

The Lithuanian Connection

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The Lithuanian Connection is published by Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc. a non-profit organization devoted to developing and continuing the relationship between the people of Vilnius, Lithuania and Madison, Wisconsin.

MVSC HOSTING WORLD DAIRY EXPO DELEGATES

In several of our newsletters last year, we wrote about the MVSC's intention to invite and host delegates from Lithuania to the World Dairy Expo this fall. During the year, led by Gediminas Vidugiris, this goal has been accomplished! We are excited to announce that four delegates will be arriving on October 1 to attend the Expo: Drs. Girmantas Gumauskas, Jonas Gutauskas, Jonas Kutra, and Vilius Ziogas.

In their honor, Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc. (MVSC) cordially invites you to attend a free, informal presentation specialists on **Wednesday, October 3, 2007, 7pm in Meeting Room K, Monona Terrace, Madison, WI** by Drs. Gumauskas, Gutauskas, Kutra, and Ziogas, all of whom are agriculture and animal breeding/husbandry. They will be offering a short lecture for the community at large entitled, "Lithuanian Agriculture: Past, Present, and Future". Please join us for an open discussion following their presentation and in welcoming our guests to Madison. Refreshments will be served.

Please check the MVSC website for further information and updates: www.madisonvilnius.org

ABOUT THE DELEGATES:

Dr. Girmantas Gumauskas, DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine), recently earned his degree in veterinarian sciences from the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy (LVA), Department of Veterinary Medicine. His thesis is entitled, "Antimicrobial drug treatment of cows with latent mastitis".

Dr. Gumauskas is now in his residency at LVI's department of Veterinary Obstetrics and is a veterinarian at the Padovinio Agricultural Company.

Dr. Jonas Gutauskas, Ph.D. graduated from the Lithuanian University of Agriculture (LUA) as an agronomist and holds an Agricultural Science Doctoral degree from the Latvia Institute of Agriculture and Economy.

Dr. Gutauskas was a senior scientist at the LUA from 1979 until 2004. Presently, he heads the project and consulting group of UAB Agrolitpa, specializing in forage grass seed production, pasture management, and dairy farming.

Dr. Gutauskas is a member of the Lithuanian Society of Organic Farming, the Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists (NJF), and the Lithuanian Grassland Society. In addition, he has served as vice-chairman for the boards of LIA as well as the Lithuanian Society of Organic Farming, and was chairman of the Lithuanian Grassland Society. In 1995, he studied forage production and dairy farming at UW Madison through the Cochran Fellowship Program. He has published over 50 scientific articles on forage production and grassland farming.

Dr. Jonas Kutra, DVM, Ph.D. graduated from the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy as a Veterinary Doctor and holds a doctorate in biomedical sciences/biology from the Animal Science Institute of the Union. In his professional career, he has been a veterinary doctor for the Veterinary Station in the Vilnius district, a scientist at the Lithuanian Institute of Animal Science, Animal Reproduction Department, senior scientist in the Embryo Transplantation Department, and since 1992 the head of its Animal Reproduction Department. His areas of expertise include animal reproduction biology, embryo transplantation and sperm cryoconservation.

He is the author of 39 scientific articles, research advisor for four Ph.D. students and a member of seven doctoral degree committees. In addition to his academic career at the Lithuanian Veterinary Institute of Animal Science, Dr. Kutra acts as distributor for World Wide Sires Ltd. (USA) in Lithuania.

Dr. Vilius Ziogas, DVM, graduated from the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy in 2000. He was then employed as senior veterinarian for Kontvainiu pig integrated farm and as a veterinarian inspector for UAB Agroviet processing plant. Along with his private veterinarian practice, Dr. Ziogas administers a 350-hectare family organic farm with 230 animals from which 110 are milking cows, producing over 8700kg of milk per annual lactic cycle. He is currently a graduate student in LVA's Veterinary Obstetrics program.

We hope you will be able to attend what promises to be a very interesting lecture and meet our guests on **Wednesday, October 3, 2007, 7pm in Meeting Room K, Monona Terrace, Madison, WI.**

