

## Desiderio Inoferio 39 and Maritess Sojor, 36 ( Husband and Wife Tandem)

Duldol, Bacong  
Dumaguete City

By: Ching M. Lumanta

Derio and Tess married in their twenties and had nothing! What they had was sheer guts to make a family and a living for themselves. They were so determined that at present they have 7 fatteners and more or less 20 more different kinds of poultry, goats and swine. These they are able to manage properly.

They learned about the dairy cow program from "Titing Ramacho" , an AI Technician doing the rounds in Bacong, Dumaguete. The requirements were quite simple. One hectare for at least 3 cows. With much excitement they joined the training seminar sponsored by LOL in Bacong last March 2008.. Their provincial veterinarian, Dr. Mutia was likewise present. Joey Layola, the project manager, presided over the meeting. At first, there were around 50 attendees. As soon as they heard that the price of the cows amounts to Php 90,000, the list dwindled . With that hefty price, the people thought it was too much a burden to pay, much less to gather enough forage for this bulk of a dairy animal. And so from 50 down to 30 and eventually there were only 6 of them who persevered in the long run. To assure that they continue on with the program, Derio made it a point that meetings and subsequent discussions be held in his farm area. With a glint of cheekiness he has killed a lot of native chicken for meals when meetings go beyond past lunch.

To date, the original 6 loaned to the couple have already calved: 4 female and 2 male calves. The original batch 8 animals are producing 32-35 liters per day. With a feeding regimen of napier, legumes, sugar cane tops and rice straw, proceeds amount to 3-4 thousand per month. This is on top of the other income from other farming activities. Not bad for a couple who enjoys farming

Joy and happiness becomes of Maritess as she is able to send her children to school. ( 1st year college and 4th year high school) She has a toddler too. Her son helps in milking the animals. For this , he gets Php 300 per month. When their cow calved, they were more than eager to have the baby's crib become the calf's pen .

In dairying, funds get easily exhausted but she relishes the fact that it has helped her a lot. Today, they could easily lend 40 thousand, 20 thousand to family members and relatives who are in need of financial assistance. But looking at the animals they now have, all healthy and big, gives them a different kind of high!

To would-be dairy farmers, laziness has no place in this kind of activity. Never dare to engage in dairying because there is no holiday and no room for vices. You have to wake up early for your animals. When they were raising poultry, they have to wait for 35 days for their investment, in dairy, there is daily cash flow. Now he has a hired help with a Php 2,000 salary per month.

From nothing, the couple seems so madly in love more than ever, recouping the fruits of their patience, hard work and perseverance for their endeavors. Looking at them, they seem to carry a lightheartedness borne of love, faith and tenacity to overcome hardships .

Their strength also comes from the Great Provider who serves as their beacon to do good and even better.

Today, I see a couple who does not look down upon labor as a way to uplift one's condition, a happy family that is every inch alive with merriment and candidness in taking life as it comes. but with.

To Derio and Maritess, I have nothing but pure admiration and awe. Indeed LOVE can do wonders!  
030209