

Bubalus



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FEATURE

Carapreneur becomes multimillionaire from silage-making

By **Ronaline Canute**

Rolly Mateo Sr., a farmer from Asingan, Pangasinan, earned PHP4 million in 2023 from his silage business, producing

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DA-PCC, assisted co-ops advocate food safety, quality assurance in gov't feeding program

By **Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano**

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC), in collaboration with its assisted farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs), has made food safety a top priority to ensure that every drop of milk supplied to

children across the country meets the required standards.

Based on consumer welfare and protection, the DA-PCC's strategy focuses on enhancing

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About the cover

A farmer sowed kernels and reaped millions. Rolly Mateo Sr., a carapreneur of Asingan, Pangasinan put into practice the knowledge he learned from his trainings on silage production. He started making silage initially for his dairy herd, and eventually attracted customers that led him to the idea of producing silage on a larger scale. Rolly now earns millions from silage production, in addition to the income he generates from his dairy business.



Photo by: Don Miguel C. Capariño

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National milk feeding program nourishes millions of children, boosts farmers' socio-economic growth

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano



San Julio Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative, one of the suppliers for the milk feeding program in Negros Oriental, adheres to protocols of quality, safe, and healthy milk products. The co-op's members have experienced positive changes in their lives due to the feeding program.

Thousands upon thousands of transformed lives—this being the life's mission of the DA-PCC and evidently its banner achievement as it sustains support to dairy cooperatives participating in the National Milk Feeding Program.

"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 the nutritional deficiencies of children and at the same time create livelihood opportunities for farmers through this program, led by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)," DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad said.

The DA-PCC "flexes" significant achievements of the said program, positively impacting millions of undernourished children nationwide and concurrently boosting the income of farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs), collectively generating a total revenue of PHP2.7 billion.

Said initiative, in line with Republic Act No. 11037 or the "Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act of 2018," showcases the successful collaboration of the DA-PCC, partner-FCAs, the DepEd, the DSWD, and the provincial and local government units. The program plays a significant role in creating institutional markets that significantly enhance the livelihoods and incomes of FCAs. This initiative

has not only addressed the immediate nutritional needs of children but has also paved the way for a more robust dairy industry.

Since the program's inception in 2019, the number of participating FCAs has grown from 30 to 45 under the DepEd School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP). These FCAs supplied over 112 million milk packs to 1,981,396 beneficiaries in SY 2019-2020; 3,114,948 in SY 2020-2021; 3,503,732 in SY 2021-2022; 3,446,217 in 2022-2023; and 2,054,873 in SY 2023-2024, generating a gross income of PHP2.2 billion. Similarly, under the DSWD Supplementary Feeding Program, the number of active FCAs increased from 8 to 28, delivering over 25 million milk packs to 177,180 beneficiaries during the 10th cycle; 240,502 during the 11th cycle; 283,254 during the 12th cycle; and 157,968 during the 13th cycle, with a gross income of PHP500 million.

The milk feeding program has also created more than 130,000 jobs, including roles in family enterprises, multiplier farms, milk collection, and other segments in the dairy value chain.

Rolly Mateo Sr., chairperson of Bantog Samahang Nayon Multipurpose Cooperative (BSNMPC), Janice Domingo of Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (NEFEDCCO), and Analyn Tade, chairperson of the Rosario Dairy Farmers Cooperative corroborated these reports and shared their

respective testimonies and success stories regarding the program.

"Being one of the cooperatives chosen to produce milk products for the program, we were able to hire more than 100 people to work at our processing plant. We somehow helped minimize the number of unemployment caused by the pandemic. Also, part of our earnings gained from the program was used to fund community pantries during the pandemic and medical mission. We are grateful that we were given the opportunity to be part of the Milk Feeding Program's materialization," Matteo attested.

Domingo proudly shared the Milk Feeding Program had helped their federation's assets increase from PHP8 million in 2018 to PHP28 million in 2021. It even provided jobs to 200 people in their community and with the income they earned, they were able to renovate their office to a three-story building. She also admitted that the program helped them bounce back as they were ensnared in financial distress before they ventured into the feeding program.

Tade noted the milk feeding program significantly benefitted their cooperative, as reflected in their net surplus of PHP3,651,608 in 2021 and PHP6,218,132 in 2022. The income enabled the co-op to purchase land, part of which was used to build the

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Email us your comments, feedback, and suggestions at kmd@pcc.gov.ph or mail them to: The Editor, Bubalus Newsletter, Knowledge Management Division, Philippine Carabao Center National Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, 3120 Nueva Ecija. You may also call us at (044) 456 0731 loc 202.



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carabao-based products by adhering to the requirements of regulatory agencies. These include compliance with the following standards: DA and Department of Health AO No. 2015-007, Republic Act No. 10611 (Food Safety Act of 2013), Philippine National Standard/Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) 36:2008 for Fresh Milk Specification, National Dairy Authority (NDA) Administrative Circular No. 04 on Dairy Safety Regulations, and Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Circular No. 2022-012 on Revised Guidelines for the Assessment of Microbiological Quality of Processed Foods.

Along this line, the DA-PCC aggressively embarked on initiatives to fulfill the purpose through massive information dissemination and capability building for dairy carabao FCAs.

Each FCA underwent rigorous training in quality testing and food safety to empower them with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain the safety and quality of their milk products.

Among the capability building activities the FCAs participated in included a Food Safety and Hygiene Academy of the Philippines (FoodSHAP®) accredited training for: (1) Basic

Food Safety for Food Handlers (2) Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point Principles and Practice (3) Food Safety Compliance Officer. They also participated in a series of Business Talk on Food Safety with the theme “Sa Quality Food Safety ang Priority”.

To further guarantee compliance, the DA-PCC has certified food safety compliance officers who strictly monitor the activities of these FCAs and ensure that all food safety specifications are met, from the production and handling of milk to its final distribution.

The milk supplied to the feeding program undergoes thorough inspections—from the milking process on the farm to the packaging stage to the distribution to drop-off points—to ensure that the milk provided is safe and nutritious for children. This attention to detail ensures that the feeding program not only supports the nutritional needs of children but also upholds the reputation of local dairy products and producers.

According to the terms and conditions outlined in the operating memorandum of agreement, an inspection and acceptance report, a delivery sanitation checklist, and certificates of completion, quality assurance, and analysis are issued upon the delivery

of milk products. Consequently, 100% of the products accepted by the authorized inspectors have met the required standards and were approved for distribution.

In the same way, safety officers, dairy personnel, and compliance officers are consistently provided with proper training to ensure that farmers are ably assisted. They are also regularly monitored to ensure that the risk management plan is implemented and food safety regulations on safe food production and proper postharvest handling are strictly adhered to.

“The DA-PCC and FCAs work together to promptly address and resolve any operational challenges that may arise. We have 12 PCC regional centers nationwide who have very close relations with the FCAs involved in the program,” DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad said.

Among other interventions, the DA-PCC prepared a scalable and efficient risk management plan as a dairy safety regulation, and assisted FCAs to secure a License to Operate (LTO) from NDA.

The DA-PCC also assisted FCAs in securing accreditation to operate as a Civil Society Organization. This enables its assisted FCAs to become active partners in the LGU’s plans and programs. Currently, there are 43 CSO accredited cooperatives nationwide, 13 NDA-LTO accredited, 46 FDA-LTO accredited and are participating in the milk feeding program, and 47 PhilGEPS certified.

This widespread accreditation reflects the robust framework established by DA-PCC to ensure that cooperatives are not only compliant with food safety standards but are also well-positioned to contribute to the country’s nutrition goals. Over the years, these efforts have led to significant achievements under Republic Act No. 11037, also known as the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act of 2018,” which aims to address hunger and malnutrition among Filipino children.

Through partnerships with the Department of Education (DepEd)

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DA-PCC at UPLB

Food safety underscored in DA-ATI, DA-PCC, Villar Sipag learning event

By Jeremie Marinella S. Ledesma



Members of several cooperatives assisted by DA-PCC at UPLB had an actual demonstration of pastillas preparation during one of the training sessions.

“Pagbutihin ang pag-aaral para matutunan ninyo paano gawin [nang ligtas] ang mga produktong gawa sa gatas ng kalabaw. Mas lalaki ang kita ng kooperatiba at ng ating mga farmers sa processed dairy products.”

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, said this during the opening program of the Training on Milk Processing and Post-handling held on September 11-13, 2024 at the Villar SIPAG Farm School, Bacoor, Cavite.

She further encouraged trainees to utilize their newly acquired knowledge and skills in milk processing and post-handling to lead their respective cooperatives and provinces in alleviating poverty and boosting livelihood opportunities.

Sen. Villar stressed the need to facilitate such learning events for farmers to improve their livelihood opportunities. “The country’s food security and agricultural sustainability are crucial,” she added.

The three-day training was a collaborative initiative of the DA-Agricultural Training Institute-CALABARZON (DA-ATI-CALABARZON), DA-PCC at UPLB and Villar Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance (SIPAG) Farm School. It aimed to enhance the basic skills and knowledge in milk processing and post-handling practices of DA-PCC-assisted cooperatives.

Twenty-nine participants learned about Food Safety and Good Manufacturing Practices, Proper Handling of Milk and Milk by-products, Milk Quality Testing, Processing of Fresh Milk, Choco Milk, White Cheese, and Pastillas.

Dr. Thelma A. Saludes, Agricultural Center Chief IV of DA-PCC at UPLB, emphasized the importance of adhering to proper milk processing and post-handling practices to ensure the safety and quality of milk products supplied particularly for the beneficiaries of the Department of Education’s and Department of Social Welfare and Development’s annual milk feeding program.

Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, Training Center Superintendent II of the DA-ATI CALABARZON, expressed his hope that the trainees and their cooperatives would be one with the DA’s vision of “Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita” for a food-secure Philippines and prosperous farmers.

DA-Philippine Coconut Authority-IV Regional Manager Bibiano C. Concibido Jr. highlighted the carabao’s role in improving the livelihoods of coconut farmers.

“Carabao is one of the programs of PCA with DA-PCC na epektibo sa pagpapataas ng antas ng pamumuhay ng mga magniniyog. Ito pong paggagatas ang may konkretong pag-angat ng kita dahil araw-araw mayroong kita,” he added.

The said training also supports DA-PCC-assisted cooperatives in complying with the Food Safety Act of 2013 (RA 10611) and the Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act of 2018 (RA 11037). **B**

National milk feeding program nourishes...

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Elyu Dairy Box—a one-stop-shop for carabao-based products.

To further extend the program’s impact, especially in remote areas where delivering fresh milk is challenging, the DA-PCC and FCAs have turned to retort

facilities. These facilities, located in Isabela, Science City of Muñoz, Batangas, and Sorsogon, ensure the safety and quality of milk but also allow for bulk transportation to regions where frequent deliveries are impractical.

These success stories are just a few examples of the positive outcomes of the Milk Feeding Program. They serve as tangible evidence of the program’s intended benefits, which are worth “flexing” and sustaining. **B**

PCC-UE's partnership in milk feeding benefits 60K schoolchildren

By **Ronaline Canute**



In a concerted effort to contribute towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 3, the University of the East (UE) and the DA-PCC have marked a decade of success with their Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP). This 12-year partnership has positively influenced the health and well-being of 60,000 schoolchildren across Eastern Luzon.

Dr. Zosimo Battad, UE president, emphasized that the partnership was established to address malnutrition and enhance the overall development of young learners by providing nutritious meals. He highlighted that

using carabao's milk in the program significantly invests in children's development.

"This collaboration underscores our commitment to sustainable community development and demonstrates the essential role of academic and governmental institutions in addressing social issues," said President Battad.

Dr. Rogelio Espiritu, UE's director of the Office of Extension and Community Outreach, revealed that the university allocates PHP135,000 annually for the SFP, with a total expenditure of

PHP1.6 million since 2012. The program is currently implemented in Laguna, Bataan, Bulacan, and Cavite.

"Our experts validated the benefits of carabao's milk, confirming its positive impact on young learners' development. We then integrated it into our extension program," Dr. Espiritu noted.

UE also monitors the academic progress of beneficiaries through collaboration with school heads and local health offices. The program's success has been recognized internationally, with awards presented in Malaysia and Indonesia.

UE, DA-PCC, and the City of Cabuyao, Laguna, signed a Memorandum of Agreement to extend the SFP to local schoolchildren on September 17, 2024. The event featured the distribution of 60,000 packs of sterilized milk to kindergartens, with plans to continue for 120 days.

Mayor Dennis Hain strongly supported the initiative, stating, "The city is committed to reducing or eliminating child malnutrition in Cabuyao. Our partnership with both private and public sectors is crucial, particularly in providing technical expertise." **B**

DA-PCC, assisted co-ops advocate food safety...

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and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DA-PCC has facilitated the delivery of fresh carabao's milk and milk-based products to millions of children nationwide.

The total revenue generated through these feeding programs amounts to PHP2.7 billion—a significant boost to the livelihoods of small-holder farmers and a testament to the program's impact in rural communities.

Over the years, the FCAs involved have

benefited from a stable market, leading to improved livelihood opportunities for local dairy farmers, their communities, and the broader industry. The increased income has enabled FCAs to invest in the expansion of their processing facilities, the procurement of raw materials for pasteurized milk production, the purchase of packaging and labeling materials, and the acquisition of vehicles for logistics—a manifestation of their committed participation in the program.

The DA-PCC was also able to embark on the establishment of milk laboratories within its 12 regional centers nationwide within the year, offering cooperative members access to milk quality testing services. These initiatives are made possible through a locally funded project spearheaded by Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform. **B**

Turn to page 14 for the **Milk Quality Assurance Protocol**

Participatory dialogue on school-based feeding program underscores 'CaraKwentong Panalo' of carapreneurs

By **Ronaline Canute**

"Mapa-wow sa gatas ng kalabaw!" The DA-PCC through the activity, Partners' Visit and Participatory Dialogue on School-Based Feeding Program Implementation, flexed the success of its assisted individual farmers and cooperatives who participated in the national milk feeding program.

The activity aimed to provide experiential learning among the Department of Education's (DepEd) implementers about local milk production, processing (pasteurization and sterilization), and proper milk handling.

Representatives from DepEd's central office and Schools Division Offices (SDOs) witnessed the success of the programs, projects, and activities of DA-PCC in support of RA 11037, also known as the "Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act."

The stories of the Bantog Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BSNMPC) in Asingan, Pangasinan; the Amancio Nicolas Agri-Tourism Academy (AATA) in Cordon, Isabela; and the Rosario Livestock Agricultural Farming Cooperative (TRLAFCO) in Rosario, Batangas, demonstrate that



DA-PCC's partner agencies in implementing the milk feeding program listen to the success stories of how the program improved the nutrition of undernourished schoolchildren and increased the income of dairy farmers and cooperatives.

engaging in government-supported projects such as dairying is a crucial step towards establishing a stable and successful cooperative.

"This is not about DA-PCC. The success of the implementation is the product of the unity and convergence of each of us, as partners. Hence, let us outline plans and establish clear

ways forward," said Dr. Liza Battad, executive director of DA-PCC.

The following are the topics related to the agency's good practices and innovations presented during the activity: Creating More Value, Your Healthy Choice: A2 Choice, Proper Handling of Milk, and Carabao Milk Supply and Utilization. **B**

DA-PCC at USF

8th Bohol Dairy Fest promotes agri innovation

By **Wilmar Lamadora** and **Briendo Amor Ayon**

The 8th Bohol Dairy Festival, held at the town of San Miguel in Bohol on July 17, 2024, highlighted the essence of agricultural innovation with the theme "Malungtarong Panggatasan, Malahutayong Panginabuhian" (Sustainable Dairy, Sustainable Livelihood).

The town was chosen as the venue for this year's celebration because of the visible growth of the dairy industry, which contributes to regional

development.

The First Consolidated Cooperative Along Tanon Seaboards-San Miguel branch is a recipient of the PHP40-million silage production and marketing enterprise from the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), a project that aims to enhance farmers' and industry players' access to a strategic network of infrastructure, market information, and support services.

The festival featured the good practice of the local government of San Miguel for the annual provision of milk to every pregnant woman. Diverse dairy products and technologies for animal disease prevention tools were also showcased.

Dr. Maria Dinah Loculan, center director of DA-PCC at USF, led a milk toast ceremony, symbolizing unity

DA-PCC, KOICA partnership aims to increase forage prod'n thru drone utilization

By Alvin David and Kristiana Marie Dela Cruz



(1st photo) The DA-PCC and KOICA gear up comprehensive plans and policies to guide the implementation of the technology. (2nd and 3rd photos) The KOICA team conducted a demonstration for DA-PCC staff, showcasing the proper navigation and operation of the drone for forage production.

An innovative capacity-building program on drone utilization for forage production is a new way forward in the partnership between the DA-PCC and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

During the planning and consultation on August 18 to 21, 2024 held at the DA-PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool, the DA-PCC and KOICA laid out comprehensive plans and policies to guide the implementation of the technology.

The implementation survey will collect necessary documents and data for the implementation plan to be submitted to KOICA Headquarters. Data will be gathered from the forage areas of the National Gene Pool and Bull Farm of DA-PCC at CLSU for institutional farms and ACDI Forage Farm and Moises

Alfonso Forage Farm for clients. The first year and second year will cover training on legal and institutional systems, policy trends, international challenges, and practical training for technical staff.

Wrap-up learning events will be implemented during the third year.

A manual will be developed to guide the production systems while data field monitoring will be conducted for effective resource management.

The DA-PCC's Livestock Engineering Section (LES) and Production Systems and Nutrition Section (PSNS) will lead the project implementation.

The KOICA implementation survey team consists of Prof. Chang Jaeyun, director of Chungbuk International

Development Cooperation Center; Prof. Park Chang Woo, assistant professor from Cheongju University; and Prof. Choi Seong Ho, dean of Agriculture, Life, and Sciences at Chungbuk National University.

The activity was spearheaded by DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza G. Battad and DA-PCC Deputy Executive Director Dr. Caro Salces. **B**

This innovative project that will start in 2025 until 2027 aims to capacitate DA-PCC technical staff and partner local government units to improve forage production using drone technologies for sustainable food sources and livestock nutrition.

DA-PCC at UPLB

Sen. Villar champions ALAB Karbawan project to empower farmers

By Jeremie Marinella Ledesma

“The secret in life is diligence and skills. You are our hope to improve our agriculture industry and I’m here to teach small farmers to make their lives better,” said Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform during the opening program of the Training on Dairy Buffalo Production and Management at the Villar SIPAG Farm School, Bacoor, Cavite held on July 16, 2024.

Sen. Villar highlighted her concerns about locally produced milk at 1%, and dependence on the 99% imported milk supply. This not only affects the local enterprises and agricultural sustainability but also malnutrition among Filipino children.

She emphasized that through the Accelerating Livelihood and Assets Buildup (ALAB Karbawan) project, carapreneurs will be equipped to boost locally produced carabao milk.

Moreover, the project will support carapreneurs who will serve as milk suppliers for the Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-led milk feeding program under RA 11037, also known as “Masustansiyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act,” addressing the national concerns on malnutrition and sustainability.

The ALAB Karbawan project, which was inspired by models from India and Pagadian City, was officially launched in 2019 to boost carabao-based enterprises in the country aiming to provide additional income and generate livelihood opportunities for farmers (as carapreneurs) through the province-wide Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) and Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP). Through the years, the project has been implemented across 61 provinces.



Senator Cynthia Villar encourages farmers to advance their dairy venture by attending trainings, as they are significant contributors to the country's aspiration to be milk sufficient.

This initiative is through the leadership of Senator Villar, funded by DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON, and DA-Philippine Coconut Authority.

The training is a joint effort of DA-PCC at UPLB, together with DA-ATI CALABARZON, Villar Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance (SIPAG) Farm School, and DA-PCA aimed to equip and capacitate farmers with essential skills and knowledge in dairy buffalo management and production practices including nutrition and animal health management practices.

As part of the training program, the farmer-trainees will visit The Rosario Livestock and Agriculture Farming Cooperative (TRLAFCO), recognized as the Livestock and Aquaculture Philippines Outstanding Livestock Cooperative 2024 and Outstanding Dairy Buffalo Farmer Cooperative for two consecutive years during the National Carabao Conference, to gain insights from seasoned players of the local dairy industry.

Dr. Caro B. Salces, DA-PCC deputy executive director, expressed his gratitude to Sen. Villar, whom he described as a maternal figure, for her unwavering support to all the agencies who are collaborating to capacitate carapreneurs towards achieving the goal for a prosperous and sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, DA-ATI CALABARZON Training Center Superintendent II, encouraged and inspired farmers to apply their gained knowledge and practices in dairy buffalo production and management in their respective provinces.

Participating in the three-day training are 25 farmers beneficiaries of the CCDP from Quezon, Aklan, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Biliran, Samar, Leyte, Zamboaga Sibugay, and South Cotabato. **B**

DA-PCC at CMU inks partnership with NATCCO for co-op 'Dairy Mentors' development program

By **Jeson Candole**

The DA-PCC at CMU signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with National Confederation of Cooperative (NATCCO) for the cooperative 'Dairy Mentors' development program under CAFE-DAIRY Project at the Office of the President, Central Mindanao University, Musuan, Maramag, Bukidnon on July 17, 2024.

The CAFE-DAIRY stands for Cooperative Assistance and Farm Extension to Develop Agri-enterprises of Indigenous Peoples and Rural Youth Project. This project, co-funded by the European Union and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ), aims to promote peace through agriculture development using the value chain approach in dairy and coffee industry in regions 9 and 10 to benefit 1,800 farmers including indigenous people, women, and youth.

Moreover, this project is part of the "Strengthening the Implementation of Regional and Local Peace Development

Agendas in Mindanao" (SPADe) as part of a broader program of Mindanao Peace and Development Program (MinPAD RISE).

Dr. Lowell Paraguas, center director of DA-PCC at CMU, conveyed his appreciation and pledged to share the Center's resources and technologies as well as to offer accessible channels for the advancement of carabao-related services.

"As part of the dairy industry, we commit to do our part as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement to utilize our expertise and best practices in dairy production along with the value-chain that could further enhance the knowledge of our target assisted dairy farmers," Dr. Paraguas expressed. Select dairy farmers from Paglaum Multipurpose Cooperative of Misamis Occidental and Oro Integrated Cooperative of Misamis Oriental will undergo an eight-month 'Dairy Mentors' capability building from July 2024 to March 2025.

Furthermore, CAFÉ DAIRY NATCCO project manager Alejandro Almendral shared the outcome of this "Dairy Mentor" project.

"As a step toward this direction, the partner cooperatives will develop their dairy technicians or mentors and dairy learning farms so that they can better serve their members and nearby dairy farmers," Almendral said.

The MOA was signed by Dr. Paraguas, Central Mindanao University President Dr. Rolito Eballe, NATCCO Chief Executive Officer Engr. Sylvia Paraguya, NDA-Department Manager Jester John Jadap, witnessed by DA-PCC at CMU CBED Coordinator Dr. Elena Paraguas, Dean of CMU College of Agriculture Dr. Judith Intong, Project Manager NATCCO Alejandro Almendral, and Department Chairperson of Animal Science of CMU College of Agriculture Ana Celina Soriano. **B**

8th Bohol Dairy Fest promotes...

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among the stakeholders sparking hope for an abundant flow of milk in the province.

Other dairy developments in Bohol, which were presented by Dr. Caro B. Salces, deputy executive director of DA-PCC, are the establishment of Dairy Box-Tubigon, the dairy processing plant with retort facility in Ubay, and the soon-to-rise Dairy Box in Candijay.

Other highlights include recognition of winners for the best dressed carabao; awarding of the top three farmers who have the highest milk production for fiscal year 2023 in Bohol; signing of a

memorandum of agreement for the establishment of a community-based feedmill in San Miguel; distribution of production support equipment and supplies from PLGU Bohol and NDA; graduation of participants who completed the Basic Dairy Husbandry for Cattle conducted by ATI and NDA Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan (CFIDP); and learning sessions on the effects and impact of El Niño and entrepreneurial mind-setting for dairy farmers.

"This festival might be a great opportunity for us farmers and aspiring ones to learn about new

technologies and advancements and improve our farming practices," said Nestor Lozada, a local dairy farmer.

Dr. Stella Marie D. Lapiz, provincial veterinarian, shared the milestones of the Bohol Dairy Development Program, inspiring attending dairy farmers to be part of the growing dairy industry in the province.

Dr. Lapiz emphasized that the dairy industry boosted the local economy of Bohol by generating more jobs and providing a sustainable livelihood. **B**

'Bansaulog Fest' celebrates carabao farmers in town's parade

By **Rodolfo Valdez Jr.**

Highlighting the contribution of agriculture in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, the annual Bansaulog Festival brought cheer to its local farming community through its 2024 Farmers Day celebration, which opened with a festive carabao parade on September 13.

Nine carabaos were dressed and paraded through the streets of Bansalan, showcasing the municipality's rich agricultural industry and symbolizing the strength and unity of the active farming community.

With the theme "Pagkaing Mura at Ligtas, Abot Kaya ng Lahat", Bansalan Mayor Edwin Reyes upheld the important role of the farmers as he dubbed them the "life and blood" of the town. He further stressed that because of the farmers' efforts and sacrifices, every family can avail of a safe and affordable harvest in town.

During the activity, the Department of Agriculture XI through the National Livestock Program dispersed 500 chickens, five goats, and five carabaos in celebration of the Farmers' Day. Furthermore, DA-PCC at USM Center Director Geoffray R. Atok also pledged to continue, as mandated, the carabao development program in the locality through its programs and services in genetic improvement and carabao-based enterprises.

This 72nd Bansaulog festival sets of activities were anchored to this year's theme "Empowering Communities for a Prosperous Future: Celebrating 72 Years of Unity and Growth." The term "Bansaulog" is derived from the coined words "Bansalan" and Visayan term "Saulog" or "Celebrate", which signifies "Kasaulogan sa Bansalan" or "Celebration in Bansalan". **B**



"With the active support of legislators such as Rep. Atty. John Tracy F. Cagas, we can further develop and enhance the current status of the carabao industry in the province of Davao del Sur where Bansalan is situated."

DR. GEOFFRAY R. ATOK
DA-PCC at USM Center Director

📍 DA-PCC at CSU
North Luzon farmers learn animal feeding technologies at Cara-Aralan FFD

By David Edjae Lacambra



Farmers get their hands on silage production during the Cara-Aralan field day.

Budding carapreneurs from the three cooperatives assisted by the DA-PCC in North Luzon gained know-how on animal nutrition and feeding technologies at the Cara-Aralan Farmers' Field Day (FFD) held last July 11, 2024 at the DA-PCC at CSU National Swamp Buffalo Gene Pool and Dairy Buffalo Farm in Baung, Piat, Cagayan. The participating cooperatives—Integrated Farmers Cooperative (IFC), Apayao Piat Agriculture

Cooperative, and Pinoy Bagong Pag-asa Marketing Cooperative showed their commitment to achieving success in dairying by actively learning from the recommendations of DA-PCC.

The activity, organized by the Knowledge Management Division (KMD) of DA-PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool (KMD-DA-PCC NHGP) in collaboration with DA-PCC at CSU, is designed to level

up carapreneurs' skills and knowledge of effectively implementing new technologies that will boost dairy productivity and income.

This event 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.

Dr. Daniel Aquino, former center director of DA-PCC at CLSU, provided technical insights on ensiling and proper animal feeding procedures to maintain their health and fitness.

Following the lecture, the KMD introduced latest innovations developed by the DA-PCC toward productive and sustainable dairy buffalo production. Participants engaged in hands-on activities where they learned the proper processes for ensiling, storing, and producing optimal carabao feed using DA-PCC's innovative products. Technologies such as Blockmate and Buro Booster were presented by Dr. Phoebe Llantada and Charity Castillo of the Production Systems and Nutrition Section.

"I am happy that we are having this great opportunity because the DA-PCC shared with us new and improved techniques. We have learned a lot, and this will surely help us improve our skills in dairying," said Vilma Cabaddu, one of the participants.

Like Vilma, other participants expressed their enthusiasm for DA-PCC's innovations, believing that attending learning events such as Cara-Aralan FFD will propel them forward in their carapreneurship journey. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at DMMMSU

GK3K project on carapreneurship to boost sustainable livelihood for 4Ps beneficiaries

By Maximo Peralta Jr.

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries from the towns of Bautista and Natividad in Pangasinan have now embarked on carapreneurship as they recently received a total of 17 ready-to-breed female buffaloes.

Said beneficiaries are under the Gatasang Kalabaw Kontra Kagutuman at Kahirapan (GK3K) project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Sustainable Livelihood Program, which aims to help 4Ps beneficiaries establish a stable source of income through carabao-based enterprise.

As part of the initiative, the DSWD-SLP Pangasinan II, together with DA-PCC and LGU-Natividad, entrusted six crossbred buffaloes to Batchelor West Sustainable Livelihood Production Association (SLPA) on August 30, 2024 while five were entrusted to Canarem SLPA on August 7. In addition, the Tibay Bisig Poponto SLPA of Bautista received six buffaloes on August 14.

The DSWD-SLP allocated a total budget of approximately PHP1.2 million to both municipalities.

Following the successful implementation of the GK3K project in Balungao, Pangasinan, these two municipalities are now part of the growing number of communities benefitting from the carabao-based enterprise. After months of preparation, the beneficiaries have begun their journey in dairy buffalo raising.

In preparation for the project, beneficiaries in Natividad underwent dairy buffalo production and management training in June 2024, while their counterparts in Bautista completed the same training in July 2023. Both municipalities are actively supporting the project that they even provided materials for the construction of buffalo shelters.

The GK3K project is a collaborative effort among DSWD, local government units, DA-PCC, and other national government agencies. Its goal is to create sustainable enterprises utilizing carabaos to alleviate poverty and boost the carabao and livestock industries. **B**

DA-PCC recognized as KOICA's champion partner in animal biotech, breeding

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano



The DA-PCC has once again demonstrated its #TatakPCC pride after being recognized as a champion partner in animal biotechnology and breeding during the Korea International Cooperation Agency's (KOICA) 30th anniversary celebration. For over a decade, DA-PCC and KOICA have long been partners, particularly in strengthening the livestock industry in the Philippines.

Under the Enhancing Livestock Performance in the Philippines project from 2010-2012, KOICA's assistance has been instrumental in improving animal recording and monitoring systems through the Dairy Herd Improvement

Association (DHIA) model at the village level. Significant advancements have been made in establishing central data analysis units, enhancing animal facilities for performance and progeny testing, and strengthening laboratories in animal breeding and genetics, bioinformatics, and related gene-based techniques.

KOICA's support also encompassed the establishment of a cryobanking facility for animal genetic resources and the provision of essential equipment and materials for the livestock improvement system. This collaboration also included the capability-building of DA-PCC staff to

ensure that they are well-equipped to manage advancements in livestock technology.

In 2014, KOICA sponsored a Country Training Program focused on the production and distribution systems of animal products. Building on this foundation, a Post Management Enhancing Livestock Performance project was conducted in 2019, which included upgrading the Semen Laboratory equipment at DA-PCC. KOICA-DA-PCC's partnership continued to make headways, with an inception meeting held in 2021 for the project "Enhancing Carabao Smallholder Farms Productivity

through the Establishment of a National Dairy Herd Improvement (NDHI) System." This initiative aims to increase participation in the NDHI program, improve genetic applications, and enhance the skills of extension specialists and carabao farmers. Key components also include improved milk analysis capabilities and better selection and distribution of superior genetics.

Currently, DA-PCC and KOICA are exploring the utilization of drones for increased forage production, as part of their ongoing commitment to advancing the livestock industry. **B**

MILK FEEDING QUALITY ASSURANCE PROTOCOL

QUALITY EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Illustration by France Joseph Pascual



DA-PCC
Product Development
& Innovation Unit
pcc.pdis@gmail.com

SERVICES OFFERED

MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST

- Aerobic Plate Count
- Total Coliform Count
- Escherichia coli (E. coli)



MONITORING & EVALUATION

of dairy producers and/or dairy cooperatives



RANDOM INSPECTION

of dairy processing facilities and other services like assistance and coordination with milk deliveries, issues, and concerns and assistance on crisis management.



CAPACITATION

of local dairy producers and/or cooperatives on food safety training, dairy production, and hygienic milk handling and storage.



CERTIFICATION

of eligible local dairy producers and/or cooperatives to participate in the Milk Feeding Program



FCA's FARMERS COOPERATIVE AND ASSOCIATIONS

Certified based on their capability to supply the SDO requirement for pasteurized/sterilized milk



PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

FCA's must submit 15 samples to PCC or third party service provider based on FDA Memorandum Circular No. 2022-012

- MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST
- PHYSIOCHEMICAL TEST



SDO SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE

- Receives **Certificate of Commitment** from the co-op/supplier issued by the DA-PCC
- Receives **Certificate of Milk Analysis** before accepting the delivered products

Prior to distribution, the delivery must satisfy the following:

- Inspection and Acceptance Report**
- Delivery Sanitation Checklist**
- Certificate of Good Quality**
- Delivery Receipt**



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER

- Certify local dairy producers as organized community or social groups under GPPB Resolution No. 18-2021.
- Coordinate closely with dairy producers/cooperatives to monitor production, processing, and delivery of milk products.
- Ensure the availability, safety, and quality of pasteurized/sterilized milk per the Procurement Contract terms.



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‘Carabeef Pastil’ stars cook fest in Pangasinan

By **Maximo Peralta Jr.**

Photos by **Rowena Galang**

Sometimes, life’s detours lead to unexpected opportunities. This was the case for Carol Castro, a 45-year-old home economics teacher, whose unplanned participation in a cooking contest turned into a winning venture.

When her husband disapproved of her attending the week-long Region 1 Athletic Association meet, Carol found herself pivoting toward a different kind of competition—a surprising twist in her plans that led her to win the 1st Kalabaw Food Festival’s carabeef cooking contest, with her innovative dish, Carabeef Pastil.

The opportunity came unexpectedly. Late one night, while scrolling through her social media feed, Carol came across a post on the Dairy Box page of the Bantog Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BSNMPC) about a cooking contest. The timing couldn’t have been better. The Department of Education had implemented half-day classes to beat the midday heat, giving Carol the perfect window to participate.

Intrigued, she decided to join, trusting in her skills and faith.

“Lord, i-grab ko kaya ito since half-day lang naman ang klase? Pwede naman ang 1 o’clock kaya ko na, kasi matatapos ang klase ko by 12:00 noon at tatakbuhan ko nalang. Ikaw na po ang bahala, Lord,” she recalled, as she registered for the competition.

Pastil with a Carabeef twist

Carol’s winning dish was a clever take on pastil, a traditional Maguindanaoan delicacy made of rice wrapped in banana leaves and filled with shredded beef, chicken, or fish. The dish is popular across Mindanao for its

simplicity and affordability, making it a favorite among many.

Inspired by the viral trend of pastil on social media, Carol decided to give it a twist using carabeef (carabao’s meat), which offers both a rich flavor and longer preservation time, making it an ideal choice for her dish, especially for marketing potential.

Additionally, carabeef is known to be more nutritious than other meats, containing higher levels of protein and minerals while being lower in cholesterol and calories.

Carol shared her experience cooking chicken pastil, which can be prepared within an hour. However, using carabeef was a different story—it required more time to cook compared to chicken. But once the sinew (litin) was removed, boiling the carabeef became manageable, which is what she did.

Given the limited time of one hour to prepare her dish, the meat wasn’t as tender after boiling. To avoid breaking the meat strands, she cleverly sliced the carabeef in the same direction as its natural fibers.

She then simmered the shredded meat, carefully seasoning it with spices and condiments, stirring frequently until the dish was fully cooked.

“Nakatutuwa lang kasi ‘yong carabeef andoon na ‘yong linamnam niya, kailangan lang talagang palambutin para lumabas ang linamnam nito,” Carol remarked.

Delicately, she plated her carabeef pastil on banana leaves, staying true to the original presentation of the dish, and paired it with a refreshing

cucumber lemonade. For added innovation, she packaged the dish in a jar, a preservation method that could last up to a year when refrigerated.

“Ang preservation nito ay 6–8 months, pwede rin itong umabot ng isang taon ‘pag nakalagay sa refrigerator,” she proudly said.

From first-time competitor to festival champion

Among the five dishes presented, it was Carol’s Carabeef Pastil that won over the judges. Overwhelmed by the result, she admitted that she didn’t expect to win in her first cooking competition. The victory felt even sweeter, knowing her dish would now be part of BSNMPC’s Karabeef product line.

As a teacher, Carol is accustomed to sharing knowledge with her students. In the same way, she felt proud to contribute to her community by introducing a new dish to the cooperative.

“Hindi ako selfish at madamot, kasi from Asingan din ako, iisa ‘yong bayan namin. Kung maggo-grow ang co-op, mas masaya po ang puso ko,” she enthusiastically said.

For her win, Carol was awarded PHP10,000 and a certificate, but the real prize was the satisfaction of knowing her Carabeef Pastil would soon be enjoyed by many.

A new addition to BSNMPC’s Karabeef line

The 1st Kalabaw Food Festival was not just a culinary celebration but a strategic initiative by BSNMPC. The cooperative aimed to highlight the potential of the carabao industry while discovering new dishes for

their karabeef line. This contest was a precursor to the co-op’s larger plans to open a restaurant, which will feature carabeef-based dishes as its signature offerings.

With the addition of Carabeef Pastil to its menu, BSNMPC is set to bring this dish to a wider customer base, as the restaurant is expected to open later this year. Castro’s Carabeef Pastil has found its place, not just in the co-op’s product line, but also in the story of how one woman’s unexpected path led to new and fulfilling opportunities. **B**



Carapreneur becomes multimillionaire from silage-making

From page 1

609 tons of high-quality feed for carabaos.

Silage is a feedstuff produced by fermenting forage with a high moisture content (65%–70%). Silage has many advantages, including the preservation of nutrients and being less water-dependent. Some of the forages that can be processed for silage are corn, sorghum, and Napier grass.

Mateo Sr. started processing corn silage after he was trained by the DA-Philippine Carabao Center at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DA-PCC at DMMMSU).

Recognizing the benefits of silage, Mateo Sr. started making corn silage for his carabaos.

In 2015, Mateo Sr. expanded his production and started commercializing corn silage. He began selling it at PHP3.75 per kilo, and prices now are PHP6 and PHP8 per kilo for distant areas, with one sack equating to 40 kilos. The quality of his silage drew clients from Batangas, Abra, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, and Quezon.

His success extends beyond his business because he helps fellow farmers in his community.

Since the required production per week covers 3-5 hectares, he had to ensure a steady corn supply so he gave corn seeds to willing local farmers.

“Binibigyan ko ng buto ng mais ang ilan sa mga kabarangay ko dahil wala rin akong malaking lupa. Kapag naani na, babayaran ko sila ng PHP100,000–PHP120,000. Malaki na iyon kumpara sa dati nilang kinikita na PHP70,000 kada ani,” Mateo Sr. shared.

He also employed 16 men to help him in his silage business and paid them PHP450 per day.

He reinvests his earnings into acquiring carabaos, now boasting a herd of around 100 head. Mateo Sr.

used to work on someone else’s farm and was only taking home PHP5,000 every cropping season. In 2007, he was selected by DA-PCC at DMMMSU to be a recipient of a pregnant dairy carabao that changed the course of his life.

It was in 2019 when his dairy revenue peaked substantially until 2021, owing to daily sales of 40 to 50 liters of milk. His gross monthly income exceeded PHP100,000.

“Nakita ko na malaki pala ang silbi ng pagbuburo ng mais lalo na sa panahon ng tagtuyot, at kung tayo’y nakapag-imbak ng buro, mais man o kahit anong forage na pwedeng iburo, mayroon tayong ipapakain,” he shared.

Why should corn silage be a top choice for dairy farmers?

One of the most important practices in dairy buffalo management is the provision of sufficient and nutritious feedstuffs. However, feed resources are a challenge for farmers, especially during the summer season.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defined silage-making as one method of conserving animal feed when there is less feed available. Silage making keeps forage in good condition without lessening the nutritional value, provides high-quality feed during the dry period, and increases the palatability and digestibility of fodder crops, among others.

To help dairy farmers address the problem of feeding, DA-PCC, through its Production Systems and Nutrition Section (PSNS), is implementing training in the different regions of the country to introduce the benefits of silage. When it comes to choosing feed options for livestock, corn silage is a good choice.

The PSNS encouraged farmers why it’s an essential supplementary feed. Corn silage has high energy content because it is rich in starch which converts into soluble sugars during the

fermentation period. Another benefit is its excellent fiber content that provides a good balance of Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) that is more digestible compared to other kinds of silage. It is also highly palatable to ruminants. Its moisture keeps the rumen hydrated and stimulates the animals’ chewing activity. With regard to concerns about feed shortages, silage in general can be stored for extended periods without losing its nutritional value.

By incorporating corn silage in buffalo management, farmers can enhance the health and productivity of their livestock. [B](#)



“**Nakita ko na malaki pala ang silbi ng pagbuburo ng mais lalo na sa panahon ng tagtuyot, at kung tayo’y nakapag-imbak ng buro, mais man o kahit anong forage na pwedeng iburo, mayroon tayong ipapakain.**”

ROLLY MATEO SR.
Carapreneur



GOT QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS? CONTACT US



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DA-Philippine Carabao Center



Philippine Carabao Center



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