

Milk For The Hungry Shipped To Haiti

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — "Today a few pounds (of milk) and then a few pounds the next day," said Ben Kauffman, Chester County dairyman, "and by the end of the year, we believe we have fed another family in some hungry part of the world for a year."

Kauffman and his wife Erma visited the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) warehouse with friends Wednesday morning to see some of the powdered milk their raw milk contribution had helped purchase. This powdered milk was being loaded on a 40-foot container to be shipped to war-torn Haiti.

The raw milk for dried milk trade-off program is sponsored by Atlantic Dairy Cooperative and MCC to allow Atlantic members to designate the number of pounds of milk each day to be contributed from their farm to the world hunger program. Atlantic automatically deducts the value of the contributed pounds and sends the money to MCC to make the powdered milk purchases and distribute it to needy parts of the world.

"It's so easy," Kauffman said. "If I were to write the check at the end of the year, it would be difficult. But Atlantic takes it off the check until I tell them differently. Sometimes I think we don't give enough. We are blessed in so many ways. Farm technology is so great. We are able to do so much with so little effort. Our 60-cow herd can almost be handled by one person."

The Kauffmans with daughter Jeanette operate Timberview registered Holstein farm near Cochranville.

Most of the funding for the 8.5 tons of non-fat dry milk powder sent to Haiti this week was provided by members of Atlantic. Participating farmers have a specified

amount of milk deducted from the cooperative accounts each month. This milk or the cash equivalent is used by MCC to feed the hungry in countries around the world.

In addition of the dried milk in this shipment medical supplies were going to Hospital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) located in Haiti's Artibonite Valley. HAS is a private hospital that has provided essential medical care to the 185,000 people in the region for about 40 years.

There has been little time since the military intervention in Haiti last September to improve the local food supply. Reports from the hospital say malnutrition among both children and adults has increased 60 percent in the last three years.

Milk powder is valuable in dealing with the problem of protein-calorie malnutrition in young children. This food deficiency can cause stunted growth, susceptibility to infections, and permanent brain damage. The milk powder is fortified with vitamins A & D.

Ten pounds of whole milk makes just over one pound of dry milk powder. Each pound of dry milk powder makes nearly 17 cups of reconstituted milk for the recipients of the benevolent effort. That makes nearly 700 cups of reconstituted milk per bag. Nutritionists and health workers in Haiti will supervise the mixing of milk powder with pure water.

This kind of effort is an ongoing activity as MCC works to fulfill its mission of relief service to many regions of the world. The MCC warehouse is located at 517 Trout Run Road in Ephrata. And their offices are located at 21 South 12th Street in Akron.

Anyone who would wish to participate in this benevolent milk program may contact their Atlantic Dairy Cooperative representative or call the MCC office at (717) 859-1151.



Erma and Ben Kauffman, Chester County dairy farmers, show some of the bags of milk powder that was ready to be shipped to war-torn Haiti from the Mennonite Central Committee this week. The Kauffmans participate in Atlantic Dairy Cooperative's benevolent milk exchange program to support MCC's food for the hungry efforts. One bag of milk provides 700 cups of milk when reconstituted at the place of need.

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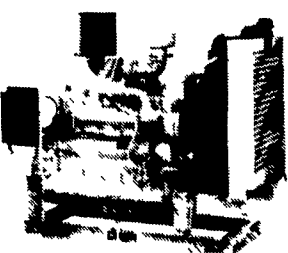
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