

# CONNECTIONS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM AGCONNECT MINISTRIES



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MOLDOVA TRIP

MAY 23 - JUNE 6

### MOLDOVAN FARMERS VISIT USA

JUNE 11-30

### THE MAINE EVENT

### PETRA YOUNG ADULTS WORK TRIP

### AT FAIR HAVEN CAMPS

JUNE 17-23

### PINE GROVE CHURCH

### YOUTH GROUP WORK WEEK

### AT FAIR HAVEN CAMP

JULY 1-7

## GIVING TO AGCONNECT MINISTRIES

TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPTS AVAILABLE  
WHEN DONATIONS ARE MADE OUT TO

HARVEST FIELD MINISTRY  
565 AIRPORT RD  
NEW HOLLAND, PA 17557

## WINTER TRIP RECAP

*During my last trip to Moldova I was struck by the thought that Moldova is like an onion. There are many layers, and after you peel one back, you realize there is another, and another. And just like an onion, it sometimes makes you cry.*

*Part of this trip was exploring how to realize our vision of establishing a Model Farm to conduct research and demonstrate better agricultural practices. After meeting with various people and organizations, I had gained a deeper understanding of the conditions in Moldova that make it difficult to start and maintain an enterprise.*

*But I also know Romans 8:31. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" He can pave the way and grant favor. God has blessed the work of the ministry, and will continue to do so as long as we are faithful in following His call.*

*- Leslie Yoder*

## SEMINARS

Seminars were conducted in several locations the first week of March. Most notable was our first seminar at Universitatias Divitia Gratiae in Chisinau. The seminars were open to the students of UDG, many of whom are from Muslim countries in central Asia. They were also open to the churches in the Chisinau region. Approximately 170 people were in attendance, and the initial response has been extremely positive.

This is the first step in developing a partnership with the university to provide agricultural training and education to their students. There is now a course of study "Business as Missions." Our goal is that students would be able to start agriculture enterprises, allowing Christians access to parts of the world where they would not be welcomed as missionaries or evangelists.

## ANGELA ZIMMERMAN

Angela is doing quite well in her new wheels, learning to navigate Chisinau's traffic and the poor rural roads of Moldova. She is continuing to develop important relationships with individual producers as well as Ag Professionals, steadily learning how to produce quality vegetables in Moldova.

She is planning on spending the next 2 months at Tabita Dancu helping them with their Greenhouse/Vegetable Production project. A second greenhouse is under construction at the farm, and the search for a project manager is ongoing. In the meantime, Angela will be providing training for the workers.



## DAIRY PROJECTS

Les met with Brian Pile of Breadline, and Dimitru and Slavic from Dancu to update their Dairy Development Project. The updates reflect some of their recent improvements and prioritize the next steps. The new cheese facility is working well, and their new venture into making Gouda cheese has met with outstanding success. They have been selling everything they have produced, but current production still needs to double to make the dairy farm self-sustaining.

The farm is in need of three improvements simultaneously: a TMR Mixer, a Heifer Raising Facility, and a dramatic improvement to the barnyard and bunk feeder. We are addressing

increased production, finding more milking animals, and improving feed rations. Educating producers on the economical advantages of purchasing some essential feed protein sources was a chance to show sound business practices combined with sound dairy management.

Les also met with several other dairy producers ACM has been working with the past several years. There is a high demand for good dairy products following a recent investigative report documenting the addition of vegetable oil to dairy products that are made from milk reconstituted from dry milk powder in an attempt to raise quality.



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