

Cattle Gift Creates

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"When I heard about the Oklahoma City bombing, I cried, although I didn't know anyone personally," Sule said. He could identify with the terrible disaster that caused death. Some of the Oklahoma City survivors contacted Sule's village to find out how they had coped with so many deaths. Some surviving family members from Oklahoma visited Sule's village. The two different nationalities listened to each other's stories.

Sule said that it was the first time members of his village verbalized the fateful day and the terrible loss of family members. Sule himself had lost his mother and about 50 people related to him.

"We never had counselors. We didn't want to talk about it with each other," Sule said. But when questioned by the Oklahoma entourage three years after the tragedy, the villagers talked and cried. "It was just like the day the tragedy occurred," Sule said of the emotional turmoil they felt.

"We became brothers and sisters with each other," Sule said.

He and several other villagers were invited to Oklahoma where they viewed the tragic site.

"A bond formed that cannot be measured," Sule said. Through sharing the suffering of the Oklahoma families, Sule said that his people learned "to understand ourselves better and to appreciate other people."

"We want peace, tranquility, and health, just like you. We can do better (in achieving those things) when we know each other," Sule said. "Thanks for the opportunity to be partners in a program that reaches out to everybody."

Sule has been in the U.S. for three years working toward a PhD in agriculture. He plans to return to his village to help establish agricultural extension programs.

According to Pamela Stone, regional director for Heifer International, farmers, probably more than any other profession, know how an investment can multiply and make a difference.

Stone credits farmers in the southeastern region of the state for their generous support of the 50-year-old program designed to help struggling families become

self-reliant for food and income. HI supports about 400 projects in 48 countries, including the U.S. that create sustainable small-scale farm enterprises to improve nutrition and supplement income.

Local community groups conceive and manage heifer projects, empowering them to solve their own problems and equipping the next generation to face challenges successfully.

This week at a quarantine center in Middletown, 110 purebred Holstein heifers were prepared to be airlifted to China through the HI program. Farmers in New England and Penn-

sylvania had donated or sold the heifers at reduced costs to HI.

Stone said this event was unusual. In recent years, less than one percent of animals are donated from the U.S. because of the high shipping costs involved. HI tries to purchase animals from the country they are assisting or one nearby to boost that country's economy. However, the impoverished area of the Sichuan Province in China has only substandard dairy breeds in need of strengthening to produce an adequate milk supply.

Stone said the animals are sent by request of the Chinese government. According to

Stone, China was never a big milk-drinking country, but several years ago, children in an impoverished area were fed milk. A significance difference in the children's health and strength convinced the government of the importance of drinking milk. Stone said the Chinese government is pushing a milk drinking campaign for health.

For more information about Heifer International, call (800) 696-1918 or visit the organization's Website at www.heifer.org.

Correction

Lancaster Farming received erroneous information regarding a phone number for the CREP program listed in section A of last week's newspaper. The correct phone number for CREP should have been the NRCS office at (717) 755-2966, ext. 110.

Virginia Eggs

Harrisonburg, Va.

April 9, 2002

Report Supplied By USDA

Prices were down 3 cents on large, 1 cent on medium, unchanged on small sizes today. Supplies are moderate for plant needs.

Prices to retailers, in small lots, USDA

Grade A and Grade A, 30 dozen cases, white eggs in cartons, delivered store door, cents per dozen. Large 68; Medium 60; Small 49.

Trucklot, prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers: Large 50-60 mostly 60; Medium 44-54 mostly 54; Small 37-44 mostly 44.



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