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DA declares Sultan Kudarat bird flu-free

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has cleared the province of Sultan Kudarat from avian influenza or bird flu.

In a memorandum circular dated on March 22, 2024, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said that 90 days have passed since the end of disinfection operations and surveillance which yielded negative bird flu results in the province

"Continued disease monitoring and surveillance in the 1-km and 7-km surveillance zones surrounding the affected farms yielded negative test results for influenza type A virus," Laurel said in the memo.

Sultan Kudarat had recorded 22

confirmed cases of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, particularly the H5N1 subtype, the DA said.

Cases were confirmed through laboratory testing using RT-PCR and were detected affecting duck, native chicken, chicken layer, turkey, guinea fowl, and goose.

Affected areas include the city of Tacurong and the municipalities of Isulan, Lebak, Lutayan and President Quirino from March 2022 to February 2023.

Upon detection of the disease, the concerned city and municipal government conducted disease investigation, immediate depopulation, cleaning and disinfection in

the affected premises.

The protective measure was done in coordination with the provincial government of Sultan Kudarat, DA Regional Field Office 12, and the Bureau of Animal Industry.

In November last year, the Agriculture department allowed the commercial use of bird flu vaccines following the release of guidelines for vaccination.

However, the DA said that "vaccination does not guarantee absolute protection from the virus, thus, all facilities are strongly encouraged to practice biosecurity measures to the highest level possible."

JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL



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Farmgate prices of raw sugar hit 19-week high

By **JASPER EMMANUEL ARCALAS**

Farmgate prices of raw sugar soared to a 19-week high of over P2,700 per 50-kilogram bag following the government's implementation of a program that would temporarily siphon off some supply from the market.

Latest data from the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) showed that the farmgate prices of raw sugar as of March 10 went up by almost three percent to P2,770.65 from the previous week's P2,695.72.

Historical data showed that this was the highest in the past 19 weeks or since the P2,785 recorded on Oct. 29, 2023.

The price of raw sugar has increased for eight straight weeks as the government intervened to lift prices toward "fair" levels.

The last time that the industry saw a price level of P2,700, which is considered by the industry as fair to both farmers and consumers, was in October 2023.

Earlier this month, the

SRA board approved the first-ever voluntary limited volume purchase program that sought to temporarily keep off 300,000 metric tons of raw sugar supply from market circulation.

Under the program, eligible traders will purchase sugar at "premium" prices in exchange for securing an import allocation privilege in future import programs of the government.

These premium prices, SRA administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said, range from P2,700 to P2,800, or about P54 to P56 per kilogram.

At this price range, Azcona said it would stabilize the retail price of refined sugar at P85 per kilogram, which he noted is the "fair" price for consumers.

Under the program, sugar traders who will purchase 1.5 kilograms of raw sugar will be allowed to import one kilogram of the commodity in the future.



Fishers lose Laguna lake share to private developers

The share of small fisherfolk in the 9,200-hectare Laguna de Bay has been lowered to 53 percent after the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) increased private operators' allocation to 47 percent.

This means the area allocation for small fisherfolk is down to 4,876 hectares from the previous 5,520 hectares.

Private operators now have 4,324 hectares from the previous 3,680 hectares.

The LLDA Board originally set a 60-40 percent sharing of the 9,200-hectare allocation for aquaculture operations in Laguna de Bay.

In Board Resolution No. 2024-656 published in *The STAR*, the LLDA cited the result of the board's first regular meeting on Jan. 24, which amended BR 540 issued in 2018.

"To enhance the flexibility and responsiveness of the aquaculture area allocation process in Laguna de Bay, it is imperative that the existing 60:40 percent ratio between small fisherfolk and private corporations be

considered as set aside," the resolution read.

The LLDA maintained it is authorized to modify and review the allowable area and allocation.

"At the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council yearend meeting convened on Dec. 12, 2023, the proposed revisions to certain provisions of the 2019 Zomag (Laguna de Bay Fishery Zoning and Management Guidelines) including area allocation, were presented and discussed. Similar discussions transpired during a subsequent meeting of the fishpen operators group and representatives from private corporations on Jan. 15," it added.

The LLDA is an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the Department of Agriculture will study the LLDA's decision after he was asked about its possible impact on aquaculture production.

- Bella Cariaso



Galunggong retail price up 20 percent

By **BELLA CARIASO**

The retail price of *galunggong* or round scad has increased by 20 percent as fish demand rises during the Holy Week.

"Historically, the retail price of fish increases by 10 to 20 percent (during the Holy Week)," Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said yesterday.

Round scad's retail price increased to P240 per kilo from P200 per kilo last week, he said.

"Just like last year, the retail price increased from P190 (per kilo) to P220 per kilo. Last Monday, it went down to P200 compared to its prevailing price

last month of P240. But now, based on the reports to us, it increased to P240 per kilo," he added.

Filipinos shift to fish instead of meat during the Lenten season, he noted.

"For bangus (milkfish), there is no movement yet. For tilapia, the price remains stable but we expect a slight increase by Wednesday until Saturday," he added.

There is no movement in the retail price of vegetables, De Mesa said.

"We have a good harvest of tomatoes. There is no movement in the retail price of ampalaya. The retail price of tomatoes even decreased by 12 percent or P10 (per

kilo) and we expect a stable price within the week," he added.

Pork shoulder's retail price dropped by P10 per kilo while pork belly increased between P5 and P10 per kilo, he noted.

There is no movement in the cost of chicken and beef, he said.

The retail price of medium-sized eggs decreased to P7 per piece from the previous P8 per piece last week.

"We have many supplies despite the El Niño. Our egg production has increased," De Mesa said.

He gave assurance that the retail price of fish would normalize after the Holy Week.



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BRIEFS

Monitor Lenten prices, DA urged

PRICES of basic commodities, especially fish and vegetables, should be guarded against unwarranted increases during the Holy Week, a congressman urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday.

Party-list Rep. Wilbert T. Lee also called on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to set suggested retail prices for basic goods to prevent price gouging in the culminating week of the Lenten season.

“While it is natural for the retail prices of vegetables and fish to go up during the Holy Week, the DA and DTI should still closely monitor its prices,” Mr. Lee said in mixed English and Filipino in a statement.

Last week, the DA reported that it expects a spike in retail prices for fish and vegetables — the preferred food of Catholics who would be observing abstinence from pork and other meat products.

Fish products are expected to increase by 10% to 20%, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel V. de Mesa said in a public briefing last Friday even if he assured a sufficient supply in the market throughout the Holy Week. — **Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio**



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P6-B subsidy released to improve PH fish ports

BY NIÑA MYKA PAULINE ARCEO

THE Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has approved the release of P6.037 billion for the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), which will be used to enhance the country's fish ports.

In a statement on Monday, Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said the appropriation served as the government's subsidy for this year to implement the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Program.

"Our shores are more than mere lines on the map. It is among the driving forces of our

nation," she added.

"Enhancing and maintaining strategic and globally competitive fish ports would allow our ships and crews access to essential supplies and services, and for vessel operators to successfully bring in their catches, safeguarding the livelihood of our fishermen."

Pangandaman said the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) was signed last month and the budget would be released to the PFDA under the 2024 General Appropriations Act.

According to the World Bank, the fishing industry makes up 1.3 percent of the country's economy, which also provides about 1.6 million jobs, including for low-income families who fish for their livelihood.

Pangandaman said that changes in appropriations introduced by Congress would allocate P1.1 billion to build, fix, and upgrade fish ports and other facilities used after fishing.

"When our fish ports are well-

maintained and taken care of, it greatly benefits the livelihood of fishermen and the development of the community," she added.

The PFDA operates nine regional fish ports (RFPs) particularly in Navotas, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Camaligan, Lucena, Sual, Davao, General Santos and Bulan. It also jointly manages the Tacloban Fish Port with the municipality of Leyte.

The agency, which is under the Department of Agriculture, was created to help the domestic fishing industry grow by building facilities and offering services to handle and distribute fish, in the process ensuring catch quality.



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Fisheries infra to get P6B

THE Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has cleared the release of P6.037 billion as the national government's subsidy for the implementation of the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Program.

In a statement yesterday, the DBM said the budget will be released to the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) under the 2024 General Appropriations Act.

The PFDA, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, was created to promote the development of the fishing industry through the provision of post-harvest infrastructure facilities and essential services that improve efficiency in the handling and distribution of fish and fishery products and enhance their quality.

The PFDA sustains the operation of the nine regional fish ports in Navotas, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Camaligan, Lucena, Sual, Davao, General Santos and the Bulan Fish Port.

It likewise jointly manages the Tacloban Fish Port with the municipality of Leyte.

Of the said amount, P1.1 billion alone will be used for the construction, rehabilitation and improvement of fish ports and other fishery post-harvest facilities in the country.

- *Angela Celis*



PCC reports record milk output

A CROSSBRED buffalo now holds a new record for milk production, according to the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC).

The buffalo identified as 7UP15001 reached a yield of 20 kg and maintained a daily yield of over 15 kg at its peak for two months during its second trimester of lactation and maintained an average daily milk yield of 12.9 kg during its last lactation.

The crossbred buffalo is part of

the agency's Genetic Improvement Program (GIP).

PCC said in total, the animal yielded a total of 3883.7 kg of milk over a 299-day lactation period which is now the highest milk yield ever recorded among female buffaloes in the agency's institutional herds.

It also now holds the highest 100 days-in-milk average daily milk production at 16.6 kg and the highest 200 days-in-milk average daily milk produc-

tion at 15.6 kg.

PCC added 7UP15001 has surpassed the typical lactation period of 265 days observed in dairy buffaloes within its herds, which typically ranges from 200 to 369 days.

Its milk production exceeds the 4.5 kg and 10 kg average milk yield per day per lactation for dairy buffalo and dairy cattle, respectively, during a 305-day lactation period under Philippine conditions.



Ilocos tobacco trade in full swing

THE National Tobacco Administration (NTA) said tobacco trading operations are now in full swing in Ilocos region with the opening of the trading centers in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra and La Union.

NTA said the provinces produce Virginia tobacco.

The agency added tobacco farmers are expected to have a higher income this season until next year, with the implementation of new floor prices of all

tobacco types and its classes produced in the country.

Last October, Belinda Sanchez, NTA administrator, alongside representatives from farmers, tobacco traders and stakeholders agreed for an increase in floor prices of all classes of tobacco ranging from P3.90 to P9.90 per kilogram from the previous tobacco floor prices. For flu-cured Virginia tobacco, the price was set P97 for class AA; P96 for class A; P95 for class B; P93 for class C; P85 for class

D; P84 for class E; P75 for class F1; P72 for class F2; and P61 for class R.

NTA said these floor prices — coupled with supervision and management in the implementation of farming technologies and continuing capability enhancement — will help improve the economic of tobacco farmers.

During trading operations, actual buying prices of tobacco are usually higher than the approved floor prices.

-Jed Macapagal



Carabao Center: Crossbreeding program boosts milk production

THE Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) reported on Monday a groundbreaking achievement in crossbreeding buffalo that produced the highest milk yield in the Philippines.

Crossbred buffalo codenamed 7UP15001 yielded 3,883.7 kilograms of milk over a 299-day lactation period, surpassing the typical lactation period and average daily milk yield for both dairy buffalo and cattle.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) attributed the achievement to PCC's Genetic Improvement Program (GIP), specifically backcrossing to enhance milk production in carabaos. It said 7UP15001 is 87.5-percent Bulgarian Murrah and 12.5-percent swamp buffalo.

Backcrossing involves mating

purebred riverine buffaloes with native carabaos.

The resulting offspring (F1) are then mated with purebred bulls to increase riverine blood percentage (F2, F3, F4). PCC avoids inbreeding depression through this approach.

Crossbred carabaos grow faster and produce significantly more milk than native carabaos. Backcrossing with purebred Murrah further increases milk yield, the PCC said.

The increased productivity translates to higher income potential for small-scale farmers, boosting their financial situation.

The PCC said it focuses on breeding animals adaptable to the Philippine climate with minimal resource requirements. **Othel V. Campos**



₱6B swak sa Philippine Fisheries Development Authority

NAGPALABAS ang gobyerno ng ₱6.03 bilyon na pondo para maipatupad ang Fisheries Infrastructure Development Program ng Philippine Fisheries Development Authority.

Layon ng pondo na maayos ang mga fish port sa buong bansa at makasabay sa ibang mga bansa na naghahango ng mga isda sa karagatan at maibaba ang kanilang mga huli para sa mas malaking kita ng mga mangingisda.

Ang Special Allotment Release Order ay pinirmahan ni Department of Budget and Management Secretary Amenah Pangandaman upang pondohan ang pagsasayos at pagpapaganda sa siyam na Regional Fish Ports partikular sa Navotas, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Camaligan, Lucena, Sual, Davao, General Santos at Bulan Fish Port.

“Enhancing and maintaining strategic and globally competitive fish ports would allow our ships and crews access to essential supplies and services, and for vessel operators to successfully bring in their catches, safeguarding the livelihood of our fisher-

men,” ayon sa kalihim.

Sinabi ni Pangandaman na kapag maayos at napangalagaan ang mga fish port, mas malaking pakinabang ito sa kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda at sa pag-angat ng komunidad. **(Aileen Taliping)**



Filipino durian growers to benchmark with Thais

By JUNEPC OCAMPO

Filipino durian growers and orchard owners are preparing to visit Thailand in mid-May to benchmark with their counterparts and uncover the secrets behind the production of export-quality fruits in massive quantities.

Dr. Pablito Pamplona, the country's leading expert in durian cultivation, emphasized that May marks the beginning of the peak season for durian cultivation in Thailand, presenting an opportune moment for Filipino durian growers to glean insights from their Thai counterparts.

"It's time for Filipino durian farmers, DA/LGU technicians, and investors in the durian production chain to visit and observe what the Thai farmers and government are doing to generate high income in durian farming, earning an equivalent of ₱1.5 million to over ₱2 million per hectare per year, which is among the highest in Southeast Asia," he said.

Capacity problem

Since the Philippines shipped its first batch of durians to China in April 2023, Chinese buyers have expressed interest in sourcing the fruit from the Philippines. However, Filipino growers are struggling to meet demand due to limited capacity.

Government figures show that in 2023, Philippine durian exports to China totaled US\$1.88 million, compared to Thailand's exports of US\$3 billion and Vietnam's US\$828 million. Vietnam, in particular, has been capitalizing on the growing demand, with exports reaching the US\$1 billion mark in 2023 alone.

A protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of fresh durian from the Philippines to China has been signed between Manila and Beijing. The agreement has granted fresh durian from the Philippines the same market access as durian from Thailand and Vietnam.

Growing demand

According to global estimates, the market for fresh durian was valued at US\$9.85 billion in 2024 and is expected to nearly double to US\$15.43 billion in five years, most of which will go to China.



DR. PABLITO PAMPLONA, the country's leading expert on durian.

Yet amid this enormous demand, Dr. Pamplona said the Philippines could barely cope. And this is despite the striking similarities between Thailand and many parts of Mindanao, with their lands both suitable for durian farming.

In comparison, Thailand's annual production is 1.2 million metric tons of durian, representing 32.25 percent of the world production yet the Philippines' production could only come up with 78,818 metric tons, accounting for only 1.98 percent of world production," he said.

"Over 90 percent of Thailand's durian production is exported, generating a revenue of US\$4.4 billion annually," Dr. Pamplona observed.

Low production volume

Dr. Pamplona added that while the Philippines has an export potential of US\$150 million, it currently only supplies about US\$1.3 million due to low

production volume.

He observed that Filipino durian farmers are using technology that is 20 years behind that of the Thais. Hence, they could only produce an average of ₱60,000 per hectare, a measly sum compared to the ₱1.5 million to ₱2 million production value of durian per hectare by Thai farmers.

Dr. Pamplona also noted that durian growing in the country is predominantly concentrated in the Davao region, despite other regions such as the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARRM), Central and Northern Mindanao, and parts of Visayas and Southern Luzon being suitable for durian cultivation.

"Seventy-five percent of our local production comes from the Davao region," he pointed out.

Support needed

To compete effectively against their Thai counterparts, Dr. Pamplona stressed the need for support from the Department of Agriculture and local governments.

"Overall, significant improvements are required for the Philippines to enhance its capacity to produce large quantities of quality durian fruits for the global market, thereby alleviating high poverty rates in rural areas. One area requiring attention is the enhancement of technology utilized in the Philippines," he emphasized.

Catching up with the Thais

To bridge the 20-year gap between Thailand and the Philippines in durian production, Dr. Pamplona is leading a study tour for durian growers to learn and adopt the technologies used in Thailand.

"I am pleased that Inspired Learning Tours (ILT) is organizing study tour to visit durian farms in Chantaburi, one of Thailand's production centers and home to the Durian National Research Center," he announced on Facebook.

The study tour aims to enable Filipino durian growers to document advancements in nursery management, innovations in land preparation to ensure optimal plant establishment and reduced immaturity period, as well as advanced techniques in pruning, fertilization, irrigation, and pest and disease control for enhanced productivity.



Inflation seen unlikely to repeat Feb spike

By Ian Nicolas P. Cigaral
@ipcigaral

The Philippines will unlikely see an inflation flare-up similar to that in February as global prices of rice, a Filipino food staple, have started to ease, analysts at First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC) and University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) said.

In their latest "The Market Call" report released on Monday, FMIC and UA&P said inflation would be reined in by both lower costs of rice and potentially mild increase in crude oil prices amid anemic economic activity in China and excess supply.

"We also don't see a repeat of the February inflation spike as rice prices abroad had begun to ease while crude oil prices have little upside given the weak China economic recovery

and surplus capacity in both OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) and non-OPEC countries," the report said.

Last week, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli Remolona Jr. said price gains in March could potentially come close to the upper-limit of the central bank's 2 to 4 percent target range at 3.9 percent as favorable base effects fade.

If Remolona's prediction comes true, inflation this month likely exceeded the 3.4 percent recorded in February, when rice price gains sizzled to a 15-year high of 23.7 percent.

The BSP had said inflation would ease in the first quarter of 2024 before overshooting the target anew in the second quarter. Average price hike is projected to return to the tar-

get band in the third quarter to average 3.6 percent this year.

In their report, analysts at FMIC and UA&P said inflation could possibly reach 3.7 percent in the first half before returning to under 3.5 percent in the third quarter.

Growth trajectory

"The surprise vault of February inflation ... may have soured investor appetite a little, but the economy looks sufficiently robust to continue its trajectory," they said.

The Philippine Statistics Authority will release the March inflation data on April 5, ahead of the BSP's next monetary policy meeting on April 8.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the induction ceremony for new officers of the Economic Journalists Associa-

tion of the Philippines, Finance Secretary Ralph Recto said the BSP would likely hold rates steady at its upcoming meeting, as he expects the country's monetary policy to stay tight for a much longer period amid persistent risks to inflation.

Recto represents the Marcos administration in the seven-member Monetary Board, the highest policy-making body of the BSP.

"I don't expect interest rates to go up or go down next week," Recto said. "I might be wrong, but I don't expect [any adjustments]."

In February, the Monetary Board left its key rate unchanged at 6.5 percent, the highest in more than 16 years, in what the BSP called a "prudent" move amid persistent risks to the inflation outlook. INQ



'AS FOOD INFLATION DIPS, 2-4% TARGET TO BE MET'

BY ANDREA E. SAN JUAN [@andreasanjuan](#)

THE country's inflation should remain within 2 to 4 percent for the first half of 2024, ruling out more food inflation, according to a local think tank.

In its latest Market Call report, First Metro Investment Corp.-University of Asia and the Pacific (FMIC-UA&P) Capital Market Research said "Inflation should remain within the BSP target of 2 to 4 percent for the first half of H1."

This projection is anchored on the decline in Thai rice prices, which the think tank said started to go down in February, and "ruling out more food inflation from that end."

On the other hand, FMIC-UA&P said crude oil prices may only have "limited upside due to the tepid rebound of the Chinese economy."

Meanwhile, the think tank noted that increased infrastructure spending is expected to drive the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth and employment this year.

"National government revenues and expenditures exceeded 2023 targets. The administration is poised to ramp up infrastructure spending (plus [public-private partnership] PPP projects) in 2024 to bolster GDP growth and employment," FMIC-UA&P noted.

According to an earlier story of the BUSINESSMIRROR, inflation for all income households accelerated to 3.4 percent while the increase in the commodity prices for the Bottom 30 percent reached 4.2 percent in February 2024. (Full story here: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/03/06/high-rice-prices-cited-in-3-4-february-inflation/#:~:text=Inflation%20for%20All%20Income%20Households,National%20Statistician%20Claire%20Dennis%20S.>)

National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said rice prices accounted for 49 percent or 1.6 percentage points of the inflation of all income households and 79 percent or 3.3 percentage points of the 4.2-percent inflation experienced by the poorest Filipinos.

SEE "FOOD," A2



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Food...CONTINUED FROM A1

Mapa explained that rice has a huge weight on the bottom 30 percent compared to the all-income households. "The increase in rice price really has a big impact on our headline inflation and the inflation for the bottom 30 percent," he said earlier this month, speaking partly in Filipino.

Rice has a weight of 8.87 percent in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of All Income Households and 17.87 percent in the Index for the Bottom 30 percent of Filipino households.

In February, Mapa said rice inflation increased 23.7 percent and 26.3 percent for All Income and Bottom 30 percent households, respectively.

Exports, imports

MEANWHILE, the local think tank noted that exports are expected to grow in 2024, but imported goods will remain "elevated" and result in trade deficits similar to 2023.

Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport) President Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr. earlier said that Philippine exports will grow this year, which will be driven by electronics, mining and service exports.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), international trade is expected to rebound in 2024 after experiencing declines for several quarters.

"Available data for the first quarter of 2024 suggests a continued improvement in global trade, especially considering moderating global inflation and improving economic growth forecasts," Unctad said.

The UN trade body said rising demand for environmental goods, particularly electric vehicles, is expected to "bolster" trade this year.

However, it noted the need to watch out for "geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions" which could persist as "pivotal factors" influencing bilateral trade trends and require "ongoing scrutiny."

"Disruptions in shipping routes, particularly those related to security issues in the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, as well as adverse climate effects on water levels in the Panama Canal, carry the potential to escalate shipping costs, prolong voyage times and disrupt supply chains," said the Unctad.

Ngayong araw na ito ay ibabahagi ko sa inyo ang farm ng isang negosyante at Information Technology (IT) man na nag-venture sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa Cavite.

Ang aking tinutukoy ay si Mario "Mar" Galut, na siyang may-ari ng SuperMar Farm na makikita sa Brgy. Tama-

pesticide free lettuce," pahayag ni Mar.

Maituturing ko na large scale na ang nAPO-produce ng lettuce ni Mar sa kanyang farm dahil malaki ang green house nito at magandang ang elevation.

Majority sa mga tanim ni Mar sa kanyang farm ay iba't ibang variety of lettuce.

Sa pagbisita ng



Ang Magsasakang REPORTER

ni MER LAYSON

May alaga ding rhode island kitchen at kambing si Mar sa kanyang farm.

Tinuturuan na rin ni Mar ang kanyang tatlong anak sa pag-

Radio Show ng Magsasakang Reporter ang interview kay Mar at ang farm tour.

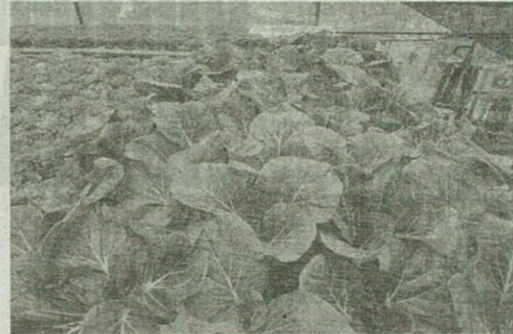
Samantala, para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't

Hydroponics...

SUPERMAR FARM



(Clockwise) Ang Hydroponics Method of farming sa mga tanim na lettuce ni Mar. Sa iba pang larawan ang mga tanim niyang mga petsay at strawberries sa kanyang farm.



can, Amadeo Cavite. Si Mar ay 39-taong gulang, tubong Isabela, may tatlong anak, negosyante at IT man na naka-base sa US at Canada.

Bata pa lamang si Mar ay hilig na niya ang pagtatanim dahil iyon ang kanyang kinagisnan mula pa sa kanyang mga ninuno sa kanilang probinsiya.

Kaya kahit saan makarating si Mar ay nagtatanim siya bilang kanyang libangan at para makakain ng gulay na sarili niyang tanim ang kanyang binuong pamilya.

"Kahit may sarili na akong negosyo at may trabaho sa isang magandang IT company ay naglalaan pa

Magsasakang Reporter sa farm ni Mar ay nakita ko na all year round ay may harvest ng olmetie variety of lettuce.

"Batch by batch ang aking mga tanim kaya anytime ay mayroon kaming ani," pahayag pa ni Mar.

Hindi problema ni Mar ang buyer sa kanyang mga harvest dahil mayroon siyang dalawang puwesto o tindahan sa kanilang palengke.

Aniya, "farming is enjoyable and profitable," nag-e-enjoy ka na, kumikita ka pa.

Hinihikayat ni Mar ang iba na magtanim na rin para magkaroon ng kasiguruhan sa pagkain.

"Ako nga po napaka-



tanim kahit bata pa lamang ang mga ito.

"Bukod sa magandang edukasyon ay maganda ring maturuan sa pagtatanim ng sariling pagkain ang ating mga anak para sa kanilang henerasyon ay hindi sila magugutom," pahayag pa ni Mar.

Sa mga gustong bu-

ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan ay maari po kayong manood at makinig ng aking TV at Radio program na Masaganang Buhay tuwing Linggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 ng umaga sa OnePH Signal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapakinggan din po sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-subscribe at mag-follow sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook profile na Mer Layson at Facebook page na Ang Magsasakang Reporter, TV host Vlogger, Tiktok na Magsasakang Reporter para sa iba pang kaalaman at impormasyon sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan.

Tuwing araw ng Martes ay regular ninyong mababasa ang aking kolum dito sa **Pilipino Star Ngayon (PSN)** ng Star Media Group.

Sa mga tanong at komento ay maaari ninyong akong i-text, huwag po tawag, sa 09178675197. STAY SAFE, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL.



Ang Magsasakang Reporter at Mario Galut.

rin ako ng oras sa pagtatanim," ani Mar.

Sinabi ni Mar, nakakadama siya ng walang kahulilip na ligaya kapag nakikita niyang lumalaki, gumaganda hanggang sa ma-harvest na ang kanyang mga tanim sa farm niya.

"SuperMar Farm is a Hydroponics Farm producing high quality and

busy ko sa aming negosyo at trabaho pero nakakapag-farm pa rin ako. Kung kaya ko ang ganitong gawain ay makakaya rin ng iba," sabi pa ni Mar.

May tanim ding patchay, kamatis at strawberry si Mar sa kanyang farm na pang personal at family consumption nila.

mili ng fresh lettuce kay Mar ay i-follow lang po ninyo sila sa kanilang Facebook page na SuperMar Farm o kaya ay mag-place kayo ng order sa kanilang email na supermarfarm@gmail.com o kaya'y i-text sa 09171126199.

Sa April 7, 2024 ay mapapanood sa Masaganang Buhay TV at



Wheat hits 3-week high

CANBERRA- Chicago wheat futures rose to a three-week high on Monday amid concerns over the French crop and tensions in the Black Sea, although ample supply kept prices near multi-year lows.

Soybean and corn futures fell slightly.

The most-active wheat contract on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) was up 0.4 percent at \$5.56-3/4 a bushel by 0231 GMT after touching \$5.60 in early trade, its highest since March 5.

Farm office FranceAgriMer said on Friday that 66 percent of French soft wheat was rated as in good or excellent condition by March 18, down from 94 percent

a year ago.

Russia, meanwhile, launched an attack against energy infrastructure in Ukraine, a significant grain exporter.

"The end of last week saw some short-covering as the market reacted to news of lower condition ratings in French soft wheat," said Andrew Whitelaw, an analyst at Australian agricultural consultancy Episode 3.

Wheat futures, along with soybeans and corn, are exposed to short-covering rallies after speculators built up their biggest net short position in years, and funds were net buyers of CBOT wheat on Friday, traders said. - Reuters



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Declining Indonesian palm oil exports may affect domestic supply — officials

JAKARTA — Indonesia's palm oil product exports slipped in January and February, raising concerns less of the edible oil will be available domestically because of the tie between overseas sales quotas and internal quotas, official said on Monday.

Indonesia, the world's biggest palm oil producer, shipped 1.89 million metric tons of palm oil products in January and 1.01 million tons in February, below the monthly average over the past year and year ago levels, Trade Ministry official Bambang Wisnubroto said.

Palm oil demand was hit by less competitive pricing compared to rivals such as soy and canola oils, Bambang Wisnubroto said.

"Under this condition, importing countries would prefer other edible oils," he said at a weekly government meeting on inflation broadcast online.

The weaker exports could impact poorer Indonesian consumers since it may lead to lower mandatory sales to the government's cheap cooking oil program, warned Mr. Bambang and

a presidential official during the meeting.

Under Indonesia's Domestic Market Obligation (DMO), companies are allotted export quotas based on how much they supply to the DMO, with export quotas set at four times DMO quotas.

The government targets monthly sales of 300,000 tons of palm oil under the DMO scheme.

Companies hold about 5.58 million tons of outstanding export quotas, equal to about 2-1/2 months of exports, Trade Ministry data showed. Lower exports may mean less palm oil supplied to the DMO since there is less need for export quotas.

Edy Priyono, an official with the Executive Office of the President, proposed changing the DMO allotment to a portion of production, instead of linking it to export quotas.

"A discussion shall be started on whether the DMO scheme that so far is linked to export should be kept as it is or whether it is possible to try link it to the production," he said. — **Reuters**