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FEATURE

Cara Cuero: Showcasing the beauty of carabao leather and horn products

By **Camilla Soliman**

Cara Cuero serves as the brand name for unique products meticulously crafted from carabao hide and horns. The

To page 19

Sen. Villar envisions better lives for farmers thru ALAB Karbawan project

By **Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano and Jeremie Marinella Ledesma**

Senator Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, emphasized the importance of education and skills development in achieving economic upliftment for farmers through farm schools.

“We carry the values of perseverance and diligence so we can provide a better future for the Filipino people,” she averred at the opening program of the training on “Capacitating Coconut Farmers on Dairy Buffalo Production for

To page 4

WHAT'S UP?

Cara-Aralan Farmers' Field Day | OMK! Campaign | R4D In-house Review

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About the cover

Slay your OOTD with Cara Cuero bags! These bags come in different colors, styles, and designs that can match perfectly with your taste in fashion. Aside from bags, the brand offers boots, hats, leather jackets, and souvenir items. If you want to add this to your collections in your walk-in closet, contact DA-PCC at Central Luzon State University through 044 940 3061 or email them at pcc-clsu@pcc.gov.ph.



Photo by: Calvin Kim M. Dioses

Contents

- 3 DA-PCC, DA-NDA commit 100% local milk supply for 2024 gov't feeding program
- 4 Victorias City advances local dairy prod'n with carabao communal pen launch
- 5 Ilocos Province to increase dairy prod'n with new herd of buffaloes
- 6 New herd facilities to boost dairy industry in Western Mindanao
- 7 DA-PCC, DA-RFO V inaugurate LN2 facility, Bicol satellite office to strengthen CDP
- 7 Cotabato Province models sustainable carapreneurship in Central Mindanao
- 8 NegOcc opens 'Great Victorias in Carabao Moo-vement'
- 9 New Dairy Box outlet opens in Ipil, Zambo Sibugay
- 9 DSWD, DA-PCC push economic empowerment through GK3K projects
- 10 300 families benefit from PHP4.6M start-up fund for CBE
- 11 DA-PCC, DSWD XII converge to uplift economic status of 4Ps beneficiaries thru carapreneurship
- 12 Carapreneurs, SCAFAR delegation witness DA-PCC's techno demo in Cara-Aralan FFD
- 12 DA-PCC, LGU collab to revitalize carabao program in the highlands
- 13 Bohol EPs join forces with DA-PCC to support small-scale farmers via KBGAN mobile apps
- 14 DA-PCC trains new army of AI technicians nationwide to increase calf prod'n
- 15 Good practices in carabao R4D featured in PH Expo '24
- 15 DA-PCC HQ demonstrates excellence with success of recertification audit
- 16 'Nuang-derful' journey of Pangasinan co-op celebrated in 1st Kalabaw Food Fest
- 17 Bohol co-ops, recognized for success of World Bank-funded project
- 18 Blockmate: Nutrition in a Block



Bubalus is a quarterly publication published by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) that gives its readers updates and inspiring stories happening in the carabao industry.

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DA-PCC, DA-NDA commit 100% local milk supply for 2024 gov't feeding program

By **Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano** and **Ma. Theresa Sawit**



The DA-PCC and DA-National Dairy Authority's (DA-NDA) assisted cooperatives and entrepreneurs both provide assurance on the availability of local milk to sufficiently supply the demand for the National Milk Feeding Program.

Pursuant to RA 11037 or the Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act, the DA-PCC and DA-NDA capacitated and linked its assisted co-ops and entrepreneurs to the School-based Feeding Program (SBFP) of the Department of Education and the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

For the 2024 program implementation, 50% of the milk requirements for the feeding program will be provided by the DA-PCC's assisted cooperatives while the remaining half is set to be supplied by the assisted co-ops of the DA-NDA. This concerted effort aligns with DA's overarching objective of improving milk sufficiency while empowering the farming communities.

"We are grateful to the National Feeding Program because it has expanded the opportunities for the greater participation of small farmers in addressing poverty and malnutrition incidence in the country. The DA will remain true to its partnership with DepEd and DSWD by providing healthy, safe, and accessible milk and agri and milk products to daycare and schoolchildren," DA Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel stated.

DA Undersecretary and chairperson of committees related to livestock Deogracias Victor Savellano underscored the need to overcome the lingering 7% dependency on commercially outsourced milk, as evidenced by prior implementation.

DA-PCC Deputy Executive Director Dr. Caro Salces attributed this challenge to limited number of dairy animals and logistical hurdles in far-flung areas.

Recognizing the need for an innovative solution to ensure consistent supply of milk, the DA-PCC and DA-NDA, in partnership with its assisted co-ops and entrepreneurs, have turned to retort facilities to bridge the gap in its delivery capabilities. Retort technology involves using airtight packaging and heat processing to sterilize and preserve milk, significantly extending its shelf life without compromising its nutritional value. This method not only ensures the safety and quality of milk but also allows for bulk transportation to regions where frequent deliveries are impractical.

Furthermore, the DA-PCC through its Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) and Coconut-Carabao Development Projects (CCDP), collectively referred to as "Accelerating Livelihood and Assets Buildup (ALAB) Karbawan", has dispersed a total of 4,303 dairy animals to 1,889 beneficiaries. This year, a total of 4,550 dairy animals are set to be dispersed under the Dairy Herd Buildup Project.

"We are committed in continually

enhancing the capacities of our assisted farmer cooperatives as certified suppliers for the National Feeding Program by providing them the necessary inputs and by establishing more facilities in addition to the already existing retort facilities located in Isabela, Science City of Muñoz, Batangas, and Sorsogon," Dr. Salces remarked.

DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad highlighted the broader impact of these efforts.

"It's not about the DA-PCC but the effects that we aim to create alongside our accountability partners. Our goal is to help curb nutritional deficiencies among children while creating livelihood opportunities for farmers through the National Feeding Program, led by the DepEd and DSWD," Dr. Battad said.

Through the initiatives and the abovementioned projects funded by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform chaired by Senator Cynthia Villar, the DA-PCC is set to establish milk laboratories in its 12 regional centers nationwide within the year, offering co-op members access to milk quality testing services.

Since its inception in 2019, the milk feeding program has already proven its worth, benefiting over 4.7 million undernourished children and concurrently boosting the income of 67 DA-PCC-assisted cooperatives and entrepreneurs, collectively garnering a total revenue of PHP2 billion. **B**

Sen. Villar envisions better lives for farmers...

From page 1



All for one mission—to provide coconut farmers with better quality of life through carapreneurship.

increased income,” held on May 7, 2024, at the Villar Foundation Farm School and Tourist Farm located in Las Piñas-Bacoor, Cavite.

She urged the participants to apply the knowledge they gained from the training back in their home provinces.

The training initiative is a collaborative effort between the DA-PCC and the DA-Philippine Coconut Authority (DA-PCA), in partnership with the Villar Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance (SIPAG) Farm School. It focuses on educating coconut farmers about proper dairy buffalo production and management and enterprise development through a combination of lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. The training is part of the

Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP), funded by DA-PCA.

Senator Villar recounted a visit to a barangay in Pagadian City, which inspired her support for the dairy buffalo enterprise model. This model involves local families managing dairy herds, processing, and selling dairy products locally. Curious about the economic viability of such enterprises, she advances the need for 50 carabaos per operation. The combination of Pagadian’s backyard dairy production and the DA-PCC’s Dairy Box branding impressed her leading to her resolve to allocate funds to replicate this model nationwide.

The following year, Senator Villar allocated PHP170 million to DA-PCC to expand this model to 17 provinces, eventually popularized as Accelerating

Livelihood and Assets Buildup (ALAB) Karbawan. Each province received PHP10 million to cover the procurement cost of 50 carabaos, one processing facility, and other miscellaneous expenses.

The ALAB Karbawan is an umbrella program initiative and popularized name for the province-wide Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) and CCDP.

ALAB Karbawan aims to establish robust carabao-based enterprises in recipient provinces, thereby generating livelihood opportunities for farmers.

Dr. Liza G. Battad, DA-PCC executive director, expressed her gratitude to Sen. Villar for her continuous support to the program and the empowerment of dairy farmers nationwide.

PCA Administrator Dr. Dexter R. Buted also expressed gratitude and emphasized the crucial role of coconut-carabao farmers in sustaining the country’s agricultural productivity.

The three-day training event included comprehensive modules on various aspects of dairy buffalo production and management, including nutrition, animal health, and milking practices.

Thirty farmer-beneficiaries of the CCDP from CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and Bicol regions attended the training. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at LCSF

Victorias City advances local dairy prod’n with carabao communal pen launch

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

Victorias City in Negros Occidental is making headway in boosting its local dairy industry through the inauguration of a PHP7-million communal pen for dairy carabaos on April 18, 2024.

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Victorias led the initiative and funded the construction of this sustainable and eco-friendly carabao pen as part of the Carabao-Based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) Project. This project is a collaborative effort between the

DA-PCC and the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, chaired by Senator Cynthia Villar.

The newly launched carabao dairy farm houses a total of 63 crossbred carabaos

Ilocos Province to increase dairy prod'n with new herd of buffaloes

By Mari Joan Nefulda and Dave Demillo

The province of Ilocos is set to experience a significant increase in genetically improved calves and fresh buffalo milk production, following the turnover of 100 crossbred female buffaloes to Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives (NSCC) under a Buffalo Agistment Service Agreement. The initial turnover was held on June 5, at the NSCC Farmville in Caoayan, Ilocos Sur.

The entrustment is a key component of the Dairy Herd Buildup Project (DHBP), funded by the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, chaired by Hon. Cynthia A. Villar. The project aims to boost local dairy stocks and milk production by establishing dairy buffalo agistment farms and evaluating their sustainability as a strategy for dairy herd buildup across the Philippines.

Under the Buffalo Agistment Service Agreement, NSCC will rear 100 female buffaloes for one year. Once the buffaloes' pregnancies are confirmed, they will be entrusted to eligible cooperatives or associations to enhance milk and meat production capacities. This initiative aims to boost calf and milk yields, fostering a robust and sustainable dairy industry.

Ultimately, this project is expected to significantly contribute to the province's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in milk production.

NSCC has been a leading implementer of DA-PCC programs, consistently expanding its buffalo herd since 2019 and playing a vital role in supplying milk to various Department of Education's (DepEd) Schools Division Offices through school-based feeding programs.

Ilocos Sur Governor Jeremias Singson highlighted the provincial government's unwavering commitment to improving the agricultural sector, emphasizing steadfast support for farmer-benefiting programs. He lauded the turnover as a concrete manifestation of this support and expressed eagerness to utilize



Turnover of 100 female buffaloes to Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives (NSCC).

similar programs offered by DA-PCC for the province. Singson thanked DA-PCC for spearheading the project and challenged the community to uphold organic farming principles, promote environmental sustainability, and enhance community well-being.

NSCC Chief Executive Officer Dr. Divina C. Quemi expressed her gratitude for the trust placed in the consortium and expressed hopes that the buffaloes will significantly boost milk production to meet the DepEd's feeding program requirements. She also emphasized the project's potential to enhance the economic well-being of local dairy farmers, advocating for continued collaboration between DA-PCC, NSCC, and the provincial government.

DA Undersecretary for Livestock

Deogracias Victor Savellano also delivered a video message extending his support to the DHBP and highlighting the collective efforts of the department to enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable livelihoods and foster economic growth of the community. He said the project not only brings transformative changes but new opportunities for income and development. He encouraged the NSCC to continue its collaboration with various agencies and stakeholders as it strives to strengthen its role in enhancing the nutrition of schoolchildren and vulnerable families.

Also present during the ceremony were DA-PCC Deputy Executive Director Dr. Caro B. Salces and DA-PCC at Mariano Marcos State University OIC Center Director Joel F. Cabading. **B**

New herd facilities to boost dairy industry in Western Mindanao

By Dorie Bastatas

An increase in local dairy stocks and milk production in Western Mindanao regions is anticipated after the turnover ceremony of newly constructed institutional herd facilities for the Dairy Herd Buildup Program (DHBP) on May 24, 2024, at the DA-PCC at MLPC in Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte.

The DHBP aims to revolutionize the local dairy industry, ushering in a new era of increased local dairy stocks and milk production. It is funded by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, under the dedicated leadership of Senator Cynthia A. Villar.

The facility, with a total cost of PHP10,530,648.41, is capable of housing 300 crossbred animals.

Calves with superior genetic makeup will be produced utilizing artificial

insemination. Pregnant animals will then be supplied to carabao raisers, mostly in Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) coverage areas.

Aside from the construction of facilities, the program also involves pasture establishment to ensure consistent supply of forages and composting for zero waste management.

The event was graced by Dr. Liza Battad, DA-PCC executive director, Caro B. Salces, DA-PCC's deputy executive director, Dr. Cecelio G. Velez, DA-PCC at MLPC center director, Raymond Taopa, proprietor of Altapil Construction and Supply, Engr. Rolando Maghanoy, a representative from the local government of Kalawit, DA-PCC staff, conduit cooperatives managers, members, and farmers. **B**



"It is by God's grace that we had a systematic leader, and by God's grace that He blessed us with the right construction company. This project is an icon of transformation to change the lives of the cooperatives that depend on us," said Dr. Liza Battad, DA-PCC executive director.

Victorias City advances...

From page 4

and will be managed by the San Antonio Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SAFMPC).

Located at Hacienda San Antonio in Barangay 14, Victorias City, the carabao pen serves as a designated facility for SAFMPC's animals and livestock raisers. Its primary goal is to maximize potential benefits and minimize losses in the local farming sector.

Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez expressed optimism about the project. He said the carabao pen shows the city's commitment to improving livestock management and agricultural practices. The project, he said, will benefit local farmers and provide them with the necessary resources.

Dr. Caro Salces, DA-PCC deputy executive director, emphasized the collective effort needed to support

local farmers and promote economic growth.

"Let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting our local farmers, empowering our rural communities, and fostering economic prosperity. Together, we can cultivate a brighter future for Victorias City and pave the way for a thriving dairy sector in the region," Dr. Salces remarked.

Said project was specifically spearheaded by Victorias City Veterinary Office led by OIC Allen Joy Panes and was initiated by former City Veterinarian Dr. John Michael Cabuguaon.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Vice Mayor Abelardo Bantug III, DA-PCC at LCSF Center Director Eva Alvarez, and Board Member Richard Julius Sablan. **B**



The unveiling of the marker signifies a more intensified carabao industry in Negros Occidental.

📍 DA-PCC at UPLB

DA-PCC, DA-RFO V inaugurate LN2 facility, Bicol satellite office to strengthen CDP

By **Jeremie Marinella Ledesma**

The DA-PCC at UPLB and the DA Regional Field Office Region V (DA-RFO V) held a blessing ceremony for the newly-built liquid nitrogen (LN2) facility and DA-PCC's satellite office in Bicol on May 15, 2024 at the DA RFO V Compound in San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur.

The establishment of the PHP2.3M LN2 facility and satellite office is a main component of the joint partnership of DA-PCC and DA RFO V. This collaboration aims to strengthen the Carabao Development Program (CDP) in Bicol region through the supplementation of LN2 for cryopreservation, livestock germplasm for genetic upgrading

and improvement, and expansion of technical assistance and services. The memorandum of agreement between the two agencies was signed on September 25, 2023, solidifying the commitment and collaboration in the implementation of CDP in Bicol.

Moreover, the DA RFO V's commitment to the partnership includes promotion of agricultural development by providing policy frameworks, public investments, support services for agricultural business enterprises, and technical assistance to livestock clients in the Bicol region.

The construction of the liquid nitrogen started on February 13, 2023 and is

expected to be operational within this year to cater to the needs of livestock clients.

The funding for this initiative is through the PL480 project, with the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries serving as the fund manager.

The activity was graced by DA RFO V Regional Executive Director Rodel P. Tornilla, DA RFO V Farmer-Director Bernadette B. de los Santos, DA-RFO V Regional Livestock and Poultry Program Coordinator Dr. Marissa E. Guillermo, DA-PCC at UPLB Center Director Dr. Thelma A. Saludes, CBED coordinators Anna Reylene J. Montes, and Engr. Jose C. Canaria. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at USM

Cotabato Province models sustainable carapreneurship in Central Mindanao

By **Rodolfo Valdez Jr.**

The Enhanced Carabao Propagation and Promotion Ordinance of Cotabato Province (Provincial Ordinance No. 684) is enacted to bolster the local agricultural sector and uplift the livelihood of farmers.

This legislation aims to revitalize carabao farming, enhance productivity, and foster sustainable practices focusing on the preservation and promotion of carabao farming as a foundation of rural livelihood.

“At its core, the ordinance seeks to achieve multiple objectives, each designed to promote carabao farming and its associated industries. The implementation of this ordinance would lead to greater good of the cara-industry in the province,” DA-PCC at USM Center Director Dr. Geoffray R. Atok said.

Director Atok also expressed his gratitude to the provincial government of Cotabato led by Governor Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza who recognizes the crucial role of carabaos in agriculture.

The ordinance prioritizes efforts to boost carabao population and productivity which will result in the resurgence of carabaos in Cotabato Province.

In addition, the ordinance encourages the development of backyard dairy farming through carabao raising. By producing milk locally, smallholder farmers can meet the nutritional needs of their families while simultaneously reducing reliance on imported dairy products. This not only supports local farmers but also contributes to the economic sustainability of Cotabato by sustaining the revenue within the community.

Central to the ordinance is the institution of measures aimed at ensuring the full protection of carabaos, particularly breedable animals. Regulations on the slaughter and transportation of animals are put in place to safeguard and conserve the breeding stocks and prevent depletion of carabao population, ensuring its sustained propagation.

The implementation of the Enhanced Carabao Propagation and Promotion Ordinance marks a transformative phase of agricultural advancement in Cotabato Province. This legislation not only promotes sustainable farming methods but also empowers farmers and ensures the well-being of carabaos. It sets an example for rural development and economic resilience in the entire region. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at LCSF

NegOcc opens ‘Great Victorias in Carabao Moo-vement’

By Louie Jee Huelar

Negrenses now have a new one-stop shop for a variety of carabao's milk products with the opening of Dairy Box at the Satellite Market Barangay I in Victorias City, Negros Occidental on April 18, 2024.

Senator Mark Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce, and Entrepreneurship, served as the esteemed guest during the program. He led the blessing and inauguration ceremony together with Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez. They were also joined by DA-Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) Deputy Executive Director Dr. Caro Salces, DA-PCC at La Carlota Stock Farm (PCC at LCSF) Center Director Eva Alvarez, DA Regional Office VI RTD for Operations and Extension Engr. Jose Albert Barrogo, and Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Placeda Lemana.

Senator Villar praised the LGU for its innovative developments, emphasizing on the Dairy Box's positive impact on the local community.

He even recounted his early experiences with fresh carabao's milk and how its nutritional benefits have helped children.

He added, “the Dairy Box will serve as a market development support and infrastructure for the processing and marketing of carabao's milk products.

We look forward to this initiative as source of additional income for our carabao farmers, as it will be a one-stop shop for various products like flavored milk, yogurt, cheese, and more,” he stated.

Mayor Benitez named the event the “Great Victorias Carabao Moo-vement (Movement),” not just to launch facilities, but to establish a foundation of a prosperous future for the city.



New livelihood opportunities for Negrenses! Senator Mark Villar and Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez led the opening of the Dairy Box which will house a variety of carabao-based products.

“These projects are not just about infrastructure; they are symbols of hope. They reflect our commitment to nurturing our land, our animals, and most importantly, our people,” he expressed.

Mayor Benitez also emphasized the transformative impact of fresh carabao's milk on children's growth and its potential to combat malnutrition.

San Antonio Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SAFMPC) will serve as the LGU's partner in managing and operating the Dairy Box.

The ceremony included a symbolic milk toast to signify unity and commitment to related present and future collaborations.

The Dairy Box is part of the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) project funded by the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform chaired by Senator Cynthia Villar.

Dairy Box-Victorias City offers a range of carabao's milk-based products, including pasteurized milk, flavored milk, yogurt, milk gelo, ice cream, kesong puti, cookies, pastillas de leche, dulce de leche, and dulce gatas.

Also present during the ceremony were Vice Mayor Abelardo Bantug III, Board Member Richard Julius Sablan, city officials, and other DA-PCC employees. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at MLPC

New Dairy Box outlet opens in Ipil, Zambo Sibugay

By Dorie Bastatas

The DA-PCC at MLPC opened its newest Dairy Box on April 1, 2024. This is the first-ever outlet dedicated to locally produced dairy products in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay and the fourth in the region.

The collaborative efforts of various stakeholders including the DA-Philippine Coconut Authority (DA-PCA), Ipil Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative (ICMC), and Local Government Unit of Ipil (LGU-Ipil) have made this venture possible.

Masdi A. Hasim, chairperson of the ICMC, expressed his gratitude to the local government officials for providing the land where the Dairy Box was built.

DA-PCC at MLPC Center Director Dr. Cecelio C. Velez, during the program, elaborated on the project's rationale and highlighted its potential to boost farmers' incomes significantly. The local government also provided manpower for the outlet's operations and its construction, while the DA-PCC at MLPC provided dairy buffaloes, equipment, and structural enhancements to align with the Dairy Box's brand design.

The Dairy Box serves as a platform for smallholder farmers to sell their products and improve their incomes. It will offer a range of locally produced products such as flavored milk, fresh milk, soft serve ice cream, baked goods, and other nutritious products.

This initiative is part of the Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP), funded by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform chaired by Senator Cynthia Villar. The project's overarching goal is to augment farmers' incomes, provide employment opportunities for local dairy farmers and cooperatives, and bolster the region's dairy industry.

The community in Ipil welcomed the development, regarding it as a step toward sustainable agricultural development and economic prosperity. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at DMMMSU

DSWD, DA-PCC push economic empowerment through GK3K projects

By Maximo Peralta Jr.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Sustainable Livelihood Program and the DA-PCC recently partnered for a Gatasang Kalabaw Kontra Kagutuman at Kahirapan (GK3K) project following its successful launch in Balungao, Pangasinan.

This initiative aims to engage the local government units in providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for 4Ps beneficiaries and to promote the sustainable growth of the livestock industry in Pangasinan.

Seeing the successful implementation of this model in Balungao, the LGU-Natividad in Pangasinan decided to replicate it in their municipality.

LGU-Natividad Mayor Rosita Rafael sees the project as a promising

initiative economically for empowering marginalized communities and commits to supporting the implementation of GK3K in the municipality.

The commitment to this initiative further strengthens the establishment of the carabao industry in the region, helps increase awareness of what the industry can offer and ushers appreciation of the community to local products.

Tatiana Sabalboro, Project Development Officer II of DSWD in Pangasinan, said they chose to champion carabaos for their sustainable project cognizant of the growing demand for carabao's milk.

DA-PCC at DMMMSU recently conducted a training on dairy buffalo production and management for farmers in Natividad.

Sabalboro also mentioned that their team

created two associations: the Isem Sikap Canarem SLPA and Bachelor West Natividad Dairy SLPA, with 25 and 35 members, respectively. Nine carabaos amounting to PHP825,000 will be awarded to select recipients of the program.

DA-PCC at DMMMSU Center Director Vilma Gagni committed to entrust 10 dairy buffaloes in support of the project aside from providing technical support.

For the project's success, collaboration and complementation are essential among the stakeholders involved.

"Collaborative partnership and complementation of support and

To page 11

300 families benefit from PHP4.6M start-up fund for CBE

By Maximo Peralta Jr.



A total of 300 indigent families in Balungao, Pangasinan received PHP4.6 million seed capital from DSWD to help them start up a carabao-based enterprise.

Key government agencies in Pangasinan converged to implement the “Gatasang Kalabaw Kontra Kagutuman at Kahirapan” (GK3K) project in the municipality in Balungao, leveraging the carabao’s role in sustaining livelihoods. The project leverages the carabao as a means for sustainable carabao-based enterprise (CBE).

The project aligns with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s commitment to achieving sustainable development goals focused on ending poverty and achieving zero hunger.

The initiative was officially launched at the grand opening of the Balungao GK3K Farm, which will house 56 carabaos, on April 29 in San Andres, Balungao, Pangasinan.

The GK3K project is a Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB)-Zero Hunger initiative of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Sustainable Livelihood Program (DSWD-SLP) in collaboration with DA-PCC, other national government agencies, and select local government

units. Its goal is to empower disadvantaged communities by establishing sustainable income streams through carabao-based enterprises.

DSWD Undersecretary for Operations Monina Josefina Romualdez said the DSWD helps combat poverty and hunger through various programs, such as the SLP.

“Ang pangunahing layunin ng SLP ay palakasin ang kapasidad ng mahihirap o vulnerable sector upang magkaroon sila ng kakayahang magkaroon ng sarili nilang pangkabuhayan,” she said.

Three-hundred indigent families who are beneficiaries of the SLP in Balungao, Pangasinan received PHP4.6 million seed capital from DSWD under the project.

In the GK3K program, the 12 associations are expected to embark on carabao breeding and milk production in the first year and carabao milk, hide, and meat processing in the second year.

The local government of Balungao provided 10 hectares for carabao housing, forage and vegetable production. The LGU will also provide for logistics and other material requirements amounting to PHP4 million.

Balungao Municipal Mayor Maria Theresa Peralta emphasized the unified goal of ending hunger and centralizing programs for effective monitoring and support by the LGUs.

She shared the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allocated 312 hectares for their convergence project, of which 15 hectares were allotted for forage area development.

On the other hand, DA-PCC at DMMMSU provided production supplies in addition to the two genetically superior bulls that will be entrusted for breeding purposes and conducted training for 30 individuals from 10 SLP associations.

The center is also committed to providing services and interventions needed for the project to flourish.

Dr. Liza G. Battad, executive director of DA-PCC, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring the success of the project.

“Agkakadwa kami [nga ahensya ti gobyerno] nga tumulong kadakayo, ngem masapol nga agdecide kayo nga tulungan ti pamilya yo [We will all unite to help you, but you must also decide to help your families],” she said.

Dr. Battad cited successful models like the multi-millionaire Bantog Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Asingan, Pangasinan to illustrate the potential financial benefits of engaging in a carabao-based enterprise. She also introduced DA-PCC’s business models, including Milka Krem, Kardeli, and Dairy Box, among others.

She assured the recipient families that DA-PCC would be readily available to provide assistance whenever called for and pledged for the agency’s unwavering commitment to the convergence project.

📍 DA-PCC at USM

DA-PCC, DSWD XII converge to uplift economic status of 4Ps beneficiaries thru carapreneurship

By **Rodolfo Valdez Jr.**

The DA-PCC at USM and the Department of Social Welfare and Development XII (DSWD-XII) together with other government agencies turned over dairy buffaloes to Dagupan Sustainable Livelihood Program Association under the Zero Hunger project on May 27 in Dagupan, Kabacan, Cotabato.

Under the banner “Sulong Kabuhayan Tungo sa Pagyabong,” the entrustment of dairy buffaloes is one of the components of DSWD’s Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

This initiative aims to enhance the socio-economic status of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)

beneficiaries through capacity building. The goal is to sustain and expand their livelihoods beyond the five-year intervention of this community-based project.

Through the SLP and Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Program, DA-PCC at USM Center Director Dr. Geoffray R. Atok envisions the positive outcome of this first-ever dairy buffalo project in Kabacan, Cotabato.

“With the support from partner agencies committed to providing capacity-building and agriculture-related livelihood interventions, we are confident that we can improve the

socio-economic conditions of this 4Ps-led association,” Director Atok said.

Prior to the entrustment, the Dagupan SLP group underwent a social preparation training on developing their personal and organizational sense of co-ownership of the dairy buffalo project.

Meanwhile, the provincial government of Cotabato and LGU-Kabacan affirmed their partnership by committing to provide animal health services and to undertake legislation to ensure the success and sustainability of the project, enhancing both individual and collective engagement of Cotabateños. **E**

Farm consultant and former Municipal Agriculturist Marilyn Lilagan is tasked with farm monitoring and providing technical advice to the families.

During a symbolic milk toast, representatives from the LGU, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, Cooperative Development Authority, Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Commission on Population and Development manifested their collective commitment to the project’s success.

The event culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the animal facility led by Mayor Peralta, DSWD Usec. Romualdez, Regional Director Gopalan, and DA-PCC Executive Director Battad, followed by a tour of the GK3K farm facilities.

Looking ahead, Mayor Peralta expressed enthusiasm for the project’s expansion, including additional housing and quarantine facilities planned for later this year. **E**

DSWD, DA-PCC push economic...

From page 9



funding in a project enhances resource availability, fosters innovation, mitigates risks, accelerates progress, improves quality of expected project outputs and broadens impact. This synergistic effort leads to more successful and sustainable project outcomes, demonstrating the value of coordinated and diversified efforts,” Director Gagni said.

Aside from the commitment of two local government units from Pangasinan’s 6th district, partner agencies expect Sta. Maria, Umingan, and other municipalities to follow suit, creating a ripple of effect in the production of carabaos and the development of the local carabao industry in the province. **E**

Carapreneurs, SCAFAR delegation witness DA-PCC's techno demo in Cara-Aralan FFD

By Terese Ann Parero



Carapreneurs or dairy carabao farmers in Nueva Ecija alongside staff members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform (CAFAR) participated on June 30 in the Cara-Aralan Farmers' Field Day (FFD)—a technology showcase of DA-PCC's innovative practices and research outputs for extension and advisory support.

The carapreneurs were invited to also participate in the "Senate CAFAR Consultation on Senate Bill 2558" held

at the National Headquarters and Gene Pool of the DA-PCC, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

The CAFAR delegation was led by Senator Cynthia Villar's chief of staff Atty. Rhaegie Tamaña and Atty. Philip Lina.

The Cara-Aralan FFD, a learning event platform of the DA-PCC's Knowledge Management Division, was designed to enhance farmers' knowledge and technical skills. It showcased various

technologies aimed at boosting dairy productivity and income. Four key technologies currently implemented by the DA-PCC in Nueva Ecija villages were highlighted for their potential to significantly improve dairy farming outcomes.

Mary Rose Uy, Senior Science Research Specialist and head of the Production Systems and Nutrition Section, led the demonstration. She first introduced the Enhanced Rice Straw technology (eRS). She said eRS supports better nutrition

📍 DA-PCC at CSU

DA-PCC, LGU collab to revitalize carabao program in the highlands

By Steven Marx Tangonan

To revitalize the Carabao Development Program in Ifugao Province, the DA-PCC at CSU and the municipality of Lamut, Ifugao signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) during the Farmers and Fisherfolk Day at Lamut Tourism Village on April 4, 2024.

The collaboration between Lamut and DA-PCC extends beyond the singular objective of implementing the Carabao Development Program. It also aims to address the declining carabao population in the area. In recent years, Lamut has seen a significant reduction in its carabao population, primarily attributed to the prevalent

slaughtering practices for culinary consumption. Carabao's meat holds a cultural significance in Lamut, as it is a mainstay in celebratory feasts such as weddings, festivals, and birthdays.

Mayor Victomar Bunnol's proactive approach forged a partnership with DA-PCC, when he sought the agency's assistance in helping curb the steadily decreasing carabao population.

For this cause, Lamut envisions to establish a buffalo multiplier farm and a breeding center and to enforce an ordinance regulating the slaughter of female buffaloes.

Prior to the program's official launch, the Municipal Agriculturist Office of Lamut, Ifugao, has initiated an invitation to the DA-PCC to visit a 15-hectare pastureland dedicated for the multiplier farm and breeding center.

Dr. Rovina R. Piñera, center director of DA-PCC at CSU reiterated DA-PCC's unwavering commitment to supporting Lamut in this endeavor.

"Batid po namin ang kahalagahan ng mga kalabaw sa kultura ng Lamut, at buong puso po kaming sumusuporta kay Mayor at sa Municipality of Lamut



for carabaos. Enhanced feed quality is crucial for the health and productivity of dairy livestock, she added.

Edwin Gonzales, Science Research Specialist I, presented Buro Booster, a technology offering efficient solutions for food production. The Buro Booster helps farmers maximize feed efficiency, thereby improving the overall health of their livestock and boosting dairy production.

Psalm Joseph Lavarias, Science Research Analyst, explained the benefits of Blockmate, a nutrition block that provides essential nutrients to carabaos.

Highlighting the techno-demo was the use of Agras T30 Drone developed by DJI. This agricultural drone can be used to effectively spray pesticides, fertilizers, and other crop treatments over large areas of farmland, demonstrating its practical application in Philippine agriculture.

The Cara-Aralan (FFD) is a concise version of the Farmer Field School, a people-oriented learning approach developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that emphasizes hands-on learning and practical application. It aims to empower farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively implement new technologies. **B**

sa inyong mga pagsisikap upang muling buhayin at paramihin ang populasyon ng inyong mga kalabaw. Handa kaming magbigay ng lahat ng kinakailangang tulong, mula sa teknikal na kaalaman at iba pang mga pangangailangan upang tiyakin ang tagumpay ng Carabao Development Program at ang pagtatatag ng inyong Multiplier Farm,” Dr. Piñera said.

With this newly established partnership, the Municipality of Lamut can anticipate a surge in interventions and services provided by DA-PCC. This collaborative effort promises a brighter future for Lamut’s carabao population and cultural heritage. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at USF

Bohol EPs join forces with DA-PCC to support small-scale farmers via KBGAN mobile apps

By **Ronaline Canute**

Twenty-four extension professionals (EPs) from Bohol support the vision of DA-PCC to improve dairy buffalo production and the management of small-scale carabao farmers through utilization of the Knowledge, Brokerage, Guidance, and Advisory Network (KBGAN) mobile apps—iHealth and iFeed.

The KBGAN mobile applications are the products of the partnership between the DA-PCC, through its Knowledge Management Division, and the Grameen Foundation Philippines, known as the Extension and Advisory Services Information System in 2020. The partnership aimed to modernize and improve the agency’s extension and advisory service delivery to its clientele.

DA Assistant Secretary for Ruminants, Benjamin Albarece, commended the innovative steps made by DA-PCC.

“We are still contemplating on such a project, but DA-PCC is already in the implementation phase. I hope the KBGAN mobile apps can be replicated to benefit more livestock farms,” Asec Albarece said.

The DA-PCC, alongside the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)-VII and the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian of Bohol, built a strong collaboration to enhance the dairy production

management capacity of local dairy buffalo farmers in Bohol.

ATI Region VII pledged the provision of 24 mobile tablets for the training of EPs.

During the training of trainers at ATI Regional Training Center VII in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol from May 7-9, 2024, participants engaged in intensive training and practical field testing. The DA-PCC team facilitated proper navigation and troubleshooting of basic issues encountered with the KBGAN mobile apps.

Subsequently, a hands-on activity demonstrating the application’s functionality took place at DA-PCC at USF.

The training also received positive feedback from the participants, citing how the apps could aid in arresting health issues among dairy carabaos in the region.

“Maganda at mahalaga ang mobile apps lalo na sa mga technicians dahil andoon na lahat. Nakakapag-provide pa siya ng mga nutritional requirements at mga pamamaraan kung paano malulunasan ang sakit ng mga kalabaw,” shared Dr. Domino Bayron, a veterinarian from the OPV of Bohol. **B**



The DA-PCC team demonstrates proper navigation of mobile apps.

DA-PCC trains new army of AI technicians nationwide to increase calf prod'n

By Davin Edjae Lacambra, Maximo Peralta Jr., Rodolfo Valdez Jr., Leinefe Aton, and Terese Ann Parero

The DA-PCC successfully trained 49 new artificial insemination (AI) technicians across the country, all of whom have pledged their support in enhancing the genetic improvement of large ruminants and increasing calf production. These technicians completed a comprehensive basic training course on AI and pregnancy diagnosis (PD), facilitated by DA-PCC's regional centers.

📍 DA-PCC at CSU

In Luzon, DA-PCC at CSU recognized 12 participants on basic AI and PD training course aligned with DA-PCC's mission to improve carabao genetics through AI and Bull entrustment programs. It aimed to develop village-based AI technicians (VBAIT) and Local Government Unit (LGU) technicians to strengthen AI activities in their communities.

Dr. Rovina Piñera, DA-PCC OIC center director, expressed optimism about the program's impact, highlighting its potential to increase buffalo production and continuously upskill new technicians.

📍 DA-PCC at DMMMSU

Meanwhile, Agricultural Training Institute-Cordillera Administrative Region (ATI-CAR) partnered with DA-PCC at DMMMSU to train 14 new AI technicians from provincial and local government units. Funded by ATI-CAR, the program provided comprehensive training on AI processes, equipment handling, and best practices, aiming to increase the calf drop rate by equipping participants with both theoretical and practical knowledge.

Vilma Gagni, DA-PCC at DMMMSU center director, emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing to foster continuous learning.

📍 DA-PCC at USM

In Mindanao, the DA-PCC at USM, in collaboration with the DA-National Dairy Authority (DA-NDA), trained 11 new AI technicians from Regions XI,

XII, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). This initiative supports the Unified National Artificial Insemination Program (UNAIP), providing strategic direction for the AI delivery system in the DA. The month-long training focused on AI and PD for large ruminants, aiming to enhance the participants' technical expertise and practical skills.

Dr. Geoffray Atok, DA-PCC at USM center director, emphasized the significance of AI in optimizing breeding cycles and boosting milk production. Marlon Flores of DA-NDA Southern Mindanao, represented by AI coordinator Greg Lapura, highlighted the new technicians' role in the national livestock agencies' efforts to improve livestock productivity using AI technology.

📍 DA-PCC at USF

In Visayas, the DA-PCC at USF in Bohol welcomed the 44th batch of trainees with 12 participants for its Basic AI and PD course, including participants from Bohol and Cebu, along with DA-PCC at USF staff seeking to advance their skills.

The training program covered intensive reproductive management techniques aimed at increasing the production of genetically improved carabaos.

Dr. Maria Dinah Loculan, DA-PCC at USF center director, inspired the trainees in her message emphasizing the income opportunities in this program and the importance of honesty in their work so that farmers will see the sincerity in their service.

Since 2006, DA-PCC at USF has trained 561 AI technicians, though only half remain active due to various personal and professional reasons.

AI is one of the services of DA-PCC rendered nationwide in villages by trained private village-based AI technicians as well as technicians of local government units, DA-Regional Field Offices and PCC regional centers. **B**



Good practices in carabao R4D featured in PH Expo '24

By **Ronaline Canute**

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC), along with nine other agencies under the Department of Agriculture (DA), showcased their programs and services on May 22-24, 2024 at the Philippine Livestock and Aquaculture Expo 2024 held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Under the theme “Harnessing Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Farm Development,” DA-PCC exhibited innovations for development during the event.

Senator Francis “Tol” Tolentino, the guest of honor during the event, emphasized the role of innovation in sustainable agriculture, calling for collaboration to ensure a future where livestock and aquaculture can provide nutritious food for millions.

DA Undersecretary for Livestock Deogracias Victor Savelliano furthered that innovation is a key driver in advancing the livestock industry.

Usec. Savelliano urged a revolutionary approach to livestock management, advocating the use of technology to drive sustainable farm development. He emphasized the importance of collaboration, determination, and innovation to improve animal welfare through AI and Genetic Improvement Program technologies and mitigate the impact of livestock diseases.

Highlighting innovation, the DA-PCC booth presented the agency’s three banner programs (Genetic Improvement Program, Research for Development, and Carabao-based Enterprise Development Program),

the Dairy Roadmap for 2020-2030, goals for the carabao industry, and products developed to increase farm productivity.

Among these products and technologies that aim to increase farm productivity are A2 Choice, Buro Booster, eRS, VeriSire, QuickCare, and BlockMate.

The results of these efforts were packaged in the form of knowledge products such as magazines and newsletters for public consumption. These materials contain success stories of the agency’s assisted farmers and recent developments in research.

These significant achievements of the

To page 17

DA-PCC HQ demonstrates excellence with success of recertification audit

By **Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano** and **Terese Ann Parero**

The DA-PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool has once again proven its commitment to excellence by successfully passing external audits on three management system standards.

The two-day audit, conducted by Worldwide Quality Assurance (WQA) on April 3-4, validated the agency’s adherence to customer requirements, legal obligations, and other requirements (LOR) in line with three management system standards: the Quality Management System (QMS) – ISO 9001, Environmental Management System (EMS) – ISO 14001, and Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) – ISO 45001 standards.

The agency’s consistent dedication

to these standards is evident as it embarks on its 8th certification cycle for QMS and 5th cycle for both EMS and OHSMS. Each certification cycle spans three years, underscoring the agency’s sustained commitment to excellence without encountering Major Nonconformities during its annual audits.

The audit team also recognized the cooperation and strong commitment of the top management and key personnel in continuously improving the effectiveness and integrity of its management systems.

Minda Diloy, DA-PCC’s integrated management representative, expressed her gratitude to the auditees and PCCeans for their unwavering

dedication and contributions toward securing DA-PCCNHGP’s recertification during her final audit year before retirement.

Dr. Liza Battad, executive director of DA-PCC, affirmed the agency’s resolve to address all observations and recommendations highlighted by the WQA. She emphasized DA-PCC’s determination to exceed expectations and continually improve its operations.

The successful recertification underscores DA-PCC’s ongoing pursuit of excellence in its management systems, ensuring high standards of quality, environmental responsibility, and occupational health and safety across its operations. **B**

‘Nuang-derful’ journey of Pangasinan co-op celebrated in 1st Kalabaw Food Fest

By **Maximo Peralta Jr.**

A farmers’ group in Asingan, Pangasinan with a starting capital of PHP10,000 managed to evolve into a thriving multimillion-peso co-op by venturing into carabao-based enterprises.

This is the “nuang-derful” (a portmanteau of the words nuang or carabao and wonderful) transformation story of the Bantog Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BSNMPC), an assisted co-op of the DA-PCC at DMMMSU.

The BSNMPC’s transformative journey in the carabao industry was celebrated during the 1st Kalabaw Food Festival held on April 19–21 at the co-op’s newly established milk processing center and warehouse grounds.

The festival kicked off with a motorcade parade, showcasing the cooperative’s achievements. The event aimed to inspire the local community to embrace carabao production as a means to improve their livelihoods.

Established in 1973, the BSNMPC, formerly known as the Samahang Nayon Association, has faced numerous challenges over the years. However, the resilience and determination of its members made it into a renowned cooperative in Pangasinan.

Fermin Jamias, one of the oldest members of the co-op, recounted their humble beginning and mentioned their shift from an unsuccessful business venture to embracing carabao production.

This transition was spurred by former DA-PCC at DMMMSU Center Director Gloria Dela Cruz, who, inspired by the late Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani’s challenge, encouraged them to venture into carabao production for the betterment of Asingan municipality. From a start-up capital of PHP10,000, BSNMPC now boasts assets exceeding PHP100 million—a testament of their growth and success in the industry. The festival’s highlights on the first



day included inauguration of the co-op’s new milk processing center and warehouse and staging of a series of events such as carabao dress-up competition and a cooking contest with carabao’s meat as the main ingredient, where the “Carabeef pastil” emerged as the winning dish.

Rolly Mateo Sr., BSNMPC’s chairperson, expressed his gratitude for the support of all the co-op’s partner agencies, including the LGU of Asingan, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education, Department of Agrarian Reform, DA-PCC, and the Cooperative Development Authority, among others.

DA-PCC at DMMMSU Center Director Vilma Gagni reminisced the cooperative’s history in carabao production. She shared 25 head of dairy buffaloes were procured through Senator Ramon Magsaysay’s initiative, funded by the Department of Science and Technology on March 26, 2005.

Director Gagni acknowledged key contributors to the co-op’s success, including Senator Shahani, Secretary of Agrarian Reform Conrado Estrella III, Senator Cynthia Villar, and other partner government agencies.

Rowena Galang, OIC chief of the DA-PCC Knowledge Management Division,

said the co-op’s wonderful journey and stories are now worth celebrating in a platform such as the festival. She added, DA-PCC will always be proud of the co-op’s accomplishments as the agency recognizes its resilience and hard work.

Chairperson Mateo, overwhelmed by the festival’s success, expressed joy in showcasing the significance of carabao’s milk.

The second day of the festival underscored the importance of milk with activities such as milk feeding, where attendees, particularly children, enjoyed chocolate milk partnered with Karabun.

Mateo was delighted to see the children’s happy faces, hopeful that this experience would prepare them to become future role models in the industry or in their community. The second day of the festival also brimmed with activities such as “nuang” parade, drum and lyre exhibition, Zumba dance contest, and raffle draw with one carabao as grand prize.

On the final day, the co-op held a general assembly where newly elected officers were sworn in by CDA representative Mylene Mazo. The meeting also covered discussions on project updates and plans for 2024. **B**

Bohol co-ops, recognized for success of World Bank-funded project

By **Leinefe Aton** and **Ronaline Canute**

The Bohol Dairy Cooperative (BODACO) and the First Consolidated Cooperative Along Tañon Seaboards (FCCT), cooperatives assisted by the DA-PCC at USF, received commendation for effectively implementing the Enterprise Development (I-REAP) project funded by the World Bank through the DA-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

DA-PRDP and World Bank officials visited Bohol for the 17th World Bank Implementation Support Mission (WB ISM) on May 2, 2024. The purpose of the mission was to evaluate the overall implementation and performance of projects, review compliance with previously agreed actions, and assess financial management, disbursement, and procurement practices.

The PRDP is a six-year project that aims to enhance farmers' and industry players' access to a strategic network of infrastructure, market information, and support services. To achieve this, the project focuses on four main components: Local Planning (IPLAN), Infrastructure Development (I-BUILD), Enterprise Development (I-REAP), and

Project Support (I-SUPPORT).

Under the I-REAP component where BODACO and FCCT are included as beneficiaries, PRDP will involve various sectors of the industry in generating marketable surplus by investing in key segments of priority commodity value chains identified in the Regional Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Plan (RAFMP) and the Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs).

In 2018, the "Bohol Dairy Processing and Marketing Enterprise" project by BODACO received a collaborative investment totaling PHP9 million. The enterprise, situated in Lomangog, Ubay, Bohol, was completed and was handed over in 2022. Its objective was to maintain and grow BODACO's dairy business both within Bohol and in other regions.

BODACO chairperson Roger Damalerio shared the project's impact was favorable to the growth of the co-op. He said the co-op was able to secure assets such as land, vehicle, commissary facility. It was also able to register at PhilGEPS. The co-op's asset grew from PHP3 million in 2017 to

nearly PHP40 million in six years.

FCCT's ongoing project, "Bohol Silage Production and Marketing Enterprise," with a total project cost of PHP40,172,457.84 aims to overcome supply challenges in the buffalo dairy industry in Bohol and support its growth. This project directly helps farmers by providing crucial feed resources for their operations.

The subproject is at 36% physical progress with PHP22 million already downloaded to FCCT out of the PHP40.17 million total project cost.

Magdaleno Bargamento, chief executive officer of FCCT, shared the cooperative's journey, especially their efforts for agricultural activities during the 2020 pandemic. He explained they started the project by identifying gaps in PCIP of Bohol, specifically addressing feed supply shortages.

To date, both cooperatives are committed to identifying gaps that hinder the advancement of the dairy industry in Bohol, striving for further progress and development of the dairy industry. **B**

DA-PCC's services, best practices...

From page 15

agency were presented during the livestock forum on May 22-23, 2023, by DA-PCC experts.

Dr. Eufrocina Atabay, Scientist II of the DA-PCC, presented the agency's pioneering efforts in enhancing productivity and profitability in livestock production through research for development (R4D).

Dr. Atabay proudly highlighted DA-PCC's R4D strategies and contributions to sustainable livestock practices. These include advancements in animal breeding and genetics, ongoing

research for improved health and nutrition, and the utilization of innovative technologies such as the KBGAN mobile app, semen sexing technology, and Fixed-Time Artificial Insemination with sexed cattle semen.

Psalm Joseph Lavarias, a science research analyst at DA-PCC, promoted Multi-Nutrient Lick Blocks (MNLB) as food supplements for ruminants.

"BlockMate" is a feed supplement for buffaloes, cows, goats, and sheep. It is rich in energy, minerals, and nitrogen (which converts to protein in the

body), necessary for accelerating their growth and milk production. This product was developed by the Production Systems and Nutrition Section of the Research and Development Division at DA-PCC.

"Blockmate" offers buffaloes an additional source of proper and sufficient nutrition, particularly essential minerals lacking in grass and other animal feed.

The event featured 200 industry suppliers from 18 countries showcasing their products. **B**

Blockmate: Nutrition in a Block

By **Terese Ann Parero**

Developing countries like the Philippines often struggle with shortage of good quality animal feed that is available all year round. This not only affects how much feed is available but also its nutritional value which might cause issues like animals losing their appetite, being more prone to diseases, and growing slowly, especially for ruminants like carabaos.

An innovation by DA-PCC's Production Systems and Nutrition Section (PSNS), "Blockmate: Nutrition in a Block" significantly improves animal health and productivity, marking a game-changing advancement in livestock nutrition.

In the Philippine agricultural setting where traditional farming methods blend with technological advancements, BlockMate is valuable in ensuring sufficient and balanced nutrition, particularly essential minerals, crude protein, and energy that are often deficient in natural forages and other feed sources. The development of BlockMate marks a significant stride in livestock nutrition management, offering a practical and sustainable solution to this enduring challenge.

Developed through rigorous research and testing, Blockmate is not just another feed supplement, it's a powerhouse blend of molasses, rice bran, legumes (Ipil-ipil), urea, cement, di-calcium phosphate, salt, and mineral mix. This potent mix ensures that animals, from carabaos to cows, sheep, and goats, meet the nutritional requirement that will fuel their growth and productivity.

Blockmate is also an affordable feed supplement choice. Priced at only PHP350 per block, weighing 5 kilograms and packed with crude protein, BlockMate distinguishes itself from other mineral nutrient lick blocks (MNLBs) priced at PHP750 per block,



also weighing 5 kilograms but lacking crude protein. This significant price difference emphasizes why Blockmate is more than a supplement, it's a lifeline for farmers seeking to nourish their livestock without breaking the bank.

BlockMate is enriched with formulation, containing micro minerals like Selenium and Zinc. These elements not only boost reproductive health but also contribute to the overall sustainability of livestock population across the Philippines.

And let's not forget the protein punch that BlockMate delivers. Crude protein, a vital component often lacking in traditional feeds, is present in legumes. This high-protein MNLB helps animals stay healthy, fight off diseases, and grow steadily, which is great news for farmers aiming for better yields and profitability.

BlockMate stands out not just for its effectiveness but also for its simplicity. In the fast-paced world of farming, all farmers need to do is hang it near their animals, allowing the animals to benefit simply by licking it. This straightforward approach may seem minor, but it greatly improves health of livestock, ensuring they remain productive with each lick.

Blockmate is now a mainstay in

DA-PCC's institutional herds widely recognizing its effectiveness.

Individual testimonials from other recipients like Alexander Paraguas, and Romelle Consul commended Blockmate's transformative impact on livestock nutrition management.

DA-PCC at VSU reported significant weight gain in dairy animals in the herd within a short period validating its effectiveness compared to commercial block minerals.

Moreover, Blockmate's role as a natural appetizer and digestive aid plays a crucial part in ensuring healthy digestive systems in animals, further enhancing their overall health and well-being. Blockmate not only enhances animal well-being but also contributes to a more sustainable farming ecosystem by reducing the need for veterinary interventions and improving overall productivity.

Overall, Blockmate isn't just a supplement, it's a symbol of progress for farmers dealing with livestock nutrition challenges. Its rich minerals and proteins, along with being affordable and easy to use, represent a step forward in Philippine agriculture. With more farmers embracing Blockmate, it signals a brighter future for farming communities. **B**

Cara Cuero: Showcasing the beauty of carabao leather and horn products

From page 1


term “Cara” signifies “carabao,” while “Cuero” is a Spanish word meaning “skin,” “leather,” and “hide.” The logo features two intertwined letter Cs, representing “Cara Cuero,” positioned in an upward direction to symbolize openness to blessings from above. Upon closer look, the logo also resembles that of carabao horns.

Initiated and led by the DA-PCC at CLSU, in collaboration with invaluable partners, Cara Cuero pioneers a unique product line. DA-PCC’s partners have played a vital role in enhancing the quality of these goods.

The new material used to make the carabao leather products are considered of quality and at par with industry standards. DA-PCC at CLSU recently added new products to the line including leather jackets, boots, tote bags, and shoes. Notably, the recently launched majorette boots draw inspiration from flight stewardesses.

DA-PCC at CLSU also offers personalized items tailored to suit each customer’s specific preferences in color, size, and design choices. Furthermore, it prioritizes customer satisfaction by offering promotional discounts to loyal partners and buyers. DA-PCC at CLSU also openly requests assistance in marketing these items and asks customers in providing honest feedback to further improve the product quality.

Dr. Ericson N. Dela Cruz, DA-PCC at CLSU center director, also shares his experiences of carrying a leather notebook, coin purse, or luggage tag as tokens during conferences and events. This serves as a testament to the versatility of Cara Cuero products as delightful gifts.

Director Dela Cruz said the Cara Cuero brand will be aggressively promoted to become not just an icon of remarkable craftsmanship but also as a token of choice for institutional events. 



GOT QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS? CONTACT US



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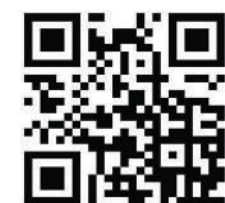
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