

Hens for Haiti - Recent Highlights



POULAYE

Spring 2014

By: Christina Lamour

SPECIAL EDITION - Duplicating the Poultrye!

Hens for Haiti prides itself in offering a program that is easily duplicated and scaled to fit the needs of different communities around Haiti. During a recent trip this past March, Christina Lamour had the unique opportunity to visit several Poultrye projects modeled after the pilot program in Gros-Morne. Businesses ranged from 75 to 800 bird flocks in cities across the country from Jeremie to Cap-Haitien. Christina found that the stories of these projects were too inspiring and too important to keep to herself.

Jeremie (Numero Deux)

Deacon Lloyd Duplantis of southern Louisiana and Haiti Mission, Inc. has worked in the community of Numero Deux since 1999. Several years ago, Deacon Lloyd contacted Hens for Haiti with interest in starting a Poultrye, and in May 2013 welcomed 200 hens into the community. After trouble battling feed prices, the operation was forced to sell some birds, reducing the flock to only 75. The group has also experimented with broiler chickens, buying chicks at 2 days of age and selling the birds in the Jeremie market at 40 days. Overall, Haiti Mission Inc. has been very happy with the project and look forward to making improvements throughout 2014. This May, the operation plans to welcome a new flock of 200 laying hens, selling the remaining 75 from the first batch and would like to experiment with alternative feed sources to combat exuberant production costs.



Jacmel (St. Michel)



A twinning relationship with Winterpark, FL greatly benefited the community of St Michel when the group decided to sponsor a Poultrye in the southern Haitian town. Local staff were identified and sent to train under the experience of the Gros-Morne operation. When 800 hens arrived in February 2013, they immediately began producing on average 675 eggs per day. Now over a year later, the operation looks forward to an additional 800 birds arriving in May provided by the Jacmel Rotary Club. Winterpark has been impressed with the success of the project so far and look forward to local feed production with a newly acquired grain mill and mixer.

Officers

Christina Lamour
Founder, President

Cameron Varano
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Larry Newman
Board Member

Cody Lemieux
Board Member

Michael Mercurio
Board Member

Sherley Codio
Local Representative

Contact or Donate

Mailing Address:
Hens for Haiti
c/o Cameron Varano
5442 Clearfield Dr SE
Olympia, WA 98501

E-mail:
info@hensforhaiti.org

Website:
www.hensforhaiti.org



One Egg at a Time

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Cap-Haitien (Ti Bò)

Located between the cities of Cap-Haitien and Milot in a small area called “Ti Bò”, the iF Foundation’s agricultural facility is a bustling oasis of research and technology. In addition to an egg production operation, the organization also cultivates earth worms, tests grafting of avocado, orange, and other citrus trees, farms moringa trees, and is experimenting with a high protein variety of corn (QPM). The iF Foundation welcomed 450 hens in September of 2013 producing about 400 eggs per day, most of which are used in the local school feeding program and the remainder sold at market. Experimenting with a breed of corn called Hugo (QPM) said to contain 11% protein – very high for this type of grain - the foundation hopes to use this corn in combination with dried moringa powder to produce local chicken feed. QPM is obtained from the southern region of Camp-Perrin from an organization called ORE. There is much potential in this facility as well as the surrounding area east of Cap-Haitien.



Christina commented that the visits to duplicated projects was “needed and long overdue”. One common struggle seemed to stand out across the board – feed. Turning the focus back to local production rather than imported ingredients, Hens for Haiti in collaboration with duplicated projects hopes to find the best formulation to sustain high levels of production from readily obtainable elements. Layer hens need a diet of at least 17% protein to produce at optimal levels. With ground corn as the base, different groups are experimenting with local red and black beans, small ground fish, or even corn with enhanced protein to reach the 17% goal. Moringa powder is the popular choice for mineral and vitamin supplement as well as an added protein source with as much as 8% crude protein in dried leaves. Several groups have already started experimenting with local feed formulations and are confident that together, we are on the right track to finding a solution.



For the full report on Christina’s travels, visit our website (www.hensforhaiti.org)

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