

## Politics to Dairy Farming

Dairying is an emerging challenge of animal raisers. But who would believe that a former Mayor- Mr. Jesus Mateo or Mayor "Ato" as he is known to his constituents would be involved in a new kind of politics. Politics in dairy farming and a Dairy Multiplier Farm partner of the NDA.



Although he is not novice to livestock farming per se, he is one of the few enterprising men who dared venture in the dairy multiplier farm (DMF) program of the NDA. Mayor "Ato" is now one of the DMF partners and will be one of the sources of locally produced hybrid dairy animals which will eventually be loaned and distributed to small-hold dairy farmers. The DMF scheme is a process of lessening our dependence on animal importation that is costly and quite cumbersome.



At present, Mayor "Ato" has a 100-dairy cow module with a repayment scheme of returning 2 pregnant breedable heifers for every imported pregnant animal loaned to him within 8 years plus the payment of a Dairy Development Fee of P200 per month per cow. The first payment will commence on the 4th year of the payment period and the last animal payment will be on the end of the 8th year of the loan package.



To date, some of the dairy animals have calved and are now producing milk. He sells his milk to one of the dairy processors in Southern Luzon, the Batangas Agribusiness Center (BAC) in Bolbok, Lipa City, Batangas. He surmises that bulk buyer like BAC gives him an edge as he is assured of a ready market for his milk and he can focus his efforts on breeding and improving milk production to cope with the BAC's milk volume requirements.



His feeding regimen consists mainly of corn silage in the absence of a wide pasture area. This feeding method results to a new enterprise for corn farmers to have their harvest be processed into silage. In the end both dairy and corn farmers benefit without major disruptions in their respective farming activities.

So , whether you're a politician, an ordinary farmer or plain kibitzer, you can altogether say that farming is an emerging politics of earning one's keep, providing a healthy alternative to earning a good income, a back to basic way of maintaining symbiotic relationship with mother earth and a good way of espousing the mantra of putting milk on every household's table. One does not need to be a politician to promise changes but being a NDA-DMF program partner is a viable investment to accelerate the dairy herd build up, create more job opportunities, alleviate hunger and malnutrition not only in the countryside but in the urban jungles of major cities.

