

CLIRCO (Claveria Livestock Integrated Raisers Cooperative)

Claveria, Cagayan de Oro
Cresencio Barros, Jr.

CLIRCO is nestled 900 meters above sea level, ideal for pasture and grazing dairy animals. With 30 hectares leased at P5k /ha/yr., CLIRCO seems to be in the right track when it comes to raising their dairy animals. The cooler climate simulates the temperate area where these imported animals came from. Aside from his personal landholding of 5 has., he is still eyeing another 32 hectares for his expansion area. These landholding is properly divided into paddocks and planted to improved grasses like siratro and star grass. These are interspersed with centrosema .



Having 82 head with 60 on the milk line, Jun Barros estimates he spends only P8 to 9.00 to produce a liter of milk on a daily basis, using the paddock system of pastoral grazing. Feeds are given only to those animals in the milk line.

Two months after weaning, calves are put to graze. They are given 2 liters of milk morning and afternoon. Same volume of water is given to these animals afterwards.



Calves can be good cash crops. F1's could fetch as much as P25,000 as soon as they turn to yearling while a pregnant heifer could cost a buyer P70,000.



The farm became a training ground for TESDA accredited students who wanted to work abroad especially in dairy farms in New Zealand. On the Job trainees are charged P5k for 2 months, Ph 10-14k for 6 months. The module consists of lecture demo in tandem with Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology (MOSCAT). The 5 modules consists of:

1. Breeds of dairy animals- OJT's are trained are given appreciation on the different kinds and breeds of dairy animals
2. Production- basic knowledge of growing, milking, and other husbandry practices are taught students to orient themselves on the right practices
3. Breeding – reproduction and genetics are discussed to give them ideas on how to properly utilize their potential to make them into calf again
4. Feeds and feeding – with pasture development; electric fence management

5. Calf Rearing – they are taught how to properly handle calves after calving, weaning and post weaning. Milking and milk handling practices are given emphasis to ensure healthy calves and possible replacement animals
In 1 ½ years, the farm has had 112 trainees. These trainees learn things by doing. They do actual job operations in the farm as they would do the same should they be employed overseas. One of the children of Jun Barros himself is already a share milker in one of the dairy farms in New Zealand. Veterinary and para veterinary health care complements the studies to give them a wholistic approach as when they do the actual job. This dairy lab in the highlands proves that with proper management, correct feeding management and right attitude , one can get the job done.



With him as Chairman of CLIRCO, it is still interesting to note that he also chairs the Northern Mindanao Federation of Dairy Cooperatives (NMFDC).

To Jun Barros who has since birth been the typical cowboy on the ranch, his love and passion for horses and cows have been genetically transferred to his children, four of whom have sought and found greener pastures in the Land Down Under . His namesake is now a share milker in a farm in South Island, New Zealand. Another son is a famous Bull rider. A daughter is now working as a cashier in Ashburton, another daughter works in a calf rearing farm. These children have one goal in mind though. To learn as much as they can while they are there, get the ones that could be applicable in their farm , earn as much for all it's worth and come back a learned man, ripe with ideas and knowledge that can be replicated in their homeland. While the father, Jun Barros, sticks it out by himself, he still got a lovely supportive wife by his side to give comfort and support when the going get rough. But as the old adage say: "When the going get tough, the tough really gets going...!" I could not argue more, you reckon?

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