



Zully Valencia, of Daco Animal Nutrition (far left,) and Francisco Trejo, of Jones Feed Mills Ltd. (far right) acted as Spanish translators for a group of Guatemalan workers attending the Ontario Pork Congress. The visitors included Rafael Reyes; Jairo Alfonso Trigueros; Mario German Lopez; and Edwin Castillo.

June 27, 2016 Stratford – A small group of Guatemalans who are working in Ontario swine barns got a guided introduction to the Ontario Pork Congress (OPC) this year.

“The industry was trying to figure out how to include foreign workers – and in what capacity,” explained Andrea DeGroot, a member of the organizing committee representing the Royal Bank of Canada. The debate was whether the focus for the workers should be educational or social. “At the OPC level, we decided “let’s just try it, start the conversation, and see what happens,” said DeGroot.

So, two weeks before the show, they sent out a press release inviting foreign workers attending the congress to meet at a designated location. Zully Valencia, of Daco Animal Nutrition, and Francisco Trejo, of Jones Feed Mills Ltd. stepped up to offer translation, and a half dozen workers met to talk and tour the exhibits.

“It was very worthwhile. I have good comments from the employees,” Trejo reported afterward. “We helped them with some of the issues they needed to talk about.”

And, he said, they also introduced some of the employers that hired foreign workers, to some employers needing staff, so that was also useful.

