

## Farmer to Farmer.....

"It it finally happened--the milk tank was presented at a formal meeting with CONAGAN and a woman's milk coop from Wiwili..." - Arlen Albrecht

Arlen Albrecht, on behalf of Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners and Farmer to Farmer giving the tank to CONAGAN (National Cattleman's Association of Nicaragua) and then CONAGAN formally giving the tank to the Women's Milk Collection Coop in Wiwili. (Cooperativa de Mujeres Liriodo los Valles Wiwili) October 15, 2014 Managua, Nicaragua

[http://canicarneconagan.iguanaproducciones.com/index.php?video=http://canicarneconagan.iguanaproducciones.com/2014/10/14/mon can 141014 conagan recibe donativo c2.wmv](http://canicarneconagan.iguanaproducciones.com/index.php?video=http://canicarneconagan.iguanaproducciones.com/2014/10/14/mon%20can%20141014%20conagan%20recibe%20donativo%20c2.wmv)



The press release event was about the cold milk storage tank donation with air compressor included that was sent from W/NP in the last shipment. The tank has a storage capacity of 1200 gallons of milk and the estimated cost is US\$20,000 dollars. The tank will benefit 80 farmers, ladies and men organized in a cooperative. 28 women belong to the cooperative, the tank donation will allow farmers to store their milk, thus getting better milk quality and have more opportunity to negotiate a better price to the companies that are buying the milk in remote communities." - Moises Guillen, W/NP

Arlen Albrecht, "...from my recollection, Ema Krueger, Clintonville WI, donated a bulk milk tank and milking system to FTF/ UNA about 10 years ago. We shipped it in one of the containers....and eventually got it up and running with FTF volunteers at UNA Dairy center for students to learn better milking and milk handling practices. Her nephew was getting out of dairy and she convinced him to donate his tank and equipment to W/NP. I talked with Ronald to see if there was need and he replied yes they could use it for a collection point as they would like to set up more rural milk collection points in the Camoapa/ Boaco area."

Again thanks a million!!! This tank will be used as a rural milk collection site--- for farmers with 1 or 2 milk cans brought to it by horse or donkey. Arlen



Ronald Blandon, "this milk cooling tank will be very useful for small and medium farmers so they can cool the milk cold and to be able to sell at a better price. The idea is that the donation is channeled through the Farmer to Farmer program into a gathering spot for a group of farmers to benefit. The installation and payment of electric energy is something that has to be negotiated with any producer to support the investment in and management of the tank (temperature control, power, control, collection, payment of milk, coordination with the dairy etc.)."



Back to Arlen, "...I called up Bill Prowel and got the specifications on the tank, compressor and accessories. He was going to work on how to get it out of the milk house and get it all packed up. So the dilemma was how to get this system from Mequon (north of Milwaukee) to the W/NP ware house. Request went out to Bob Groh, he replied, "We live maybe 50 to 60 miles from Mequon but that doesn't really matter. If you would like it hauled I have the equipment to haul it and would be happy to pick it up and get it to Point. How quickly do they need it out of the milk house. So as far as I am concerned it is not a problem. Set it up with Mr. Prowel as a go with a date."



Bob picked up the tank and delivered it to the Warehouse. The tank was loaded on the container and went out in the next shipment. After a few months in the Aduana/Customs, the shipment was finally cleared and the tank taken to Ronald Blandons office, President of Companeros Nicaragua/Wisconsin and CEO of CONAGAN.

Yes, it takes a lot of hands working together to make good things happen. CONAGAN also gave the coop improved pasture grass seeds, and contributed half the money needed to make a small building and electric connections for the new collection center. - Arlen

