

A retirees' venture into Dairy : A SUCCESS STORY



LEONORA D. JUKNI was born on January 4, 1953 in the municipality of Cortes, province of Bohol. She finished her elementary schooling at Loreto Cortes, Bohol and high school in Tagbilaran City. She finished her college education at Immaculate Conception College in Ozamis City earning a Bachelor of Science degree major in Commerce. She got married and is blessed with two sons, Gerome and Ken.

She started farming by raising goats, chickens, and native cows in her five (5.0) hectare coconut-based farm at Barangay Datagan, Pagadian City. She attended farmers meetings, various seminars and trainings conducted by the Department of Agriculture and the City Veterinary Office.

Mrs. Jukni joined the Danlujan Multi-Purpose Cooperative and was able to avail of the GMA Dairy CARES Program of the National Dairy Authority through the City Veterinary Office of Pagadian City after completing all the project requirements such as cattle shed and improve pasture.

In September 2006, she was granted four (4) heads of dairy pregnant heifer under the said program which started producing milk in 2007, and planted more pasture to sustain the feeding of her dairy cattle. In mid 2008 she was granted another six (6) heads of pregnant dairy heifer, and was able to produce milk at an average production level of ten (10) liters per day. At present, she has a total of 24 dairy cattle, 8 of which are lactating cows.

Mrs. Jukni and 9 others out of the 400 members of the Danlujan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, have availed of the Dairy CARES program of NDA with a total of 69 heads of dairy cows.

All throughout the operation of her integrated farm, she found it self-fulfilling since it was through livestock raising and integrated farming system that she was able to help people in her community. She was able to provide the necessary training requirements to dairy farm worker volunteers in her dairy farm to facilitate their work application as dairy farm workers abroad.

The adjacent neighborhood also enjoyed Mrs. Jukni's milk feeding program to preschoolers which she sponsors every month. She also conducts special milk feeding during summer months serving more children and pregnant mothers in the neighborhood. She is a living example of genuine community services and espouses the tenets of proper nutrition and the importance of milk to growing children and lactating mothers.

To minimize expenses for feed concentrates, Mrs. Jukni utilizes indigenous feedstuffs common in the locality by providing cassava, rice straws, madre de cacao leaves, banana and corn stalks as supplementary feeding to her dairy cattle.

Mrs. Jukni uses herbal medicines in the treatment of animal pest and diseases. Aside from using madre de cacao leaves as alternate animal feeds, she also uses it for mange treatment and de-ticking by soaking the leaves in water for 5 days and spraying to the entire body of the animals. She also uses extracted malunggay leaves in open wounds and in the prevention of hemorrhage in dehorned dairy calves. A concoction of the leaves of avocado, bayabas (guava), and caimito (star apple) (ABC) is a surefire formula for animals suffering from scouring.

With her income in milk production in 2009, she bought a milking machine power wash machine and a motorcycle with sidecar which she uses for milk delivery from her farm to their home-based milk processing center in Danlujan, a project of the cooperative.

Through the milk production of the Danlujan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, the Pagadian City Nutrition Committee was conferred the CROWN AWARD of the National Nutrition Council of the Philippines in 2009 as a Consistent Regional Outstanding Winner in Nutrition for having successfully implemented its Milk Feeding Program from 2007-2009. The Milk Feeding Program was able to reduce the prevalence of underweight preschoolers by 4.54%.





DAIRY HOUSE



The Milk Feeding Program in Pagadian City is a collaborative program of the LGU-Pagadian City and the National Dairy Authority aimed at improving the nutritional status of the preschoolers in the city. Before the existence of the Dairy Farmers Association in Pagadian City of which Mrs. Jukni is an active member, the Milk Feeding Program in the city was previously implemented through the milk purchased from Cagayan de Oro City.

With the success of the Danlupan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) provided a grant worth P200,000 of product labeling and packaging equipment. The DOST, likewise had provided a milk processing machine worth P484,750.00 through a soft loan payable in three years with zero interest and a 6-month grace period last December 8, 2010.

The local Veterinary Office procures cattle semen from Dalwangan, Bukidnon and the provision of the Liquid Nitrogen Plant by the Pagadian City government facilitated the artificial insemination of the dairy cattle of Mrs. Jukni and the other dairy cattle farmers

She utilizes dried animal manure as organic fertilizer to her vegetables, mangos, rambutan, guava, and ornamentals.

Mrs. Jukni's dairy farm earning an average return of investment of 43% from 2007-2009 and adopting an integrated farming system made her National and Regional Outstanding Large Animal Raiser. She was just recently chosen as the National Winner: OUTSTANDING GAWAD SAKA for LARGE ANIMAL RAISER.