BeanCAP Education Activities







Annual Meeting
San Diego – January 2012



United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

2011 Activities

1. Hands-on experiences (Internships):

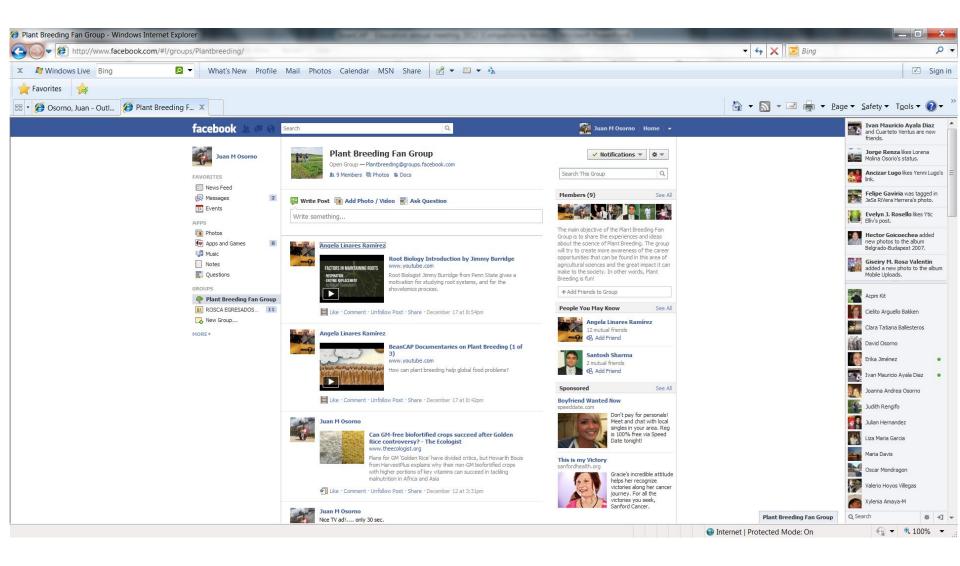
- The most successful activity
 - Undergraduate (full-year and summer)
 - High School (summer)
 - 19 students in 2011.

2. High School Visits:

- Variable results across institutions mainly due to one-to-one contacts with K-12 faculty.
- Visits and presentations in local/regional high schools at each location per year
- Reverse visits from high schools to breeding programs at each university (NE and CO)
- ND more successful at middle and elementary schools (Julie Garden-Robinson)



Facebook: Plant Breeding Fan Group



2011 Activities

- 4. Creating Awareness at National/Regional meetings:
 - Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee (PBCC)
 - National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB)







2011 Impact

- During 2011, 19 students (high school and undergraduate) across the four locations participated in the internships.
- Up today, a total of 40 students have been part of the internships
- ~170 high school students were exposed to plant breeding (visits).
- Additional outreach at BeanCAP website, Facebook, meetings, conferences, and other recruiting activities.

These are Challenging Activities

- 100% recruitment success would be unrealistic, but...
 - There is a lot if indirect impact:
 - We are informing the public and creating awareness
 - Young students will become voters in the future
 - They will be better informed
 - Some of them will be leaders making final decisions
 - Will create more consciousness about the food chain





SUMMER INTERNSHIP WITH THE BEANCAP PROJECT ALYSSA BOLLIG





Why Plant Breeding?



- Exciting and Evolving field
- World hunger
- Healthier, more nutritious food
- High Demand in the U.S. and throughout the world
- As much as 80% of packaged foods are genetically modified

Plant Breeding as a Career

- Huge outlook in jobs
 - Includes many different types of crops, and many different directions
 - » Golfing nicest grass
- Companies:
 - Cargil
 - USDA
 - Anheuser Busch
 - Syngenta
 - Universities
 - CDC

Plant Breeding as a Career

- The science of changing the genetics of plants in order to produce desired characteristics
- Try to produce superior plants
- Applied research
- Field Work
- Traveling

