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USSEC RAPCO Provide Professionals with Swine Welfare Education

The IGP Institute hosts participants from South and Central America for a swine welfare training.

MANHATTAN, Kansas – “I think using animals for food is an ethical thing to do, but we’ve got to do it right. We’ve got to give those animals a decent life and we’ve got to give them a painless death. We owe the animal respect,” says Temple Grandin, professor of animal science at Colorado State University.

Grandin a famous consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior has helped pave the way for courses like the one held this week at the IGP Institute. The U.S. Soybean Export Council joined with the IGP Institute to host the Regional Agriculture Production Course (RAPCO) on Swine Welfare. This training was held August 14-16, 2018 at the IGP Institute.

The course hosted 23 participants from eight different countries including, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Peru, Guatemala and Panama. The participants play a variety of roles in the swine industry from quality manager to CEO to veterinarian.

“The course topics were covered by professionals from the National Pork Board, K-State College of Veterinary Medicine, and Triumph Foods this resulted in a well-rounded learning experience for participants,” says Carlos Campabadal, Feed Manufacturing and Grain Management Curriculum Manager at the IGP Institute.

This course covered an array of subjects on pork quality assurance such as food safety; animal welfare; public health; workplace safety; environment and community; along with transport quality assurance topics such as pig behavior; handling; facilities and equipment; loading, unloading and transportation; fitness of the pig; biosecurity; emergency response plan; and laws, regulations and audits. The lectures on these topics were taught by K-State faculty and National Pork Board professionals.

Participant Aida Prada, supervisor of animal welfare program at Pork Colombia enjoys the expertise all of the speakers had. She says, “I see the importance of us taking the lead as an industry to manage our own animal welfare issues. We need to have standards and certifications in place and not wait for the government to either organize a program or to impose that.”

In addition to feed manufacturing and grain quality management, the IGP Institute offers courses in the areas of grain marketing and risk management and flour milling and grain processing. To learn more about these other training opportunities, visit the IGP Institute website at www.ksu.edu/igp.

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