Purdue partnered with Heifer International-Romania on a sustainable development project in rural Romania. This was an opportunity to work in international agriculture across disciplines AND make a difference – for credit!
ANSC 495 Animals and Food Security: Service Learning in Rural Romania
Upper-class students must be interested in enabling families to overcome poverty, make lasting improvements in their quality of life and achieve self-reliance.

By partnering with Heifer International-Romania, students learned about sustainable development through the application of agricultural ecology, animal management, and agribusiness.
Animals and Food Security: Service Learning in Rural Romania

Projects included animal husbandry (cattle, pigs, horses, poultry, small ruminants, etc.), facility design and construction, efficient use of resources and youth and adult education.
ANSC 495 Animals and Food Security: Service Learning in Rural Romania
Goals of Animal Maymester

Goal 1
Use extension activities to enhance the capabilities of College of Agriculture to better conduct its missions domestically and abroad

Goal 2
Introduce undergraduate students to extension/outreach

Synthesis Objective
Develop an international service learning course that allows students to work in bi-national teams across agriculture disciplines to solve real problems
The Participants

• 18 Purdue University undergraduate students majoring in Agricultural Sciences

• 6 Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine

• Assignment: work in bi-national teams with local livestock producers to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local food animal production issues
The Schedule

• Pre-trip Orientation Meetings
  - Familiarized students with Romania (culture, agriculture), & sustainable development.
• Three day orientation at USAB-Tm
  - Introduced American and Romanian students to each other the course objectives
• Section One: Vata de Jos
  • SEEING
• Section Two: Paclisa
  • DOING
USA-BT Students Gave Tours of their University
Learning in Deva & Vata de Jos

• Heifer International sponsored program
  • 65 dairy farmers

• Visited Corvin Castle & buy boots & gloves

• Introduced all participants to Romania and Romanian Agriculture
  • Home stays

• Visited large and small farms

• Worked on both individual and community projects
Working Real Projects

Paclisa Institution

- Hospital with 200 residents
- Produce much of their own food
- Livestock Facility (pork, dairy, eggs)

**Objective:** Work with farm managers, residents, & administrators to:

1) identify greatest needs
2) identify ways in which the team could address these needs together
Goals of Paclisa Project

1. Pasture Improvement
   - Overgrazing
   - Functional perimeter fence

2. Dairy and Poultry Housing
   - Outdoor housing (e.g., hutches) for calves
   - Structure & sanitation improvements to housing

3. Environment
   - Adequately contain manure
   - Control water runoff
1. Pasture Improvement

Outcomes
2. Housing

Before

After
3. Environment

Before

After

Outcomes
Animals and Food Security: Long-Term Outcomes

Students introduced to extension through experiential and service learning and the application of classroom and other technical knowledge

Real and sustainable improvements to local livestock operations

Global extension partnerships established between universities as well as local (current and future) specialists
Animals and Food Security: Long-Term Outcomes

Through participating in this course, students developed:

• An ability to effectively communicate with others – regardless of culture and backgrounds
• The capacity to work effectively as part of a bi-national problem-solving team
• Knowledge of a range of cultures and an understanding of human values and diverse world views.
• The capability to apply social, economic, political, and environmental principles to serving an international rural village.
“We came up with a good plan when we were in West Lafayette. Then we saw the situation in real-life and realized that our plan had to change. Then we sat down with the farm managers and realized we had to change again. Then we found out about what resources we had (and did not have) and our plan changed again. In the end, though, we came up with a much better plan together, we were able to accomplish much more, and we truly made a difference.”