

## There Are Opportunities In Dairy

**GEORGE F.W. HAENLEIN**  
Extension Dairy Specialist  
University of Delaware

NEWARK, Del. — For many years now, the Peace Corps has been a great benefactor around the world, yet there are other organizations — non-profit, church-affiliated, people-to-people, farmer-to-farmer — that take generous people to developing countries to help with better food production for starving and malnourished populations.

Many business organizations, some with government funding, also have been active participants in assisting third-world countries.

You cannot overlook the significant contribution of McDonald's, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, to mention just a few companies that have successfully introduced clean and

cheap food where it did not exist before.

Yet, although I have seen Dairy Queens and Dairy Bars in Eastern Europe, I have not encountered them on my assignments to help developing countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

Why is the progress involving milk, yogurt and cheese around the world so low?

In the United States we are convinced of the enormous and unequalled health value of dairy food. Other industrialized countries share the same interest and promotion.

This is evident from the annual statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the International Dairy Federation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which is

headquartered in Rome.

In the last two decades, a few countries have begun new dairy industries where there were none before — Japan is a good example.

And in other countries, such as India, a so-called "white" revolution in milk production is going on, although they have a long way to go.

Around 1985, farmers in India produced 13 million tons of milk; today, only 10 years later, they produce more than double that amount — 30 million tons per year! Much of that progress is the result of American help projects.

Importing proven bulls from the United States for upgrading and cross-breeding is one way they help. Teaching methods for improved feed production, feeding and disease control is another.

Yet opportunities still abound in how much we can help people to better feed themselves through improved dairy management with cows, water buffaloes, goats, sheep, and even camels and reindeer.

Despite great progress in India, their milk production level per cow per year is only 2,169 pounds milk — many United States dairy goats give more milk than that!

In Asia, Africa and South America, the level of cow productivity is still low in most countries including China, Egypt, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Venezuela.

A comparison between North Korea (with 5,247 pounds milk per cow per year) and South Korea (with 14,555 pounds milk) reflects the influence of our help.

North Korea has half the people that South Korea has, but produces only one-eighth the total amount of milk per year; that is 9 pounds milk per person compared to 70 pounds in South Korea!

The most telling differences — and the most exciting opportunities for progress — are in the levels of milk production per cow year (or even per goat or sheep per year) comparing countries.

Of course, the challenge is the rapid, even uncontrolled human population growth in many of the developing countries.

However, the differences in milk production levels per animal, which are obviously possible by looking at our own, are such great beacons of hope for those countries, if they only will move forward.

To be part of teaching how to achieve these higher levels is rewarding, and not just personally. It helps U.S. dairy farmers in an indirect way by opening export markets for bull semen, ova, feeds, machinery and pharmaceutical products.

Improving the production level per animal is definitely the best and most economical way to improve production instead of increasing herd size.

In many developing countries grazing is a major part of feeding, and increasing herd size.

In many developing countries grazing is a major part of feeding, and increasing herd size poses a great environmental threat because of overstocking and overgrazing.

Increasing production per animal is most economical because while the cost of maintenance of the cow remains the same, the cost of producing more pounds of milk per cow becomes less with each additional pound of milk.

Israel is a good example for the value of progress in animal productivity compared to neighboring countries and the United States.

Israel produces more milk per person (440 vs. 396 pounds milk) than Italy, for example, because Israel has achieved a much higher animal productivity — 20,656 pounds milk per cow compared to 9,858 in Italy.

In the small desert country of Israel with its shortage of land, this is especially important.

Israel could teach its neighbors a lot about improved dairy management, which would provide more milk and yogurt and cheese to their people.

Using the U.S.D.A. standard daily food requirement of 800 milligram calcium per person, and if all calcium came from milk and dairy products, this would mean a necessary production total per year per person of 541 pounds of milk.

If, as in the United States, 80 percent of the humans' calcium requirement comes from milk and dairy products, the total milk produced per person per year would have to be 433 pounds at least, not counting imports.

Thus the many countries (in Africa, Asia and South America) with milk production below 10,000 pounds per animal, or less than 100 pounds milk per inhabitant have a considerable problem of feeding their people according to their health and nutritional needs.

For now, this means golden opportunities for United States dairy farmers to profit through export.

## Handling Farm Water

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Brandt held up the farm sign, which indicates his award. The Brandts were also presented with a

Senate citation and a special citation from the Dauphin County board of commissioners, congratulating the Brandts on the honor.

As for the metal farm sign, Brandt believes he may put it up at the end of the farm land "someday," he said. "I don't know."



Ken Brandt works in the milkhous at the farm. He also helps out with some of the fieldwork.

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