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dairy herd
build up

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The Department of Agriculture (DA) has vowed continued support for the local dairy industry through a herd build up and breeding program to sustain the growth in the industry, the National Dairy Authority (NDA) said.

In a statement, NDA administrator Cesar Ceras said that with the current inventory of 40,696 dairy animals, local milk production reached 18.45 million liters in 2012, higher by 12 percent from the 16.45 million liters in 2011.

Ceras said that production of local milk has been growing at an annual average of 7 percent in the last five years. Despite efforts during the last two decades, local production is still less than one percent of the country's total annual dairy requirement, as milk consumer demand has been increasing.

He said that the future looks bright as the DA has increased the budget of the NDA to P282 million this year or P90 million more than in 2012.

"With this budget, the NDA will accelerate local dairy development, further increase fresh milk production, provide dairy farmers more income and livelihood and supply Filipino consumers with quality fresh milk," Ceras added.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said that the NDA, in partnership with dairy farmers' groups and National Dairy Confederation (DairyCon) will embark on a sustained dairy herd build-up through intensified upgrading and preservation of local stock, supported by importation of dairy animals, services and equipment and the establishment of more multiplier and grow-out farms.

He said that the dairy multiplier farms will undertake breeding, milk production and processing, including the raising of male calves for fattening and thus the establishment of sustainable dairy enterprises and animal trading industry.

Also, he urged DairyCon to help the NDA prop up the country's dairy industry and attain sufficiency in liquid milk requirement.

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