accordance with the programs objectives. We also had two big field trips and a lot of visits to ag and food industry enterprises. Lynn Lutgen arranged one of those trips. The program schedule included a big workshop on distance education provided by ADEC. We learned a lot about functioning of cooperative extension service in the United States, about the operating of farmers' cooperatives, about food industry structure and operating of adjacent businesses, and made necessary conclusions about perspectives of its experience implementation in our countries. In the acquaintance with teaching methods and structure and content of the courses, I would like to note that the content and structure is similar to the courses taught in my home university. But the methodology of teaching implemented at UNL is a little bit different, as in the usage of information delivery means, also in the technical support of the learning process. University education in our country still keeps the best traditions of the Soviet high education system, and now we are trying to join those academic traditions and our own experience with foreign achievements in the teaching of economic



disciplines. We did not have enough experience in the teaching of basic economic disciplines for the conditions of the developing market economy, so this cooperation with the U.S. educational system is very useful and productive because U.S. universities have a huge experience in this field. I would like to say 'thank-you' especially, to Dr. Terrence Sebor and Dr. Richard Perrin, to the professors who gave me a lot of ideas by their style of course structure and content construction and style of teaching their disciplines.

This year FEP was planned and organized very well. We had an opportunity to get acquainted not only with the educational system of the United States, but with the history of your country, with its cultural traditions, nature and with the American style of living. I really appreciate all the people who arranged this program and who are involved in the program, especially to Lynn Lutgen, for a wonderful experience and a very good time that we spent here.

Natalia Vasileva

Saratov State Social-Economic University

The Faculty Exchange Program-2001 involves faculties from Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Yugoslavia. It is aimed to spread the experience of teaching agricultural economics, marketing and management. The organizer of this program is the United States Department of Agriculture.

During my stay in the U.S.A. and studying at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I had all the necessary conditions for my work here. I attended classes that I was interested in and had consultations with different professors and other specialists from agribusiness and educational institutions. Also, I had the opportunity to improve my English with a personal teacher. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln I learned about the American educational system, about the application of advanced teaching strategies and the Internet. Besides learning new information, I compared the curricula and the content of courses of Saratov State Economic University with the University of Nebraska.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a very good library. It has plenty of books there and a very comfortable order of service. I carried out library research, I read a lot of books and collected a lot of material for lectures, seminars and for scientific work.

Besides theoretical knowledge, I had a great possibility to see the practical aspects of agribusiness. During the program we had two trips, the first was organized by our supervisor Lynn Lutgen and the second, Southwest trip was submitted by the USDA. I visited American universities, farms, agribusinesses, food-processing enterprises, farmers co-operatives and distribution organizations to learn how they work and how they are efficient. Also, the trips allowed me to learn a lot about the history and culture of the U.S.A. and American traditions. We also visited museums, memorials and famous places (Black Hills,

Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Disneyland).

As a result of the program I have learned a lot about different aspects of agribusiness and education in the U.S.A. including the state of food and agricultural spheres in the U.S.A.; government agricultural policy; federal programs to support farmers, the USDA activity, and how the different kinds of farms and ranches work; farm management and organization of production process, marketing decisions; the principles of foundation of cooperatives, their role in agribusiness system, mechanism of shared income, and; different types of food-processing and manufacturing facilities, their structure, management, marketing of products, customers policy, logistics, competition, technologies of food-processing, storage technologies and food safety.

During the program I took part in different meetings, conferences, parties and picnics. All the American people whom I met were very friendly and hospitable, provided assistance and support. Also, I had the chance to visit an American farm twice. I had a good time and made new friends.

The most of the time in the U.S.A. I spent in Nebraska. All of the necessary conditions for good work and relaxation were created in Lincoln by our supervisors, Lynn Lutgen and Sue Miller. Any time I could ask them for help. I thank Lynn Lutgen and Sue Miller for their kindness, hospitality, competence and aspiration for supporting us.

I've really enjoyed staying and studying in the U.S.A. I would like to say words of gratitude personally to Edward Gerard, Amy Freitas, Lynn Lutgen, Susan Miller and Susan Ellis for their thoughtfulness.

If you would like more information on the Faculty Exchange Program, please contact Lynn Lutgen, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, (402) 472-3406.

Lynn Lutgen, (402) 472-3406
Extension Marketing Specialist