

ABSTRACTS
*** Author Presenting Paper**

83 The importance of international equine programs to animal science departments and colleges of agriculture.
John E. Shelle*, *Michigan State University, East Lansing.*

Because of the increased demand for students to have international experience, the Animal Science Department and College of Agriculture at Michigan State University (MSU) have developed a variety of international programs. Semester long programs provide the most extensive international experience, but are difficult to initiate and costly to maintain. At MSU it has been hard to get production oriented livestock students to commit an entire semester to study abroad. A number of such programs have been attempted in dairy and livestock in Animal Science, but have met with little success. By contrast, a semester exchange program for horse students between the Department and Enniskillen College of Agriculture in Northern Ireland has been full each semester and has a waiting list through 2002. It is thought that three factors contribute to the contrast in enrollment between livestock and horse related study abroad programs. First, US horse students have a great deal of respect for horse industries in other countries. Second, horse students come from more affluent backgrounds and have more money available for education. Third, horse students come from urban and suburban backgrounds and are more worldly by nature. It is difficult to verify if these are indeed the cause of such a discrepancy. The large enrollments in the Enniskillen Horse Program has provided revenue to continue to explore other avenues to increase international experiences for traditional livestock students.

Key Words: horse, international, teaching