

## **Summary of Final Report**

**Organization Name: Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC)**

**Project Title: Humboldt Dairy Goat Milk Producers Association Grant**

**Amount of Grant Award: \$19,000**

**Date of Final Report: June 27, 2007**

### **1. What were the project goals and were they achieved?**

The project goals were to complete specific activities:

- Acquire professional agricultural business consulting advice for members who chose to participate and increase their business skills and awareness.
- Provide experienced herd health and management review and recommendations to association members.
- Assist the association in developing strategic plans for determining their future as an organization.
- Hold a Dairy Goat Workshop to provide education and exposure to goat dairy practices from outside this region.

These specific goals were achieved for the members who were able or chose to participate in the activities.

### **2. What were the activities undertaken and accomplishments through the completion of this grant?**

A business consultant was hired and held strategic planning meetings with Association members. Individual Business Planning meetings were held with four producers and addressed broad ranging issues. A dairy goat workshop sponsored by the Association and the UC Cooperative Extension office was held and attended by 18 new and existing goat milk producers, including 3 from Humboldt County. A herd consultant was hired who visited 6 member dairies to review goat housing, feeding management, facility and procedure, milk quality and animal health and welfare. His work with the dairies has increased milk production significantly. Finally, a wrap up meeting was held with five ranches attending to discuss milk systems sanitation and how to use milk meters.

### **3. What are the lasting benefits of the project?**

- Four dairies developed business plans that were tailored to their individual business needs.
- Six dairies received herd health reviews and recommendations; some of which were implemented quickly, some of which are now planned for future developments to implement.
- Four dairies developed business plans and/or received specific financial training, which helped direct their business activities.
- Mary Keehne, primary buyer of dairy goat milk is reporting an increase in milk supply available, which she attributes to the producers new focus on dairy health.

- The association defined their next steps as a group – to acquire enough milk monitors that each dairy can measure the quality of their milk prior to shipping.

#### **4. How will you continue work started by this project?**

The association continues to meet quarterly and is actively seeking funding for milk monitor purchases. There are other joint activities that have been considered that the group hopes to address including joint product development and milk transportation issues.