

AN ASSESMENT OF HIGH SLAUGHTER OF SMALL RUMINANT AT EARLY SET OF RAINING SEASON IN KIBIYA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KANO STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Kibiya Local Government Area to assess the incidence of high slaughter of small ruminant on moribund stage especially during the early set of rainfall. Data were gathered from 100 livestock's farmers, 54 Butchers and 45 veterinary personnel through the use of structured questionnaires and visual inspection record. Majority of livestock respondents were males (92%) and married (52%) with age range of 40-60 years (67%). About 48% of the respondents were keeping animals 0-5 years, with 50% mixed flock of sheep and goats; 35% goats only and 15% sheep only. The breeds kept were Red Sokoto goats (49%) and Yankasa sheep (50%). Extensive system of management was more popular and practiced (51%). The slaughter of small ruminant on moribundity/already slaughtered was more frequent (66%) and increased during raining season (June). the number of goats slaughtered (499) were twice the number of sheep (250) slaughtered, thus indicated that goats were more frequently slaughtered during the season. Among the reasons for slaughtered were either for lack of feedstuff, urgent need or selling at will. While others were slaughtered as a result of diseases and health related issues. Mostly postmortem was not done on slaughtered animals, thus is a potential health risk to meat consumers in the area of study. Therefore, farmers are advised to preserve crop residues that can be fed at late dry season; regular postmortem and meat inspection should be performed. It is recommended that appropriate extension services, government, livestock scientists and veterinary workers be put in place the awareness of economic benefits of small ruminant production and meat hygiene for safety of consumers.

Key words: Small ruminants; Moribundity; Postmortem; Slaughter; Rainy season

INTRODUCTION

Small ruminants, sheep and goat production is an important economic activity in Africa and are among major source of animal protein in Nigeria. It was reported that Nigeria has a livestock population of 24 million goats and 13.6 million sheep (Lawal-Adebawale, 2012). They are distributed all over Nigeria, for their ability to adopt to varieties of environmental conditions. Their rearing is an important occupation for the rural people especially less privileged communities and it is profitable venture for the resources, provided and are able to sustain them on spare vegetation unsuitable for feeding to other livestock (Ajala *et al.*, 1995). The production is characterized by extensive system of management and low productivity (Otchere *et al.*, 1986). Therefore, improve in small ruminant is likely to improve the well-being of small holder farmers. The socio economic important of small ruminants in rural communities of Nigeria among others includes usage as a sources of ready cash and meat for house hold consumption, means of exchange for ready labour and usage during ceremonies festivities, religious rites have long been recognized. It is observed that there is annual occurrence of high slaughter of small ruminant on moribund stage at early set of raining season in Kibiya Local Government, which is a potential health risk to meat consumers the area. Therefore, this study was aimed to assess and identify root of the problem and offer possible solutions as it's continued will have direct effect on meat consumers and will cause huge economic losses in small ruminant production.

Materials and method

Study area

The research was conducted at Kibiya local government area of Kano state. It is located at the south-east part of the state, about 60km away from Kano metropolitan and it has a total area of 404km². Coordinate 11°32'N 8°40'E/ 11.533°N 8.667°E. The climate is classified as dry and wet, the rainy days last from mid-June to early October approximately (120-150 days) (Olofin *et al.*, 2008). The local government has ten wards. According to 2006 census population is 136,736. The people of the area are predominantly Hausa/Fulani by tribe and are farmers that keep a good number of Small ruminants and poultry in addition to arable cropping. The soil of the area is predominantly rich sandy-loam with few types of clay soil around river bank suitable for the cultivation of wide range of crops, some of the food crops cultivated are G/corn, millets; maize, rice and sorghum are local consumption while groundnuts, tomatoes are produced for export and industrial purposes. Animals that are rearing are sheep, goats, cattle Etc.

Data collection

Data was collected by using: questionnaire and visual inspection records.

A total of three hundred well structural questionnaires were designed as sample materials. And one hundred (100) from each were designed and distributed to livestock's farmers, Butchers, and Veterinarians. The procedure of collecting the data remain the same throughout the study. Regular visit was made in the morning to slaughter locations: (from 8:00am – 11:00am) over a period of 3-months. At slaughter locations small ruminants were brought and number of animals slaughtered by butchers was recorded. Attention was paid to animals on moribund condition.

Data analysis

The data generated from questionnaire and the visual inspection records from slaughter units were Microsoft excel 2007 and SPSS version 16 for simple descriptive statistics and graph.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The information of livestock farmers on Socio-economic characteristics, Types of animals kept and farming experience, reasons and condition of animals during slaughter at Kibiya local area is presented in Table 1. This study has shown that majority of the respondents (92%) were male indicating that males are more actively involved in livestock farming especially small ruminant production. The highest percentage in age of respondents range between 40 – 60 years (67%) indicating most of the farmers were middle age class; and 52% were married.

Table 1. Respond of livestock farmers on Socio-economic characteristics, Types of animals kept and farming experience, reasons and condition of animals during slaughter at Kibiya Local Area

Categories	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex	Male	92	92
	Female	8	8
Age (years)	19 – 39	21	21
	40 – 60	67	67
	Above 60	12	12
Marital status	Single	43	43
	Married	52	52
	Divorced	5	5
Type of farming	L. Stock rearing	50	50
	Butchers	10	10
	C. farming	36	36
	Veterinary	4	4
Year (s)of experience	0-5	48	48
	6-10	33	33
	Above 10	19	19
Types of small ruminants kept	Goat only	35	35
	Sheep only	15	15
	Both sheep and Goats	50	50
Breeds of goats	Red Sokoto	49	49
	Sahel goat	20	20
	Kano brown	31	31
	WAD	0	0
Breeds of sheep	Yankasa	50	50
	Balami	22	22
	Uda	28	28
	WAD	0	0
Management system	Intensive	23	23
	Semi-intensive	26	26
	Extensive	51	51
Reason for slaughter	Feeding problem	36	36
	Health problem	22	22
	urgent need	22	22
	Selling at will	20	20
Condition during slaughter	Physically fit	34	35
	Moribund condition	36	35
	Already slaughter	30	30

Source: Field survey June 2017 – August 2017

Around 48% of the respondents had experienced on livestock rearing (0-5 years), with 50% mixed flock of sheep and goats; 35% goats only and 15% sheep only. The breeds kept were Red Sokoto goats (49%) and Yankasa sheep (50%). Extensive system of managements was more popular and practiced (51%). The slaughter of small ruminant on moribundity/already slaughtered was more frequent (65%). The reasons for slaughtered of the animals includes lack of feedstuff, urgent need or selling at will. While others were slaughtered as a result of diseases and health related issues. It was observed that postmortem was not done on slaughtered animals, which is a potential health threat to meat consumers. Abdullahi et al (2019) reported menaces in management practices, processing and transportation of meat in the semi-arid of kano metropolis abattoirs. Kebede (2010) emphasized that meat hygiene services are functions in such a way as to satisfy consumers and at the same time safeguard public health and animal hygiene.

The result of the study revealed a total number of 1524 of small ruminants were slaughter from month of June to August, where are 525 sheep and 999 were goats, respectively. Out of the total small ruminant slaughtered 549 were on moribundity; 457 were slaughtered before arrival to slaughter slab; while remaining 518 were physically fit before slaughter. Muhammad et al (2007) reported that more prominent slaughtered of pregnant animal was occurred in early wet season (May – July).

Visual inspection record

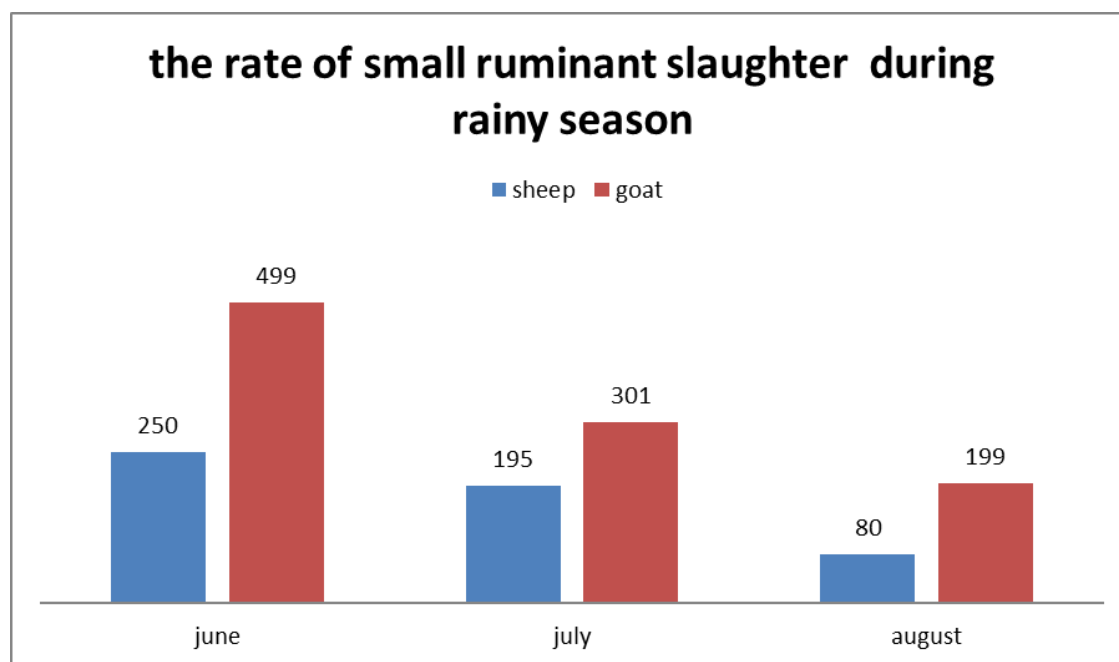


Figure 1 Number of small ruminants slaughtered in three months at Kibiya LGA of Kano State.

The chart above (figure 1) showed that at the month of June (month that rain started in Kibiya) there was high slaughter of small ruminant in the area especially goats (499), sheep (250). While in July goats (301), sheep (195) and in August goats (199), sheep (80) respectively. Kumar and Prasad (1986) and Somvashi et al (1992) reported that during the rainy season the majority of 6–12-month-old kids became dull, off-feed, weak, emaciated and anemic.

Conclusion And Recommendations

Most of the livestock's producer in the study area keeps their flock in free range system which graze on newly germinated grasses that caused diarrhea and other digestive disorder at early set of rainy seasons. It is concluded that livestock farmers in the area of study are keeping small ruminants which are facing problem of high slaughter of their stocks during raining season as a result of problem of feeding and disease as well as urgent need and selling at will of their owners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To improve sheep and goat production in the area of study, effective extension education to farmers on animal health and production is greatly needed.

- i. Livestock farmers should preserve their harvested crop residues to be used during scarcity.
- ii. Livestock farmers are advised to keep their animals in intensive or semi-intensive system.
- iii. Government should provide veterinary centers, livestock incentives and credit facilities.
- iv. Postmortem and meat inspection should be carried out regularly for meat consumer health safety.

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