

The World of Food: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on What We Eat and Grow

“A Glass of Milk: The Rocha, Nicaragua Goat Project”

On this panel a group of Winthrop University students and faculty will describe their plan to begin a Goat Project in two rural Nicaraguan communities. Dr. Ginger Williams will give an overview of the two communities, their similarities, their differences, etc. Dr. Lauren Sastre, three former students, and one current Winthrop student will describe their work in Nicaragua and their work on the Goat Project. Goat gifting has proven to lift rural people in the developing world out of poverty, especially in Africa and in Asia. There is little research on the effectiveness of goat projects in Nicaragua, however, and we are curious to see how this will work in Nicaragua. The people in Rocha and La Hermandad are similar in that they are rural people who do not own their own land. They earn their livings from agriculture. In Rocha, the economy is based on cattle production and corn, while in La Hermandad, the economy is based on coffee. People in both communities lack necessities, live on less than \$2 per day, have low educational levels, and suffer from water-borne illnesses, as well as dietary deficiencies. Winthrop University faculty and students have been working in the Rocha community for eleven years, and La Hermandad for two years. We are embarking on a rural goat-gifting project to see if/ how raising goats can impact these two communities.

Participants: Dr. Ginger Williams
Dr. Lauren Sastre
Jamie Watts
Annalee Bell
Jessica Van Cleave
Jennie Montgomery