



Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WINE AND CHEESE TASTING HELD IN THE U.S. EMBASSY



On December 2, the Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) and the U.S. Embassy held 12th annual Wine and Cheese Tasting event.

Each year, this event allows retailers, restaurant owners, local vendors, and members of the international community to sample wine and cheese from Armenian producers supported by USDA/CARD.

The US Ambassador to Armenia, John Heffern, and USDA Project Coordinator, Greg Booth, made opening speeches elaborating on the contribution by CARD to dairy and viticulture sectors in Armenia.



This year, 10 cheese producers and 8 wine producers presented 14 varieties of local cheeses and 25 types of Armenian wines. A variety of cheeses were presented for tasting, including Ricotta, Gouda, cheese khinkali, Tommy (goat cheese) and feta-type sheep cheese.

The event concluded with the serving of sweet wine and Armenian

chocolates. Currently CARD is collaborating with more than 36 dairies and 12 wineries in Armenia.



Participants enjoyed dessert wines and chocolates from Arcolad, a local boutique producer that uses Armenian dried fruits to produce unique products for local and export markets.



ADVENTUROUS CHEESE PLATTER



If you're ready to venture beyond the basic cheese offerings, keep guests on their toes with an illustrious trio of goat cheeses served in soft and semi-hard form. Perfect for a more elegant affair, this platter works well for an intimate party when you know your adult guests will appreciate a touch of the more refined. Though goat cheese can seem expensive at first glance, keep in mind that the flavor is quite intense, so you don't need to buy as much as you would for a more mild cheese platter. A safe estimate is 1 to 2 ounces of cheese per guest.

For an interesting twist, a slightly lemony Spanish goat cheese, such as Monte Enebro is suggested. For your semi-hard offering, a mellow goat's cheese such as aged Spanish Garrotxa is a good choice. Finally, you can never go wrong with a fresh herb-coated goat chèvre that doesn't contain garlic.

You'll need to serve wines that can match the welcome tang of goat's milk cheeses. A citrusy Albarino from Spain, a medium-bodied, lush Argentinean Malbec, and a dry and spicy rosé are highly recommended.

DEVELOPING VETERINARY SERVICE CAPACITIES IN ARMENIA AND GEORGIA

The director of Heifer International Georgia, George Murvanidze, and the Deputy Director of the Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) Foundation, Sevak Manukyan, signed a sub-grant agreement on December 8th, 2011, to jointly implement a project titled "Animal Health Management in Cross Border Areas of Armenia and Georgia" funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).



Geographically, the project will focus on Armenian and Georgian border regions, in Shirak and Lori marzes in Armenia and Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli provinces in Georgia. The goal of the project is to improve animal husbandry and health control practices, herd management strategies and prevention of trans-boundary diseases in the target areas by developing veterinary services.

During the project implementation joint workshops and conferences will be organized, with the participation of state, public and private sectors of the two countries, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of problems in the animal health sector and to promote solutions to current challenges in this sector.

For the project, nearly 60 veterinarians will be trained by foreign and local experts to later provide consultancy and veterinary services to farmers of the target regions.

Two Veterinary Health Care Service Centers will be established in the Azatan community of the Shirak region and the Stepanavan community of the Lori region to carry out veterinary and artificial insemination services.



Among the honorary guests present at the signing event were Alexander Bohr from the ADA South Caucasus Office, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Armen Poghosyan, and the Head of the Department of Local Self-Government in the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ashot Giloyan.

"I want to express my thanks to the Austrian Development Agency and the Government of Austria for funding this very important project, and of course many thanks to CARD Foundation for selecting Heifer Georgia International as an implementing partner. The outcomes of this project will be twofold: the obvious one is the control of trans-boundary animal diseases and the second is the establishment of business contacts between the veterinarians on either side of the Border. I wish all of us success in implementation of this project", said George Murvanidze.

To successfully implement the project, as well as to strengthen the partnership between state and private sectors, close cooperation will be developed between the Ministries of Agriculture of Armenia and Georgia.



Hence, on December 9th, the Minister of Agriculture, Sergo Karapetyan, and CARD Foundation Director, Gagik Sardaryan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding by which the RA Ministry of Agriculture supports the Animal Health project objectives and provides active participation in the seminars, joint workshops and conferences through its representatives and subdivisions.



Supported by



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