

Faculty members observe farming practices in Romania

By Kevin Field

Two UNL faculty members have returned from a seven-week stay in Romania where they observed various agricultural procedures.

Dr. Alex Hogg, an extension veterinarian with the veterinary science department, and Stan Farlin, associate professor of animal science, toured the country observing swine production and beef feeding methods.

Farlin was headquartered in the capital city of Bucharest. From there he traveled to surrounding areas where he viewed beef feeding operations of various state and collective farms. Hogg worked at the Pasteur Institute of Veterinary research where he acted as a consultant in swine health and disease prevention.

Romania operates some of the largest swine units in the world and has disease problems similar to those common in Nebraska, Hogg said. Hogg gave several seminars on swine health to colleges of veterinary medicine. He also initiated a joint research project involving the prevention of atrophic rhinitis, a swine disease. That project is tentative, however, pending approval of both groups, he said.

Hogg said he thought the trip was successful.

"The major accomplishment is the formation of contacts between their researchers and ours and cooperation on a more personal basis between the two countries," he said.

Farlin observed the countries various beef feeding practices and noted that although Nebraska and Romania are similar

in climate and other agricultural aspects, some of their practices are different from those used here.

The Romanian government allows the use of minimal amounts of grain in cattle feed, while in Nebraska a high percentage of cattle feed is grain. The Romanian government limits the use of grain, not because of shortages, but because the grains they produce are exported to Western European countries in an effort to bring in hard currency, Farlin said.

"It is a good program for our institution to be involved in," Farlin said. He added that he acted mostly as an observer and would like the program to develop into a more cooperative type research.

The Romanian exchange is entering its third year.

"It was very educational," Farlin said. "I had an idea of what a socialistic country would be like. You don't really understand it until you see it though. Makes me glad to be an American."

Public schools teaching law

Social studies curriculum in the Lincoln public schools is shifting from a traditional history approach to the study of law and UNL law students are helping out.

According to Alan Frank, UNL law professor, the shift is part of a nationwide movement toward law education in the 1970s.

In the Lincoln Public School system a new curriculum has been designed.

In the new curriculum, ninth grade students are required to take a citizenship course, Colleen Ogden said, eighth and ninth grade social studies instructor at Robin Mickle Junior High.

Frank said, "There has been very little effort to educate the public through the school system until recent years."

Frank helps coordinate a program in which law students work with the schools in educating the teachers and the students about law issues. The Community Legal Education Project currently involves about 20 law students.

"This is a way the law students can use the knowledge they've been gaining," Frank said.

CURRENTLY the group is responding to requests from the schools. A seven-week program, for one hour a week, is being conducted for the sixth-grade students at Sheridan elementary school on the court system. The purpose is to introduce the students to the court system, Frank said.

The law students will give a two day pre-

sentation on the free press versus a fair trial issue at the Robin Mickle Junior High for the ninth graders.

"Legal education can make students more aware of a variety of viewpoints in our society," said Frank.

Instead of the traditional text book technique, the law students try to use techniques which will stimulate the ninth grader's interest. He said they work to get the individual to think for himself, and to articulate the problem. This is done through methods such as simulated trials, debates, skits and games.

THE PROGRAM, which started seven years ago at Lakeview school, has had a great deal of success, according to Frank.

He said the way to teach law education, is by getting the teachers interested in teaching it, and making them aware of the sources such as lawyers and law students.

Ogden is one instructor who decided to do more with her citizenship class than textbook lectures. She said she is bringing in sources for her classes such as legislators, police officers, and the law students.

There was a strong disbelief in the constitution among the students when discussion began on it, Ogden said. It came from their lack of knowledge on how the whole system works, she said.

This change in emphasis makes history a lot more relevant for the students, Ogden said.

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