

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -
Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad
Sunday, October 24, 2010



Central Euphrates Farmers Market - The Central Euphrates Farmers Market and Agricultural Center (CEFM) has become a thriving market and agribusiness-learning center since its inception in 2008. Constructed with USG funding, CEFM is now self-sustaining, and plans are underway to expand operations. The market is contributing to the economic development of the province, food security, and lowering tensions between Sunnis and Shiites. Despite high levels of violence in north Babil, CEFM has not been targeted by either party. CEFM is an association-

owned market and agriculture development enterprise formed by four Iraqi NGOs in 2008. It is located at the intersection of two main roadways and provides large open and covered areas to conduct business or hold meetings and seminars.



USDA Book Donation - Dr. Jessica McCoy, DVM, U.S. Embassy, arranged through the U.S. National Veterinary Library, a donation of 11 boxes of veterinary medicine text books to the Veterinary College at Tikrit University. Dr. Ziyad Tariq Al Doori, Asst. Dean for Administrative Affairs expressed gratitude for the donation. The text books will give students increased access to veterinary science.

Tom Pick, Ag Advisor and Dr. Al-Doori



Red Meats Producers Meet - The Iraqi Red Meats Association with the support of a USDA initiative to assist with the formation of an active professional organization of red meats producers in Iraq, hosted the first day of a 6-month series of 1-day conferences on reproduction and nutrition in ruminants on Oct 23. The 6-month program was developed by a USDA-IAER graduate and her husband, who is also a Fulbright Fellow. There were 70 farmers in attendance from throughout Iraq. Lectures were delivered by the husband and wife team, which were followed by further lectures by

Michigan State University, which were delivered electronically. Both sections generated extensive questions and praise from the participants. This is a part of an 18-month program supported by USDA.

Personnel Update- There are currently 40 USDA personnel in Iraq including those with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), at Embassy Baghdad or embedded with U.S. military units.