

PROJECT TITLE: Clinical practice, extension and research to benefit the health management of dairy cattle and other animal species in Kenya

Two Canadian veterinary students, Laura Bourque, AVC and Vionna Kwan of OVC, will be working with Kenyan veterinarians and farmers for 3 months and will get experience in clinical practice, extension and research that benefits the health management of both dairy cattle but also other animals in Kenya, and will receive a cross-cultural experience of a lifetime. Dr. John VanLeeuwen, Department of Health Management, AVC, will join the students for the first couple of weeks to help them get settled and familiar with the other project members and the project protocols and activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

Phase 1: To perform a research project investigating the efficacy of various anthelmintics on gastrointestinal parasites in cattle on Kenyan dairy farms in central Kenya.

Phase 2: To assist in a research project investigating the causes and risk factors of fetal loss in cattle on Kenyan dairy farms in western Kenya.

Phase 3: To assist a large animal veterinarian working with Christian Veterinary Mission in Kenya to provide veterinary care and extension to livestock farmers in western Kenya. While working on the two research projects, organized through faculty and grad students from the University of Nairobi, the students will also provide veterinary care and extension to smallholder dairy farmers living in extreme poverty in rural Kenya, the participants of the research projects. Dr. VanLeeuwen is a collaborator on the research projects.



Vionna Kwan, OVC



Laura Bourque, AVC



Dr. John VanLeeuwen, Department of Health Management, AVC