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DAIRY CATTLE IN PARÁ: RISE OR FALL?

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In the mid-1970s the creation of dairy cattle in northeastern Pará received great encouragement on the part of federal and State Governments with regard to the beginning of their economic development. At that time by presenting so disorganized and having as a cooperative manager installed in São Miguel do Guamá commercial milk production of the State started its business cycle, but needed to have ensured its survival for many decades, settling permanently in the region and making it a dairy development pole in the State of Pará.

With the positive impact of the accession of milk producers in the region who believed strongly in the realization of a dream to be materialized, the governmental spheres if emotion with fact and knowing that could contribute to the achievement of the desires of those producers decided based on studies and socio-economic surveys carried out by public sector technical agricultural season, structure and consolidate the "geography of milk" throughout the region Guajarina. And thus in the year 1977 technicians from Embrapa and Emater-Pará solved together with farmers and other technical staff in the region, mount a production system for regional dairy farming on the basis of stock operational (technical and educational), the municipality of Paragominas, considered the season as the "barn" of milk production, supplanting all other municipalities, members of the "geography of milk" in production volume.

This production system, also called "technological package" would serve as guiding to support all that big project, because it had in its content a range of technical and educational actions that were contemplating registration properties, arrays, agrostology, food and nutrition, animal breeding and health, as well as support in marketing of milk and its by-products. It is important to stress that later were conducted other production systems both for milk cattle as beef cattle, and up to Buffalo, suited to the reality of each region (Marajó, Low Amazon, southern Pará, Bragantina and Salty).

It is noteworthy that in parallel deployment of this production system had already in a State program to improve animal comes from an agreement among SAGRI/SUDAM/MA/BASA, centered in the regions Guajarina, Bragantina and South of Pará, which had as main actions perform withdrawal to brucellosis control and deploy farms the technique of artificial insemination.

In turn, the Rural Extension system contributed by applying their technical and educational actions within a program designated technical assistance Guidelines for Cattle Milk, where it publishes simple practices that went with the basic rules of hygiene in milking until the recovery of by-products of milk and simplified accounts that helped substantively the producer to reduce production costs significantly. Becomes interesting to say that these practices were well accepted by members of small production, because the average and high income had their minds only to bank financing, little caring with the dissemination of technical guidelines.

Policy technical assistance for the dairy industry, aimed to meet will season the conditions in the region where the same were deployed and included several objectives, such as management of pasture and herd, genetic improvement, animal health, quality and marketing of milk. This form of technical assistance extended through the decades (1980/1990) and then with the fall of the allowance of milk by births all got lost in the labyrinths of the time. For another, we believe (personal opinion) that the producer at the time wasn't prepared for a future that arrived so quick bringing in his underwear, countless innovations in all sectors of the economy and to agribusiness was not different.

Changes occurred by tax requirements and technical pressures in favor of a better quality of milk to the detriment of their marketing. The milking-machine came with them milking rooms projects, hiring of skilled labor, mandatory pasteurization of milk, automatic calf feeders, disposal arrays with shorter production time by eliminating the "attachment" cows that aged them in property as prize for having provided milk in abundance the children and grandchildren. Mini-plants currently is almost mandatory pasteurization in property, laboratory for physical-chemical analyses of milk, stables with cement floor, periodic examinations of infectious diseases, internal programs of brucellosis and tuberculosis control or follow the official government body. The new Government policies came refuting the dairy "homemade" characterized by being mixed crop and off season, and supply, proposing alternatives for greater professionalism in uptime and production.

All agricultural products, milk is perhaps the greatest social benefit features for countries to produce it, whether in the form of rent per unit area, in labor productivity, energy and protein concentration of the final product, in the nearly endless possibilities of production of derivatives, importance for consumers, among others.

In view of the diversity of climatic, topographic and soil of the producer countries, became natural that, in one way or another, the countries concerned to continue taking advantage of the benefits of producing artificial milk create a way to

maintain the profitability of the activity. In Europe, with high production costs, prohibit imports and maintains good domestic price, since Europeans are traditional consumers of dairy products and have good purchasing power, and subsidizes the product for export, and sustain stability class, for the benefit of millions of people, it's called "protectionism".

In the United States, overproduction has never been more serious problem, since the consumer market is very big and good purchasing power. Prohibiting imports, the problem was resolved. However, the great genetic progress achieved forced the Government to a program decrease of flock.

The Canada, with one of the best livestock in the world, holds the activity through agreement between Government and producers for stabilization of production within the levels of domestic consumption and direct subsidy to production. Once the practice of protectionism is present.

The New Zealand with the world's best conditions for milk production invests considerable amount of research to enable production of world's cheapest milk for the external market. Already our sister, Argentina, is exporting milk much more by its favorable natural conditions and tradition of many designers than by government subsidy.

Here in Brazil, milk production, for many years, has been exerting social role highlighted, but getting Governments a contempt unjustifiable. It is very common for the exploitation of other cultures in a consortium with milk. As an example of this is our coffee in southern Minas form a perfect couple with milk.

And, in our country of contrasts, much of the national herd continues to be manipulated the same way, there are more than 70 years. In Pará couldn't be different, with difficult areas using cultivation or degradation by misuse; importing animals of relatively cold climate regions requiring them to natural wear of front tropics conditions resulting in efficiency and effectiveness almost zero.

And, not only high index of brucellosis in all regions of dairy pole, behold the enzootic bovine leucosis, known as AIDS. It is assumed that the importation and trading of domestic animals, as well as poorly conducted in practice premonition in animals imported for improvement of production it has come to our region.

In the 1980s there was a boom in imports of dairy cattle for Amazon to increase milk production sector in the region. What was once regarded as a disease of character "exotic" for our region, because it was an illness only known by us through the technical-scientific literatures, she became reality when we search for it in six mesoregion which divide the State of Pará, culminating in positive diagnosis of same

through various indirect Elisa tests, a large number of samples collected by us personally, with the final result by determining the prevalence of infection by viruses of enzootic amounting to 70, 81%.

At the time (1998), was considered by renowned visiting professors UFPA, of Hungarian origin, as being the highest verified serum positivity in the country. Despite alarming, considering the severity of the disease, incurable and not have therapeutic treatment, not gave no importance to this event. And, what is more worrying is the fact the enzootic be considered a disease of character "economic" (because the animal stops its production and sits on the property enjoying food and contaminating others) not taken any action to cease the unrestrained marketing under the auspices of the banks, nor the animal health protection service worried about the issue.

Dairy stockbreeding had his time of glory in Pará, between the years 1995 and 1996, but its greatest pique production registered in January 1996 with approximately 1.07 billion liters of milk. In 2008 the production reached 675.5 million liters.

Milk producers for some reason have been discouraging. The bulk of production currently goes to the industry that dictates marketing standards and price. Practice cooperative never worked the satisfaction, perhaps due to inappropriate management. Currently, the dairy sector of our State faces structural crises. Although in every country, the costs of inputs have expanded in geometric progression and the price of milk in arithmetic progression without taking into account the cost of manpower and infrastructure, the creator of the region, discouraged, prefers to leave the cubs nurse tha send them to the slaughter, a quantity so huge arrays, the Pará will take more than a decade of years, to restore the flock that before gave both status.

However, in the face of so many commercial swings within this activity so important to the socioeconomic development of any country, there is a question that intrigues us: because the cooperatives (in its widest sense and not only with respect to the dairy sector) in Pará never advances in positive direction? Is there disincentive, disbelief or preparation of cooperative members. Or will the guilt by mismanagement of its leaders will continue to be the response ever? There is really encouraging Government incentive to form cooperatives? Or it exists only to the trade union sector? We know very well that in rich countries and even in several Brazilian States the cooperatives often comes as a stabilizing economic storms arising by tax issues or policies. But, the Pará State seems to be an exception to this rule, primarily in farming activities.

