WILL YOU EVER LEAVE HOME AGAIN? DOC-AT-A-DISTANCE

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Introduction
One of the emerging trends in agricultural and Extension education is distance education. With today’s technology, universities can create new ways of engaging the teaching, research, and service activities of faculty, staff, and students with their constituents. By using distance learning technology, students can be in a local classroom, 80 miles away, or in another country.

Purpose of the Poster
This poster presentation focuses on the development and implementation of a program already underway, the Joint Doctor of Education Degree in Agricultural Education via Distance Education between Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University. Further, the poster describes the ecological generalizations of such a program from which universities and their partners around the world can benefit from similarly distributed programs of agricultural education programs.

Major Points to be Shared
The purpose of the joint doctoral degree is to increase educational access for agricultural professionals constrained by time and place in furthering their professional preparation within the state of Texas. A needs assessment revealed more than 120 professionals who needed a doctoral degree to meet their career objectives but who were unable to do so because of time and place constraints.

The specific program objectives are to:
• Provide a degree program that is accessible, satisfying, and meets the educational needs of agricultural professionals in Texas.
• Create and nurture a high quality environment for learning that encourages the discovery, integration, and application of scholarship.
• Document results of learning and behaviors that advance professional development and scholarship in the context of agricultural education.
• Provide administrative services that complement the on-campus service and procedures of the graduate program offices of Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University.

Conclusions and Educational Importance
The joint program is the only doctoral-level agricultural education program offered entirely at a distance in United States of America. The program strengthens the application and integration of knowledge of agricultural education in the professional communities of Texas and serves as a distance education model for agricultural education programs throughout the world. The program provides agricultural professionals in the State of Texas with academic and geographic access to advanced degrees and serves as a model for how other programs throughout the world can achieve the same.