GOOD NEWS

MAKE A NOTE OF IT

AAALAC SITE VISIT - Update #1

Michigan State University's Animal Care Program (which includes all housing facilities, laboratories, and farms that use animals in research, teaching or testing) is having an accreditation site visit by AAALAC, International on Monday October 29 – Thursday November 1. Attached is information regarding what you can expect for this visit and the importance of appearance in making a good first impression during a site visit. Additional information will appear in future updates. It is very important that everyone does their part to make this a successful site visit. If you work with animals at the farms or in laboratories, please make sure everyone involved on animal projects is listed on the appropriate Animal Use Forms. In addition make sure that project protocols are current with the procedures approved within an Animal Use Form. Make sure your animal area is neat, clean and orderly with no expired products, and that all of your training and records (research and/or medical) are complete and up to date. Do not leave this work for the farm or facility managers to take care of because they are very busy with their own areas.

AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. AAALAC stands for the "Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care."

AAALAC, Intl. accreditation is accepted as evidence of compliance with policies on animal care and use set by the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration among others.

More than 850 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions in 36 countries have earned AAALAC accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to responsible animal care and use. These institutions volunteer to participate in AAALAC's program, in addition to complying with the local, state and federal laws that regulate animal research.

For more information about AAALAC, Intl. accreditation, please contact the IACUC Office at 432-4151 or iacuc@msu.edu.

Thank you in advance for your efforts so that we can have a successful site visit!

EVENTS
SEMINARS

ANS Fall 2012 Brown Bag Series Teaching & Learning
Join your colleagues for discussions on teaching and learning in room 1240 Anthony, 11:30---1:00 on:

November 13
December 11

Contact Liz Karcher or Mike Orth with questions.

Dr. Darrin Karcher, Department of Animal Science – seminar - MSU Laying Hen Research: Putting all our eggs in the basket!- Friday, November 9, 2012, 11:30am in 1310 Anthony Hal

Plant Pathology Seminar on “Zoonotic pathogens on plants: Toward a better understanding of enteric illness epidemiology” for next Monday, October 15th with Dr. Maria T. Brandl, Produce Safety and Microbiology Research Unit, Agriculture Research Services, US Department of Agriculture from Albany, California.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

GRADUATE STUDENTS

The grad/faculty pizza lunches have been scheduled this year for the third Tuesday of each month. All the lunches will be in 2315 ANH, and will be from 12 – 1:00pm. Pizza will be provided, but people are asked to bring their own beverage.

All graduate students and faculty members are encouraged to attend.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS
ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM
ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT

The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC, Intl.) will conduct its site visit at MSU on:


AAALAC, Intl. is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. It is not a governmental agency, has no regulatory or legal function, and does not formulate animal care or use policies or regulations. Rather, AAALAC, Intl. accreditation is a voluntary peer-review process, and certifies whether standards of excellence in animal care programs are attained and maintained. More than 850 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions in 36 countries have earned AAALAC accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to responsible animal care and use.

The AAALAC, Intl. site visit includes a review of the Program Description written by the MSU animal care program team and a site visit by a team of veterinarians and scientists specializing in laboratory animal medicine as well as agricultural animals.

They will spend two full days touring and evaluating the MSU facilities and program on campus (Tuesday and Wednesday) preceded by the site visit to KBS on Monday, October 29th. During this time, any laboratory or facility where animals are used is subject to inspection and we won't know until Oct 29th or 30th which PIs they want to meet.

WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR

The site visitors have been provided with a 400+ page written description of the MSU animal care and use program and facilities. During their four-day visit they will tour animal housing areas, animal surgery areas, laboratories, and farms where animals are used. As they evaluate the MSU program description, inspect the facilities, and interview members of the MSU animal care and use community, the site visitors will be trying to answer some of the following questions:

- Is the University in compliance with all federal laws and regulations, and the standards outlined in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals as well as the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching?
- Does the animal care and use program receive adequate support (authority and funds) from top level administration?
- Have problems identified during previous site visits or federal inspections been addressed and corrected?
- Is the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) effective?
- Have all animal use projects and procedures being conducted been approved by the IACUC?
- Is everyone who uses or cares for animals properly trained and skilled?
- Is the occupational health and safety program for animal care and use personnel effective?
- Are animal husbandry, veterinary care, animal surgery, and euthanasia performed in accordance with federal regulations and nationally accepted standards?
- Are the physical facilities (including caging, rooms, buildings, ventilation systems, etc.) designed and maintained in accordance with federal regulations and nationally accepted standards?
- Is the use of hazardous agents in animals conducted with due consideration for the safety of other animals, personnel, and the environment?
- Are medical records current, complete, and readily accessible?

Additionally, the site visitors will pay special attention to animal use projects involving prolonged restraint, food and water restriction, multiple major survival surgeries, and the use of hazardous agents.

If you encounter the site visitors during their rounds on 10/29/12 — 11/01/12, please feel free to welcome them and respond to their questions in an honest and forthright manner to the best of your knowledge -- you may even take the opportunity to network by asking them questions about the animal care and use programs at their home institutions.

Questions and concerns regarding the AAALAC, Intl. site visit can be addressed to the IACUC Office, 421 West Fee Hall Ph: (517)432-4151, Fax: (517) 432-8105, email: iacuc@msu.edu.

With your cooperation, we anticipate a successful accreditation site visit!

We will be sending additional information on how to prepare for the site visit in subsequent emails.
MEMORANDUM

To: All PIs and Staff

Re: Appearance of MSU animal research and teaching facilities

General Appearance

The general appearance of animal facilities and laboratories is an important factor in the image that MSU presents. Visitors, students, inspectors, and site visitors entering animal facilities or animal use laboratories for the first time have a strong tendency to formulate an opinion of the level of animal care, the concern for animal welfare, and the quality of research or teaching being conducted based upon appearances. If the lab looks clean, neat and orderly an impression of staff competency and quality research is more readily conveyed. In addition the appearance of the facilities can have a strong influence on students and how they maintain animal facilities as they enter into various professional pursuits. In most cases MSU is presenting a good image but in some instances people are not cleaning up after themselves or are leaving clutter. Everyone involved in animal work should clean up after themselves and help maintain all animal areas in a clean, neat, and orderly fashion.

Storage issues

The appearance of many animal labs and procedure areas can be readily enhanced by storing miscellaneous research equipment and supplies in sealable containers that can be sanitized, or in mobile carts that can be sanitized. Cardboard boxes cannot be sanitized, provide vermin harborage, and present a very poor image in animal use areas. Inadequate storage hampers orderly management of animal facilities, and detracts from the general appearance of facilities. In lab and procedure areas inadequate storage often results in excessive clutter and a general disorganized appearance of facilities. Unnecessary equipment and miscellaneous supplies can also impede sanitation and should not be stored in animal use areas. Equipment and supplies should not be maintained or stored in corridors because their presence interferes with sanitation, orderliness, and traffic flow patterns. Designated storage areas should be provided and used.
Zoonotic pathogens on plants: Toward a better understanding of enteric illness epidemiology

Dr. Maria T. Brandl
USDA-ARS
Albany, California

Outbreaks of enteric illness linked to contaminated fresh fruit and vegetables are recurring in the US and produce remains the most important food vehicle of individual cases of food-borne disease in the country. The emergence of this public health threat challenges the notion that enteric pathogens are defined mostly by their ability to colonize the intestinal habitat. The persistence of enteric pathogens on crops in the field and in the post-harvest environment has been demonstrated. However, it is still unclear whether this survival is sufficient to cause epidemics or whether amplification on pre- or post-harvest produce is necessary for enteric pathogens to reach the infectious dose required for human illness to occur. This presentation will describe various aspects of the ecology of enteric pathogens on plants, with an emphasis on Salmonella enterica and Escherichia coli O157:H7, including their interaction with other members of the plant natural microflora such as plant pathogens, epiphytic fungi and protozoa.