

First UW Extension Team to Guyana

Since November 2006, the UW Extension International Committee has been cooperating with the US Agency for International Development, Partners of the Americas Program on a project; 'Helping Guyana Modernize Their Extension Services'. UW Extension was asked to take the lead and will this fall and winter, send three teams to Guyana. These teams will follow a 'fact-finding' trip by John Preissing and Tom Cadwallader last spring.

Dean Rick Klemme, CRD Agent Andrew Dane and ANRE Agent Tom Cadwallader will travel to Guyana for two weeks beginning October 27. While in country the team will meet with the Ministry of Agriculture staff to learn more about the project goals and desired outcomes, tour the University and research facilities before leaving the capital. While 'in the field' the team will meet with Extension staff, farmers, and other constituents involved in the production and marketing of a couple different commodities. Facilitated discussions will demonstrate the value of team development, and how to bring together agencies and individuals to work together on a team. A session on commodity-based team development is planned.

Cadwallader and Dane will stay a second week in Guyana to continue working with teams and team development and Extension staff, laying the groundwork for the future Wisconsin team trips. The second team will travel in January. There is desire for all program areas to be represented in this project, and it is a professional development opportunity even if you have little or no international experience. If you are interested in this project, more information can be found at the International Committee website at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/international/> or by contacting Tom Syverud, committee chair.