

Batch 12 dairy animals arrive from New Zealand

A total of 859 pregnant Holstein-Sahiwal heifers and 10 dairy bulls from New Zealand which were imported by the government under the animal procurement program of the National Dairy Authority, arrived last May 18, 2011.

This year's animal importation collectively known as the Batch 12 funded by PL 480—Assisted Project Entitled : Multi -year Dairy Animal Procurement and Breeding Program to Upscale Heifer Production for the Local dairy Industry is set to be distributed to new and existing dairy farms in the country, majority of which will go to multiplier farms in various parts of the country. About 589 of these animals allocated for Mindanao and Visayas dairy areas were unloaded in Cagayan de Oro port and are quarantined a farm site in Kiliog, Libona, Bukidnon where they will be staying for a month following the mandatory 30 days quarantine period set by the government. Meanwhile, the remaining dairy animals were shipped to Luzon, quarantined in Bulacan and will later be dispersed to dairy farms in North and South Luzon dairy zones.

Majority of the farmer recipients for Mindanao will be the new dairy farmers in the dairy expansion areas in the provinces of Sarangani and North Cotabato initiated by the Land O' Lakes Foundation Philippines, Incorporated (LOLFPI) and a few farmers in Northern Mindanao and the Zamboanga peninsula.

Favorably adjusting to the new environment, the animals are gradually introduced to Philippine feeding management regimen consisting of corn silage, spent grain, and feed stuff. To safeguard these dairy migrants against tick fever, these animals were vaccinated a week upon arrival recognizing tick infestation among large ruminants as one of the prevalent problems encountered by farmers in the country.

The dairy heifers will also be subjected to pregnancy diagnosis a week prior to dispersal to farmer recipients to validate and confirm their pregnancy condition

This year's animal infusion will help address the animal requirements of a growing industry aimed at boosting local milk production and increasing income for farmers, provide additional jobs and promote better nutrition by making milk available for every Filipino.

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