



United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

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Dr. Martin Sieber
NAAB
P.O. Box 1033
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Dear Martin:

Thanks for including me in the June seminar trip to eastern Europe and for the opportunity to participate in the meeting in Warsaw with their ministry. I didn't know what to expect, but I think we did some good in improving the situation. I guess there is nothing certain about the possible changes in the Polish breeding law, but at least I could read the recent message from Charles Rush of our embassy with an air of optimism. That whole three-country trip was quite successful. From being included in some of the emails during your organization of the itinerary, I know that you had to work rather skillfully and cautiously to ensure that all parties felt they were included. That was my first visit to Poland, and although brief, we certainly got a lot done: in just a little over a day we had a meeting with importers, then the ministry, then the seminar which I felt went the best of all three. I hope you were as impressed as I was that Professor Jasiorowski and Dorota Krencik both made the effort to attend. That was quite a compliment.

I am always impressed with the number of contacts you have wherever we go, not just the importers but FAS and others. Certainly you are well suited to public relations. Of course, speaking three languages also helps with the organization, arrangements, and logistics! Speaking of facilitating arrangements for educational meetings, those press tours certainly have provided a lot of the helpful contacts in many countries. We at AIPL missed having them with us this year. Those activities have had a lot longer lasting impact than just the articles that come out in the months to follow. They produced long-lasting relationships that have been beneficial to me personally as well as NAAB in Australia, Argentina, Italy, and Hungary, just to mention a few that come to mind that I have experienced firsthand.

Sometimes these trips can be a bit stressful (at least for me), but there is reward, too. I recall from 2001 when about to leave from both Budapest and Prague, the main question was "How soon can you come back?" That certainly helps to make it worthwhile and is a tribute to both your organization of the activity and our presentations. I think you are quite right that it is good to be able to meet with the import agents and provide educational seminars when we aren't there to put out some fire. I think that makes you that much more welcome later if there is some problem.

Back to the Polish situation, please keep me advised if you get communications, although I have been getting Cc'ed on many if not all messages from Charles. It really isn't an area that I would expect to contribute to further, but I am interested to follow what I hope will be progress to come.

Finally, I thank you for the various opportunities I have had to travel with you and for your superb organization of those trips. Our joint seminars have always been well received.

Sincerely,

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