International Extension Newsletter

Summer, Food Bounty, Sharing
Jim Murren, International Extension Program Coordinator

Tis the season—Summer! Wonderful fruits and veggies are on the breakfast, lunch and dinner tables, bounties from backyard gardens, nearby farms and far away groves and acres. Oh the joy of slices of vine-ripened tomato with a dash of salt on the palate! The flavor burst of a handful of blueberries tossed into your mouth is a celebration.

My newest favorite summer dish is squash flower cheese poppers. I saw the flowers laying on a table at the farmer’s market a few Saturday mornings ago. I walked over and asked, “how do you prepare these?” The guy behind the table then gave me a two minute cooking lesson: open the flowers carefully, stuff in your favorite cheese, dip them into an egg bath, use the egg to seal up the flowers, dust them with some flour, and then fry ‘em in some oil for about thirty seconds on each side. I thanked him for the lesson and moved on.

I went home, dug out some shredded mozzarella, probably not what he had in mind, but it’s all I had, and about ten minutes later, I was eating squash flower cheese poppers!

I made them again the following week. Yummy little snack!

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Sharing knowledge. Extension. In a nutshell, or two words, that’s what we’re doing. The really cool thing about it, though, is that in the process of sharing our knowledge, we also gain knowledge. That’s what Jess and Chuck are talking about in their call-out in this newsletter. International extension is on the radar in Washington, and around the world. Let’s heed the call.

Not that we aren’t already! Amanda and George leave next month for Ghana. Good luck to you both, and make some blog posts when you can!

PEGAT has an interesting State Fair exhibit in collaboration with the Indiana Humanities Council. Read about their Hungry Planet program on page two.

Over in Frankfort, they have embarked on an exciting new program. Take a few minutes to read Sasha’s reflection piece on page three.

International 4-H had another very successful exchange with Poland. How impressive that nineteen young people from Indiana traveled to Poland to learn about 4-H and life there! And there’s more! Turn to page 4 to find out!

I added a report about food security in mountainous regions because I found it to be quite interesting, and also because I enjoy being in the mountains, which maybe is why I found it to be interesting! Nevertheless, it offers insight into the myriad challenges of feeding families in remote places.

This round of Final Thought… highlights the Common Framework on Agriculture Extension published by the Neuchatel Group. Pour some coffee and check it out!

Happy Summer, y’all:-)

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PICS/Ghana and Extension in August

The preparation of PICS village activities in the new countries is progressing well. All the countries have submitted lists of villages that will be part of PICS activities during the 2009-2010 cowpea season. Purdue is collaborating with various partners in these new countries to implement PICS activities in 4251 villages. In Ghana, World Vision is using extension agents from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA).

Purdue Extension Educators Amanda Bailey and George Okante will travel to Ghana, to assist with training of extension agents. After initial meetings in Accra, they will travel north to Tamale where they will be based for 10 days. In Tamale and the surrounding area, they will train an estimated 200 extension agents on the PICS technology.

The training of field technicians will be conducted by the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) from August 23 to September 4, 2010. Amanda and George will work as team members alongside SARI staff. Wish them well!

To follow them during their time in Ghana, go to:

www.purdueimprovedcowpeastorage.blogspot.com
America, and the World, Needs You!

Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer and Chuck Hibberd

This summer IPIA is faced with a cornucopia of international opportunities. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are coming fast and furious from USAID and other international donors. Much of this activity is prompted by the food price spikes of 2007. When the price of rice goes over $1000 per ton, the world takes notice. Politics are another part of the picture. It took the Obama Administration some time to name and to obtain approval for their appointees in USAID. Those people are now in place and they want to start implementing some of their ideas before Washington is bogged down in another presidential election.

This flood of RFAs is also an opportunity for extension because most of the projects require outreach. Donors have finally realized that it is not enough to breed better crop varieties, develop improved pest control, create more effective storage methods, or envision new marketing systems. Somehow those innovations must get to people and that is the job of extension. The world needs your expertise and being part of a proposal can generate the resources needed to make that happen.

Being part of an international project also has benefits for you and for your community. As the Extension Educators who took part in the Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) project train-the-trainers program in Nigeria last year can attest, those who participate in international development come back understanding themselves and their home communities better. When that email or phone call comes asking about your interest in Mozambique, India or some other part of the world, please consider it carefully. It may be a life changing experience.

PEGAT, State Fair, “Hungry Planet”

The Purdue Extension Global Awareness Team (PEGAT) is a team of Purdue specialists and educators that seek to increase understanding of globalization and its impact on Indiana communities. The team was formed in the summer of 2009 and consists of Purdue campus-based experts and field-based educators from around the state. PEGAT’s mission is “To unite Purdue University’s mission to be a global university with its Extension mission to provide research-based information and education to the residents of Indiana. Our goal is to assist in building globally aware communities that have the knowledge, skills, and attitude to adapt to cultural and economic change associated with globalization.”

PEGAT recognizes that globalization is here driven by expanding of webs of communication through rapidly expanding technology. They also recognize many people lack understanding of globalization and are fearful or confused by this topic which is becoming more and more prevalent in the media. In looking for a common dominator that would promote understanding, PEGAT discovered the well developed Hungry Planet materials and the Humanities Council Initiative. These resources connect well with the wonderful work of Purdue’s two World Food Prize winners, Gebisa Ejeta and Phillip Nelson.

The Hungry Planet is a series of 12 beautiful photographs prepared by Author Faith D’Aluisio and Photographer Peter Menzel. They worked together to create a photo essay showing families around the world with one week’s worth of groceries. The photos are informative, compelling and beautiful. There is also a companion book “What the World Eats” with more wonderful photos, graphs, recipes and many facts. A curriculum of activities and powerpoint adds to the possibilities of programming.

The Indiana Humanities Council connects people, opens minds and enriches lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage people to think, read, talk and listen. As a convener, leader and partner, the Council promotes public humanities and engages Indiana’s community of minds to create stronger, more vibrant communities. The Council has developed a statewide, two-year program devoted to food-related issues ranging from the local to global and slow food to fast food. “Food for Thought” consists of an array of activities including recipe exchanges, community programming and a large exhibit. This initiative is co-chaired by Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman and Pacers Sports & Entertainment President and former United Nations World Programme Executive Director Jim Morris.

A state fair exhibit connecting the two programs – “The Hungry Planet” and “Food for Thought” and the World Food Prize winners will be featured in August. Make sure to stop by this state fair exhibit in the Land Pavilion!

PEGAT members are:

Susan Tharp (County Extension Director)
Kris Parker (Extension Educator)
Carmen DeRusha (Extension Educator)
Bill Horan (Extension Educator)
Jim Murren (International Extension Educator)
Lee Stanish (International 4-H Coordinator)
Jay McCann (Professor of Political Science)
Immersion Weekend in Frankfort

Sasha Broadstone graduated in May with a B.S. in Plant Biology

Over 25% of Purdue’s undergraduates choose to study abroad. I have personally studied abroad in three countries, and as an International Ambassador for the College of Agriculture, I recognize the undeniable value in stepping off of the easy path and striking out in pursuit of new and different experiences that can only be had in a new place among different people. I understand that for many students studying abroad is impossible for a variety of reasons. Fortunately for the other 30,000 students, there is another alternative available right in Purdue’s backyard.

This past spring I had the great opportunity to get to know the people in Frankfort, IN, a town only 40 minutes south of Purdue’s West Lafayette campus. I volunteered at the Clinton County Purdue Extension office there as a fulfillment of my Multicultural credit. More than 15% of the population in Clinton County is Hispanic, and the Purdue Extension office has many programs geared to help the community: such as English as a Second Language classes at the extension office with her sister. Her husband Fernando is more proficient in English than his wife, but both showed a marked improvement in speaking ability and confidence in the three short days I spent with them. During my stay, I went to the YMCA with Alma and danced at a Zumba class with other Latinos, and then we went to a track meet to watch Ashley compete. That evening we went to a First Communion party at their friend’s house complete with traditional Mexican food, a piñata stuffed with Mexican candy, and a Pastel Tres Leches (three milk or sponge cake).

Sunday morning, I accompanied them to mass. After church, we went to a Mexican grocery store and bought ingredients for the family dinner, Sopa de Camarón (shrimp soup). When we returned to the house, I helped Alma and Fernando prepare and cook the food. It was a great way to learn more Spanish words during the whole process. The soup was delicious! After dinner, we all were able to sit around the table and talk for a couple of hours. The evening was soon over, and it was time for me to return to Purdue and my studies. The entire Torres family welcomed me into their home, and it was a delight to get to know them. I was disappointed that I had met them right before graduating from Purdue, and not my freshman year. I feel certain that given the time, I could have cultivated a life-long friendship with the Torres family. I hope others have this chance!

I never imagined that I would be able to immerse myself in another culture less than an hour from my Midwest apartment. However, my weekend with the Torres Family in Frankfort, IN changed more than my views on diversity within American culture.

Both parents, Alma and Fernando Torres are from Mexico, but they have lived in Frankfort for around 20 years. They have three children: Edgar, Ashley-Paula, and Irvin. All three children were born in the United States, speak fluent Spanish and English, and are active student-athletes at the local high school. Alma currently attends the English as a Second Language classes at the extension office with her sister. Her husband Fernando is more proficient in English than his wife, but both showed a marked improvement in speaking ability and confidence in the three short days I spent with them. During my stay, I went to the YMCA with Alma and danced at a Zumba class with other Latinos, and then we went to a track meet to watch Ashley compete. That evening we went to a First Communion party at their friend’s house complete with traditional Mexican food, a piñata stuffed with Mexican candy, and a Pastel Tres Leches (three milk or sponge cake). When we returned to the house, I helped Alma and Fernando prepare and cook the food. It was a great way to learn more Spanish words during the whole process. The soup was delicious! After dinner, we all were able to sit around the table and talk for a couple of hours. The evening was soon over, and it was time for me to return to Purdue and my studies. The entire Torres family welcomed me into their home, and it was a delight to get to know them. I was disappointed that I had met them right before graduating from Purdue, and not my freshman year. I feel certain that given the time, I could have cultivated a life-long friendship with the Torres family. I hope others have this chance!

It was eye-opening to experience living in a bilingual family that in many ways is traditionally ‘American’ (complete with a truck and a large screen TV), but also has constant access to people and relatives of their native country. So complete is that cultural bubble that even after 20 years of living in the heart of Indiana, Alma still only speaks halting English. It is remarkable how language differences can isolate whole groups of people to small sectors of society. These sectors easily get overlooked and underrepresented. Participating in this independent study has made me more aware of this dilemma and given it a face. It has also showed me the difficulties faced everyday by someone in the Latino community, as well as the joys of retaining your native culture and traditions in a foreign country.

This weekend with the Torres Family helped me realize my own lack of knowledge and my community’s ignorance of the Latino culture—the ignorance of their large presence and influence, and the general lack of understanding and interest. Most important of all, I learned how we can all be effective bridges across different cultures. This experience has challenged me to constantly be aware of the people and diversity all around me, and the richness with which it can color your life if given the opportunity and effort. I sense a true connection and understanding of this community now, but I still have so much I want to learn and contribute in the future.

One cannot truly learn about diversity from a textbook or a lecture hall, and not everyone can afford the luxury of travel and study abroad. This Immersion Weekend could give students a chance to broaden their minds and hearts without ever leaving the state. It is far more effective than any class and will have a far greater impact in teaching students about living with, and learning from that different culture.

For more information regarding the Frankfort Immersion Weekend, please contact:

Susan Tharp, County Extension Director:
tharps@purdue.edu
Int’l 4-H: Future is Looking Strong
Lee Stanish, International 4-H Coordinator

We all know one thing about 4-H: It definitely goes strong in the summertime! International 4-H programming is no different. June and July were big months for International 4-H!

Marketing DVD: During June we released our new 7 minute marketing video. This video is available on You Tube, but a DVD copy has also been sent to every 4-H youth Extension Educator in Indiana. We spent a lot of time getting personal interview testimonials. It is our hope that the DVD will be a popular tool for Extension Educators and 4-H volunteers to show to 4-H clubs and junior leaders. We don’t want to be 4-H’s best-kept secret! Let us know what you think, or if you need additional copies.

Facebook: We also released a Facebook Fanpage in June, which has become extremely popular and interactive. Nearly 100 individuals are currently friends of the site. We have been using the site to make announcements, connect with our program alums, and make the site a live blog for current programs. Visit the site by searching “Indiana 4-H Global Programs” on Facebook. There you will see many pictures, videos, and social networking around international 4-H at Purdue. During our recent trip to Poland, the site had nearly 400 visitors a week!

Poland Exchange 2010 complete: From June 16-July 3rd, 19 Hoosier youth and Extension staff were able to experience an 18-day sojourn in Poland! This year completes the 6th year of partnering with Polish 4-H to offer this excellent program. Thanks to the entire Poland committee for all your hard work to make this possible— including Roger Sherer, Cindy Barnett, Barb Thuma, Neasa Kalme, Lee Stanish, and Karen Hinshaw!

Visiting Japan 2010: On July 15th two Hoosiers left for a 3-week experience in Japan through Meiji Gakuin High School! This included Ann Williams, CFS educator in Dekalb County. Ann is chaperoning the trip for Dearborn County 4-H Her Tiffany Henson. We wish both of them the best of luck over the next few weeks! Hopefully they will post some Facebook pictures so we all can follow their footsteps—before they return on August 7th.

Japan Homestay 2010: From July 23- August 14th 21 visitors will join us from Meiji Gakuin High School. These youth and their chaperones will be staying in Indiana 4-H host families located in 18 different Indiana counties!! They will be here to experience American culture, and a slice of what summer-time looks like for 4-H families.

Fundraising Kickoff: For many years now, we have had many wonderful donors to international 4-H programs. However, they have been somewhat opportunistic. Bob Grimm, President of the Indiana 4-H Foundation (and past international 4-H participant), has decided to focus this effort. During the 2010 Indiana State Fair, an announcement will be made that The Indiana 4-H Foundation will be guiding an endowment campaign specifically for International 4-H! If fully funded, this endowment will permanently allow annual scholarships and program support funds…to encourage Hoosier 4-H’ers who want to participate in international 4-H. What a great opportunity for the future!

Mountain Peoples and Food Security

The following is an excerpt from the full IFPRI paper that is linked below:

“About 30 million mountain people live in transition countries. In relative terms, mountain people as a share of the total population vary across regions. For example, even though mountain people in the Asia and Pacific region make up about half of the world’s mountain population, they constitute only a small share (11 percent) of the region’s total population. The mountain population constitutes about 25 percent of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean and the same percentage in the Middle East and North Africa (Kapos et al. 2000; Huddleston et al. 2003; and Price, Jansky, and Iatseni 2005).

Most rural mountain people engage in some form of agriculture as the main source of their livelihood. The land resources in mountain areas of the world comprise barren land (33 percent), forage (25 percent), forest (25 percent), cropland (7 percent), and protected areas (10 percent). Such land resources make livestock grazing and forestry natural livelihood activities in mountain areas around the world. Although production of staple cereals and vegetables for own consumption exists in virtually all of the mountain areas across the world, they depend heavily on imports of these products to meet the domestic demand. Nevertheless, in some mountain areas, crop-based farming systems are important components of local livelihoods. These include the maize-bean system in the upland areas of Central Mexico and Central America, the perennial crops-based system in the Ethiopian and Eastern African highlands, and the rice-wheat (highland mixed) system across the entire Himalaya range (FAO 2002; Huddleston et al. 2003)."

Purdue Extension is a service tailored to meet the needs of Indiana, needs we know firsthand. Our educators, specialists, and volunteers live and work in all 92 Indiana counties. We provide the link between Land Grant research and Indiana residents. In doing that we provide practical solutions to local issues. We provide information and expertise that’s available in the form you want, when you want it. That’s Purdue Extension, Indiana’s home team advantage.

International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA) at Purdue University promotes and facilitates international activities in the College of Agriculture through collaboration with educational institutions, agencies and organizations throughout the world. These educational partnerships are designed to help improve agriculture, natural resources, and food systems locally, regionally and around the world, as well as enrich communities at Purdue, Indiana and beyond.

Final Thought...

During the 1980s, a heated debate developed over different views of how agricultural extension in Sub-Saharan Africa should be supported. That debate moved matters forward. The present document seeks to review the current discourse.

This Common Framework has been drawn up by an informal group of representatives of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies and institutions involved in agricultural development in the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The group was formed in 1995 after a meeting hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Neuchâtel (Switzerland), and comprises representatives of the German (GTZ), American (USAID), British (DFID), Danish (Danida), French (MAE), Swedish (Sida), Swiss (SDC) and Dutch (DGIS) cooperation agencies, as well as representatives of the FAO, the IFAD, the European Commission (EC/DGVIII), the CTA and the World Bank.

Through a series of case studies and joint reflections, this informal “Neuchâtel Initiative” is helping to bring a measure of convergence to thinking on the objectives, methods and means of support for agricultural extension. The different members of the Neuchâtel Initiative have contributed to this framework in order to establish a basis for better applying these ideas in extension practice.

This framework was discussed at a seminar in Ségou (Mali) in November 1998, attended by extension workers, agricultural producers, and representatives of the cooperation agencies involved in the Neuchâtel Initiative. This version of the provisional document has been revised to reflect the issues and concerns that were raised at the seminar.