

DA to Distribute 400 Imported Goats to Commercial Raisers

The Department of Agriculture will soon be distributing 400 head of Saanen and Anglo-Nubian "milking" goats imported from Australia to commercial raisers as part of its ongoing initiatives to improve local herd for dairy purposes.

Saanen goats are milking type while Anglo Nubian goats are milk and meat type, which can produce about 2 liters of milk daily compared with native breeds that have lower yields, according to DA-Central Visayas livestock coordinator Joel Elumba.

The goat imports, worth a total of P16 million, were bought by the National Agribusiness Corp. as part of the DA's Dairy Goat Development Project.

In a report to Agriculture Secretary Bernie Fondevilla, he said the initial beneficiaries of the imported herd include existing commercial goat raisers who are members of local goat raisers' associations.

They are required to take part in a project briefing and goat-raising training seminar before they can avail themselves of an animal loan consisting of nine does and one buck, Elumba said.

He said the loan module will allow for the reproduction of the goats to enable other qualified goat raisers to also benefit from the project.

The 412 head of imported goats arrived last year in the town of Ubay in Bohol, where they would be quarantined for a month before being distributed to commercial stock farms in Western, Eastern and Central Visayas and Mindanao .

"The quarantine is necessary to ensure that the imported goats are healthy and free of diseases," Elumba said.

Elumba said the animals are part of the more than 766 head of imported dairy goats that were purchased under the DA's dairy goat development project. -(DA-Press Office)