

Cross-Cultural Studies Program for Extension Faculty

by

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Goals of the Program

- To help Extension agents understand the Latino communities they help in their Georgia counties.
- To give Extension agents the opportunity to see the challenges Latinos face coming to America.



The Program

- A 2-week home stay
- Technical field trips to Mexican agribusinesses, schools, social service agencies, cultural resources.
- Spanish classes and lectures on special issues.
- These provided a cross-cultural training environment for extension faculty.



How is this experience beneficial for agents?

- Can take their experiences in a Latin American nation into consideration when planning county programming.
- Learning that the needs of the Latinos in Georgia might be different than was thought before going to Mexico.
- Ability to tailor the programs to the Latino population in Georgia.

Program Opportunities

- Nutrition: Adapting to different foods and food preparation and preservation methods
- Financial literacy: Basic banking skills
- Resource Management:
 - Budgeting
 - Grocery Shopping
 - Buying Clothes
- Child Care: Lack of family support as immigrants
- Housing: Meeting family/individual needs

Other Training Needed

- Learning to live in America
 - Communication
 - Learning the laws and responsibilities of living in the USA
 - Driver Education
- Collaboration with other agencies could help meet these needs



What Agents Learned about Latin America and its People



- While Extension agents interact with the Latino community everyday in their counties, they learn more about culture, social and economic context and values in Latin American

Strong Values

- Rooted in a deep religious faith
- Grounded in strong family ties
- Steeped in tradition



Proud of their Work



Generous, Fun-loving, Happy



Land of Contrasts

- Lush jungles
- Great Wealth
- Happy People
- Concrete Cities
- Severe Poverty
- Few Luxuries



Agents in Action: Language Acquisition

■ Español

Spanish Classes
from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
before the group had
lunch with their host
families.



Language/Cultural Immersion

- The Home Stay Program allowed agents to vividly experience the language barrier that Mexicans face when they come to our communities, as well as gain knowledge of family life and cuisine.



Good Variety of Agricultural Products/ Another view of

NAFTA

- Fresh fruits and vegetables are sold in local open-air markets/Little is exported due to government regulations
- Coffee market on the decrease
- Low wages for laborers
- Extremely high unemployment
- Problems with pesticides and insects
- Lack of ability to get research-based education to the farmers and growers



Mangos
Sugarcane

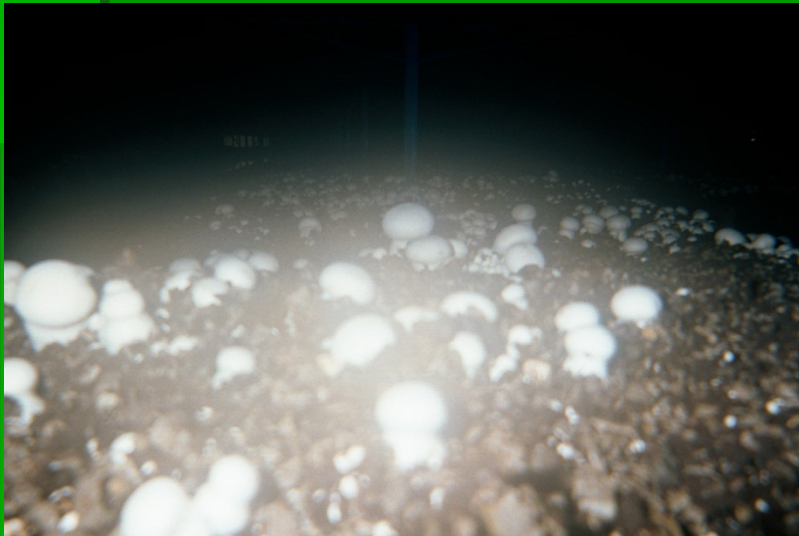


Coffee
Tomatoes



Agricultural Possibilities

Growing Mushrooms



Making Bamboo Furniture

Impact



- Enhance the understanding of Latino culture, language, agricultural systems, use of natural resources, and Mexico's views of America.
- Link with other community agencies to better serve Georgia's Latino population.
- Language: Learning Spanish is very important in order to better serve Georgia's Latino population.

Impact

- Knowledge of Latino customs and culture in order to interact with Latino residents, visitors, clients of Extension programs, and colleagues and associates.
- Participate in Latino focused programs to prepare for the future.
- Encourage bicultural/bilingual volunteerism in all areas.

Thank You

