In the summer of 2014, a group of Purdue students and professors went on a trip to Rivendale Farms, near Ndola, Zambia. This largely exploratory visit resulted in identification of potential opportunities for partnership. This is going to be a mutually beneficial partnership with Purdue students gaining on farm experience in a developing country and Rivendale Farms benefitting from Purdue’s technical expertise in agricultural production and development. It is our expectation that this venture will result in improvements to the productivity of Rivendale Farms and empowerment of local Zambians. Purdue has a long history of successful partnerships in Africa. With adequate support, we can open a new chapter of partnering with Africa through the Purdue-Rivendale Farms partnership.

“You can give a man a fish, you can teach a man to fish, or you can fish with him.”
Rivendale Farms, located near in Ndola, in the Copper Belt of Zambia, was established with the vision of creating “model” farming enterprises that are based on sustainability and local managerial expertise development. Although Zambia is rich in minerals such as copper, most Zambians still live in poverty. Farming practices are still the same as they were over the centuries and productivity of the land is poor. Rivendale was started by John and Kendra Enright who have been serving as missionaries in Africa since 1973. The farm will showcase improved farming practices with the help of Purdue Agriculture. These practices can then be transferred to farmers. Current enterprises being developed include: Fish farming, Aloe Vera production, Mulberry and Moringa, honey production, swine, sheep and goat and dairy production.

Understanding the culture in Zambia is crucial if one plans to make an impact. Each agricultural practice or technique we implement must complement and not contradict the culture, or else it will never be successful in Zambia.

Swine Production
Optimum nutrition is critical for good swine productivity. Purdue and Rivendale Farms will partner in improving the nutrition and management of swine. Feed ingredients used will be locally available feed resources. Purdue students will spend time over the summer developing and testing rations for swine.

Sheep and Goat Production
Evaluate the current status of Rivendale’s livestock management practices with the small ruminants. Help develop better breeding and feeding practices, disease and pest control.

Dairy Management Techniques and Mastitis control
Mastitis is a big issue in Ndola. We hope to help develop effective and cheap ways of mastitis control. Help develop cheap, but adequate, feeding plan based on locally available ingredients.

Forage Management
Help develop improved management of mulberry and Moringa. These will eventually be incorporated into livestock feed.

Aloe Vera Processing
Help develop improved cheap drying technique for aloe vera.

Contact: IPIA, Purdue College of Agriculture, 615, W State St., West Lafayette, IN 47907.
Phone: 765-494-6876
Email: ipia@purdue.edu