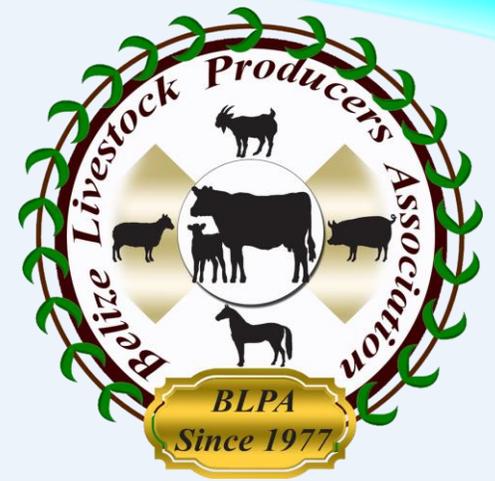


BELIZE LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION



Presented By: Ms. Mindy Garcia

B.L.P.A. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the governance structure of the organization.
2. To strengthen the Technical and Administrative capacity of BLPA, and offer technical assistance to other local livestock associations.
3. To strengthen trade cooperation and coordination for improved market access and marketing of livestock and cattle products nationally and internationally.

BLPA ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021-2022

1. BLPA continues to manage the Belize Livestock Registry as per the MOU signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, BAHA and OIRSA. (approx. 5,728 cattle farmers countrywide benefit from this traceability system.)
2. BLPA is assisting in coordinating and subsidizing farmers with free vaccination and testing for TB and BR. In order to facilitate industry stakeholders with the export trade to Guatemala and Mexico.



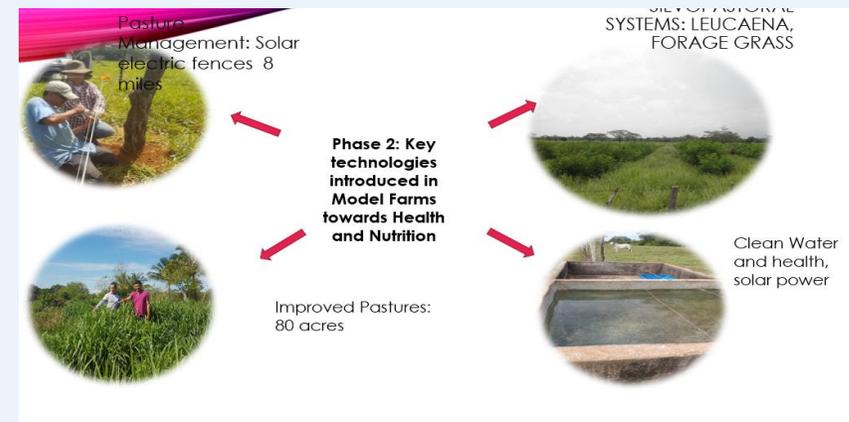
3. Strengthened the Toledo Livestock Association - Fifteen thousand was invested to build a corral and scale for the cattle farmers to use and conduct trainings.



4. As a crucial step to evaluate the Belize Livestock Registry and as a key tool for formal exports, on October 12th 2020 and ended December 4th,2021, BLPA hired 8 teams to conduct a national farm audit which includes a 50% discount on ear tags and a free shot of dewormer/vitamins. **(3,373 cattle ranchers have benefited countrywide from this audit as we encounter that some had came out of business. A total of 155,090 animals were audited)**

5. The project “Improving Livestock Sector Productivity and Climate Resilience in Belize” came to and end this week. It was a joint project with IDB LAB,CATIE and LICU. Ten model farms were selected among Orange Walk, Belize and Cayo. Implementation of innovations: improved pasture, electric fences, improved water sources forage legumes. the development of Green Finance loans packages by the La Inmaculada Credit Union (LICU). *Capacity building targeting technical staff of the BLPA, Ministry of Agriculture and farmers.

Despite the pandemic we managed to carry out 12 trainings where 150 farmers benefited from the capacity building.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON ANIMAL NUTRITION

- BLPA organized a week of trainings countrywide (OW, CY, TOL) from April 4- April 8th, 2022 in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, SUKARNE and VIRBAC. (a total of 240 farmers benefited from these trainings.



EXPORT STATISTICS

Year	# of cattle
January	5,280
February	4,636
March	3,851
April	2,839
May	4,353
June	2,605
July	2,435
August	2,646
September	2,092
October	2,646
November	3,166
December	2,519
Total	39,068



- Belize has also formally exported cattle to both Mexico and Guatemala.
- 3,767 heads to Mexico from Blue Creek & Shipyard. (July 2021-April 12th, 2022)
- Economic contribution from livestock industry: 3,767 (number of cattle) x 600lbs (average weight) x \$2.0 (average price per pound) = \$4,520,400.00

Economic contribution from livestock industry: 39,068 (number of cattle) x 600lbs (average weight) x \$1.6 (average price per pound) =

LESSONS LEARNT

- Communication is key to have a smoother export. We need to have line partners like BAHA, OIRSA, Customs, Immigration and Police more involved and working in unison.
- Knowledge is Power- BLPA realized how eager the farmers are to learn best practices and learn of animal nutrition as it was observed in the past weeks trainings. The need for an annual training program is imperative for our farmers.
- BLPA realized the importance of having a strategic plan and it has helped us as a guide to work in achieving our strategic objectives. It is a crucial instrument when it comes to finding funding agencies.
- Externally funded projects are crucial in achieving our objectives and the BLPA should be more involved in the writing/inputs at all levels.

FUTURE PRIORITIES AND PLANS

The BLPA will continue to lobby for the industry and collaborate with all industry stakeholders

- BLPA will start effective April 24th , 2022 a yearly audit of 10% of the national herd to maintain the accuracy of the traceability system.
- BLPA will continue to provide capacity building to their employees to better service the livestock farmers.
- Develop an outreach program- farmers consultation, have an annual training program and definitely coordinate with Extension officers from Ministry.
- BLPA in close collaboration with the Climate Change Office plans to do a first phase scaling out of the project “Improving Livestock Sector Productivity and Climate Resilience in Belize”
- BLPA will lobby for the revision of the current meat and Livestock Act.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a technical unit that will work with the ministry of agriculture and other line ministries to enhance the farmers knowledge in best management practices, new innovations, agro forestry, silvo-pastoral with an aim to moving to a greener industry and building resilience to climate change.
- Recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture assist with the formal exports by subsidizing the BAHA fees until the 15% tariff to Mexico is negotiated. This way farmers will find it more feasible to export to Mexico and Guatemala and it will bring more foreign exchange to the country.
- Establish a genetics improvement program for Belize National Herd and be able to access niche markets.