



Regional Dairy Workshop - Why Dairy? Why Jersey?



# Infusing indigenous breeds with the Jersey benefits

Our Experience

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Kigali, Rwanda

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### Project Mercy History

Founders: Marta Gabre-Tsadick, Demeke Tekle-Wold, Charles and Fran Dickenson established Project Mercy in 1977

Phase I: Aid - refuge resettlement, famine relief, food, mediation and clothing in seven African countries

Phase II: Development - integrated and holistic community development in Ethiopia since 1993

Vision: Renew the heart of a nation by plucking out poverty



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## Project Mercy at a Glance



### EDUCATION

Education is a core component of our model and integrated into all our holistic programs and services. We meet both primary and secondary educational needs of the rural community we serve and run a Health Science College for students from the Southern Region. Also, we support five additional schools in three Regions.



### HEALTHCARE

Project Mercy built and runs Glenn C. Olsen Memorial Primary Hospital. This state-of-the-art, 52-bed facility is equipped with diagnostic services, as well as a Surgical Ward, Pediatric Ward, Delivery Ward, and Medical Ward. Coupled with a clinic in the school, the only clinic of its kind in rural community schools in Ethiopia, we provide end-to-end preventative and proactive community health services.



### INFRASTRUCTURE

Project Mercy provides community members needed access to community development services, the ability to safely and quickly reach critical healthcare services, and use safe roads/bridges, clean water, and other facilities.



### FOOD SECURITY

The agricultural programs help by encouraging and teaching families to cultivate and consume vegetables and fruit tree products. Also, we have instituted Dairy Cattle Breeding and poultry farming programs that enable rural families to produce higher quality and a higher quantities of milk and eggs. These food security measures are providing sustenance and a means for income.



### VOCATION/SKILL

Project Mercy trains the men in viable trades that can help them earn a fair income and introduces the artisan culture to women through skill training and the establishment of viable associations so they can market their crafts.





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Because there are children in Ethiopia who grow up without having a glass of milk



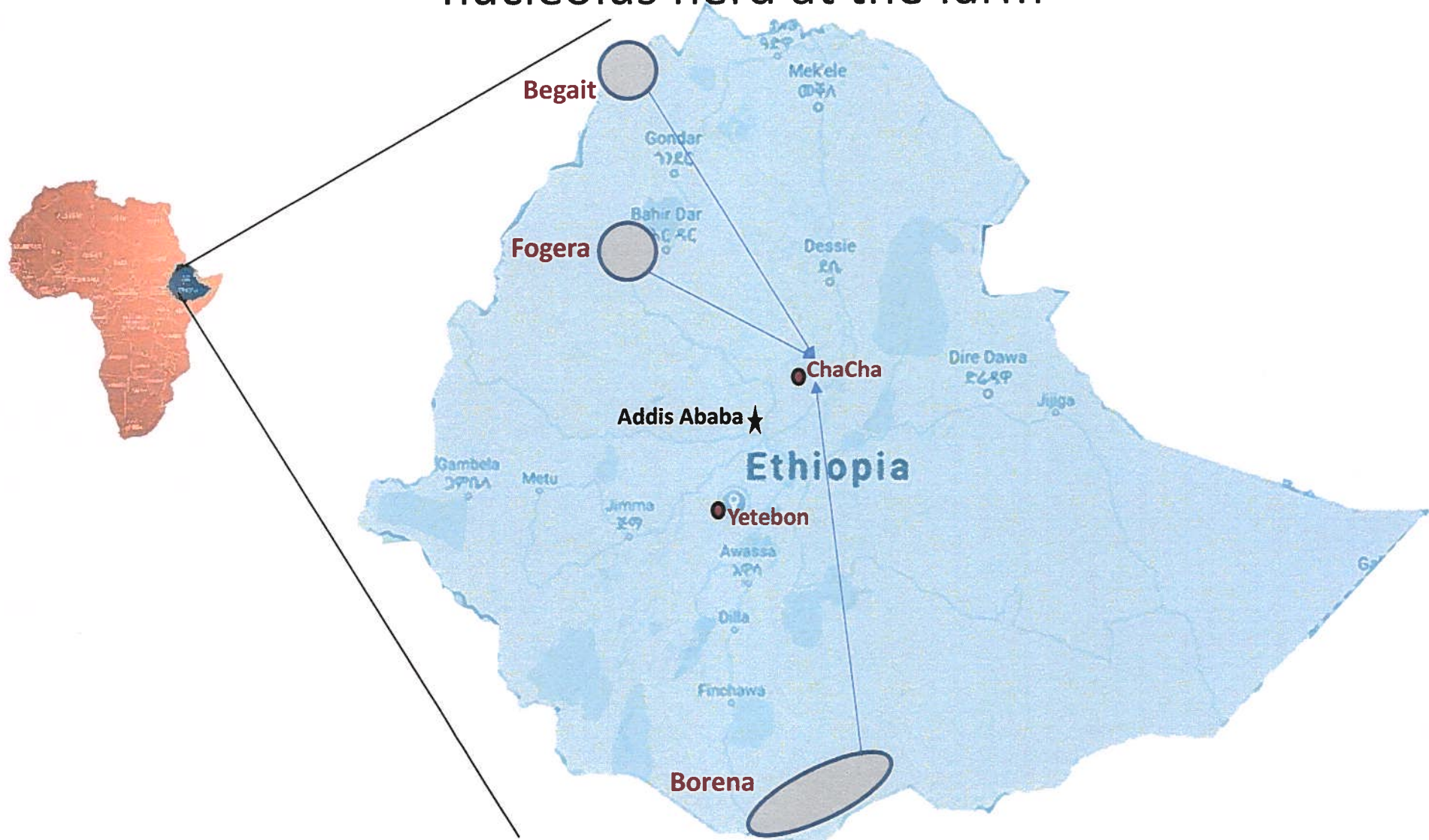




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Sourcing indigenous and hardy breeds for the nucleolus herd at the farm





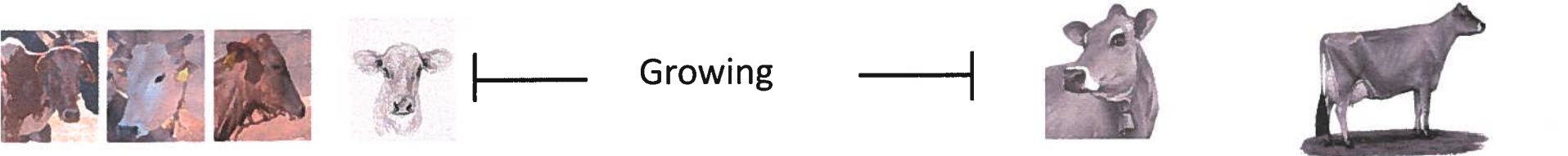
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**33 months to deliver a crossbred heifer to a farmer family**

9 months      +      18 months      +      6 months

- 1** Borena, Fogera, & Begait artificially inseminated
- 2** Indigenous/Jersey F1 born
- 3** Indigenous/Jersey Growing calves
- 4** Jersey F1 artificially inseminated
- 5** 6-month pregnant with 75% Jersey in-calf distributed



185	77	53	9	120
Nucleolus herd at the farm	Jersey cross heifers growing	Jersey cross Bulls growing	Jersey cross heifers pregnant	Families in the program

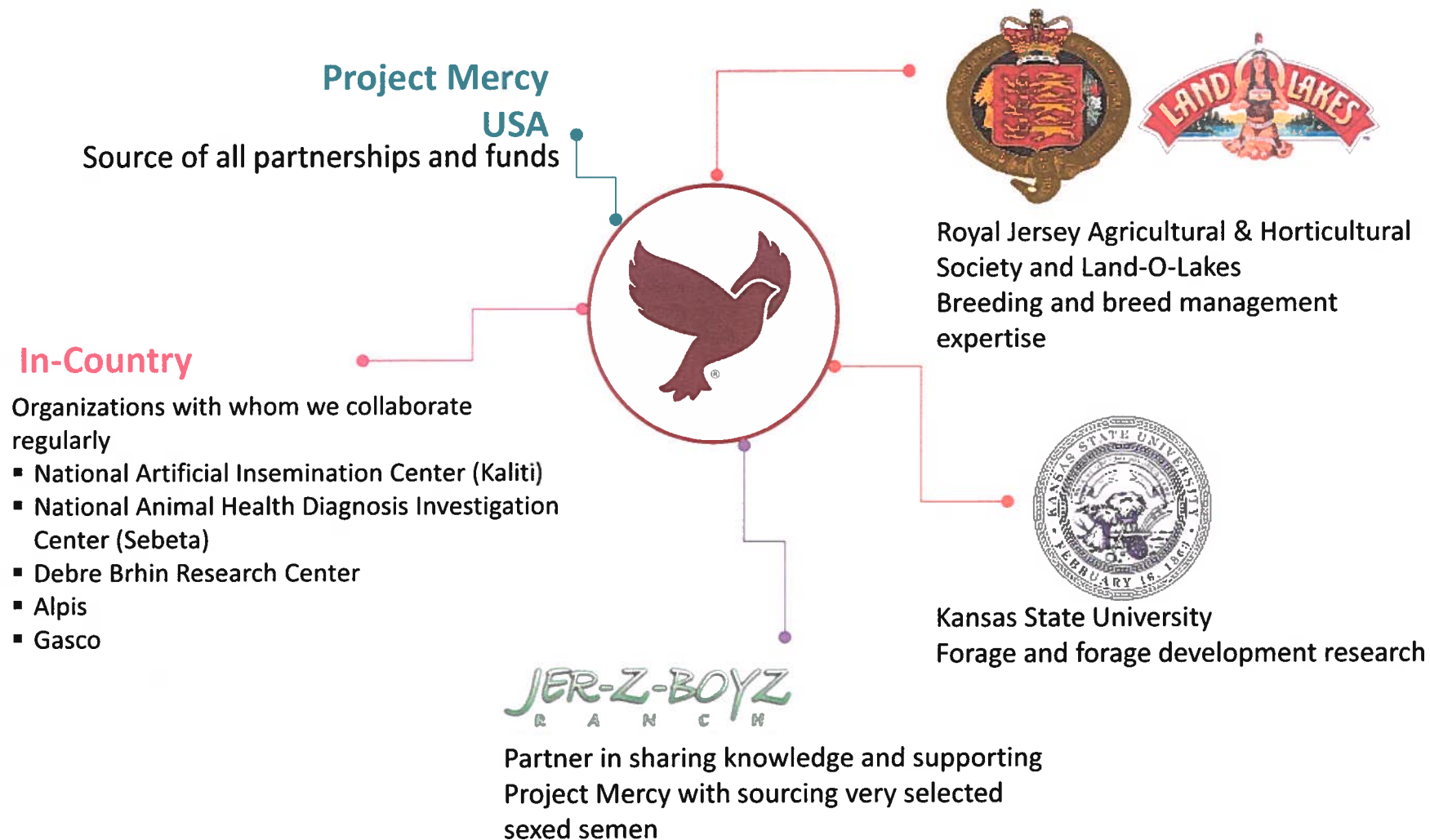
Breeding Statistics		
	Local Breed	Crossbred
Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> calving (months)	45 – 57	27 – 36
Conception at 1 <sup>st</sup> service	64%	82%
Calving interval (days)	547	425

62.4% yielding 7+ liters per day
85 Families surveyed
320+ crossbred cattle in the field





## Project Mercy Ethiopia Key Partnerships





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### Conclusion

#### Primary Take Away Message:

- Trusted and knowledgeable staff
- Patience and commitment to the vision
- Partners that share knowledge, expertise, and resources

#### Secondary Take Away Message:

- Willingness and openness to the process of discovery
- Building and sharing excitement around successes
- Growing with the opportunity

