



A DAIRY info sharing afternoon with Dr. Neil Molina

A veterinarian by profession and now a successful dairy farmer and share milker in New Zealand, Dr Neil Molina had an afternoon tete'a tete' with some potential dairy farmers last June 20, 2014 at the NDA conference room.

He shared then his thoughts on how to survive the rigors of dairy farming in New Zealand but the main purpose of his sharing was that on how best to maximize the efficiency of the animals and translating it to profit.

He emphasized the **in calf birth weight** as a key in producing good cows and translating these into productive animals for the best part of their life. Proper nutrition as well is a must. And these could be attained by giving the right kind of feed sources, minerals and proper health management practices. He also said that pasture grazing is their kind of management.

Working in New Zealand is a new kind of adventure, but he said one must not be contented to be just a dairy farm worker. As soon as one gets the hang of it, one must strive to level up and pursue to venture to be a dairy farmer so that he can also benefit the perks of earning one's keep and ultimately help his family and secure for himself a livelihood like no other. It takes guts and financial literacy to understand the why's and how of the industry if one wants to earn and be successful as well.

The mini forum was attended by farmers from Batangas Dairy Cooperative (BADACO), Sta. Maria Dairy, JVT Farms, NDA trained CDT's and dairy enthusiasts wanting to try their luck in the land where the sheep and cows outnumber the local populace.

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