

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 5/22/2011

**GAIN Report Number:**

## Iraq

**Post:** Baghdad

### Mesopotamian Minute May 22 2011

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

**Approved By:**

Ron Verdonk

**Prepared By:**

Layla Salman

**Report Highlights:**

In this issue of the *Mesopotamian Minute*, you will find information about the further development of 4-H, the supply of veterinary medical text books for Tikrit University, dairy management training hosted by the Iraqi Red Meats Association and the roll-out of a pre-import certification program for all products being exported to Iraq.

## General Information:

# MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -

Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

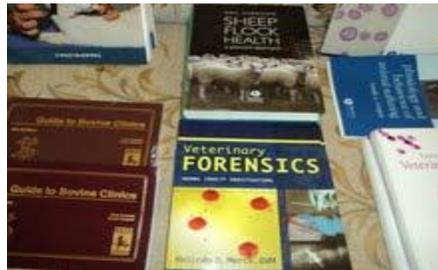
Sunday, May 22, 2011



**Iraqi National Center for Youth Clubs 4-H** – On May 8th and 9th the Iraqi National Center for Youth Clubs 4-H held its first ever National 4-H Conference at the Al Sadeer Palace Hotel in Baghdad. The conference was attended by over fifty participants. On the first day of the conference, activities featured speakers who spoke about the benefits of 4-H, the history of 4-H in Iraq, and the duties of 4-H club officers. On the second day, workshops were held to plan the 4-H program’s road map of activities for the upcoming year and create a strategy for raising funds to support the 4-H program. At the conclusion of the conference, all participants received a certificate for attending the conference.

### Veterinary Reference Books –

English language veterinary reference to Tikrit University’s College of be catalogued and housed in the instructors and students. These books similar trove of topic appropriate provided to the College of Agriculture at under the same CERP-funded purchase. with USD-North, partnered with the PRT in carrying out this project.



### Tikrit University Received

Multiple copies of modern, up to date books were provided through CERP Veterinary Medicine. The books will College’s library for use by will replace decades old references. A reference books and instruments were Tikrit University

Mr. Isaac Odisho, G-9 Ag advisor



**The Iraqi Red Meats Association Hosted its First Workshop**– The Iraqi Red Meats Association hosted its first 5-day workshop in Erbil on 15-19 May. The workshop was taught by two Iraqis who returned from an 8-week intensive training at the University of Illinois on all aspects of dairy management. They were assisted by University of Illinois professor, Jim Baltz. 40 farmers representing every province in Iraq attended the workshop. The workshop consisted of 4 days of didactic training, and one day of practical hands-on training at a local dairy farm. Videos of the 15 lectures given by the Iraqis can be found on the web at <http://www.youtube.com/user/uiucansci> or by Googling “dairy

Management Arabic.” When asked what impact the IRMA program has had for the participating farmers, one replied: “It is as though we were blind, and you have made us to see.”

**Pre-Import Inspection Requirement Looms** – The Iraqi Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control has appointed SGS and Bureau Veritas to implement a pre-import inspection, testing and certification program for all kinds of products from toys to automobiles and including food products. The pronounced goal for the adoption of such a measure is consumer protection and faster release of goods coming across borders into Iraq. This requirement if fully implemented by July 1, 2011 will result in increased prices for Iraqi consumers.

**Personnel Update** - There are currently 27 USDA personnel in Iraq including those with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), at Embassy Baghdad or embedded with U.S. military units. We didn’t want to let him go, so it was with regret that we said farewell to Tim Lowery who served in country for close to two years and for much of the last year headed up the ePRT at Taji. Tim did yeoman’s work and will be missed.

