

## **Australian Rural Exports (AUSTREX) Conducts 1 day seminar for Holstein-Jersey DMF Recipients**



Mr. Michael Buttiegig of AUSTREX Southern Region Livestock Manager in Victoria, Australia came to the Philippines and conducted seminars on proper dairy management for the recently imported Holstein-Jersey dairy animals. The seminars were held at the NDA offices in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and the NDA Central Office in Quezon City. The seminars were attended by dairy farmers and NDA technical personnel.

Michael a dairy farmer himself shared his expertise and knowledge to our local dairy farmers. He stressed the importance of proper animal nutrition to maximize the potentials of the Holstein-Jersey breed. He emphasized the vital role of genetic improvement and how to optimize the use of our hybrids in our breeding program. According to Buttiegig, Jerseys are not big cows physically but he assured the participants that these dairy cows are efficient in terms of milk production and butterfat content. Since they are smaller in size compared to Holsteins, they are cost efficient in terms of their feed requirements and need lesser space.

He expounded on the several topics like mastitis and high cell counts, proper milking practices during wet or muddy days and during the dry season. He mentioned the importance of having a strategic control program on proper handling of milking machines, pre and post calving requirements, feeds and feeding, mineral requirements, weaning and a host of other topics that may seem minute but when compounded will have a tremendous impact on the health and overall milk performance of the dairy cows. Farmers were encouraged to ask questions and to share their common practices in the field as well.

Adm. Grace J. Cenas, capped the seminar by thanking the farmers for attending the seminar to learn from the experts, and AUSTREX for the support they have extended in conducting the seminars.

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