

HEALTH CONDITION OF LIVESTOCK RAISED BY CROP FARMERS IN FASHOLA FARMING COMMUNITY, OYO STATE, NIGERIA

***Ajayi Modupe O., Olanipekun Oyindamola O and Usman Shakirat O.**

Animal Production and Management Unit,

Department of Animal Science, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Corresponding author email: moajayi5@gmail.com; +2348066116150

ABSTRACT

Good health management fosters high productivity in animal husbandry; the study looked at the health condition of livestock raised by crop farmer in Fashola farming community, Oyo, Nigeria. Fifty-eight well structured questionnaire were administered using a snowball sampling techniques to crops farmers that raised livestock. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistic. The mean flock sizes were 9.2, 6.3, 5.7, 4.7, 4.0, 3.3 and 1.0 for chicken, goat, turkey, sheep, duck, cattle and pig, respectively. *Peste des petits ruminante* was reported by 52.4% of the respondents while 21.4% reported Newcastle Disease. Highest mortality of 5.4 was found in goats while cattle and pig had zero mortality. About 81.1% of the livestock keepers sought veterinary intervention when animals were sick and 3.8% salvage the animals. The study showed high mortality of goats and local chickens as a result of *Peste des petits ruminante* and Newcastle diseases outbreaks in the study area.

Keywords: Newcastle, *Peste des petits ruminante*, Mortality, Ailment

Introduction

Food production in Nigeria is basically in the hands of small scale farmers who are spread all over the country. These farmers are faced with diverse challenges such as predominance of primitive techniques, limited use of biological and chemical technology (Adesoji, 2002). Above all, inconsistency in rainfall pattern, prolonged dry season posed by climate change led to crop failure and consequently affect yield.

Although, some of the crop farmers are engaged in other secondary occupations (Ajayi *et al.*, 2019) which can help to cushion the effect of low crop yield for better livelihood. Animal husbandry has been found to be a complimentary occupation due to the symbiotic relationship between the two enterprises. The waste from one enterprise is a resource in the other enterprise.

However, livestock production in Nigeria is faced with challenges such as housing, health and feeding (Doma *et al.*, 1999) and good health management practice is pivotal to sustainable animal production. Studies have shown high incidence of diseases as a major constraint associated with animal production resulting in economic losses due to stunted growth, weakness, poor reproductive performance or death in livestock (Jawara, 1990). The study assessed the health condition of animals raised by crop farmers domiciled in Fashola farming community, Oyo.

Materials and methods

The Study was carried out in Fashola farming community, Oyo, located in Oyo West Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The area shares boundaries with Orire Local Government in the North, Akinyele Local Government in the South, Iseyin Local Government in the West. The area was purposefully chosen because of the ecological conditions that are suitable for crop-livestock production systems. Individual interview was carried out for data collection using a well structured questionnaire to 58 respondents who were basically crops farmers that raised livestock using a snow ball sampling technique. The questions were translated from English to Yoruba language for the respondents and recorded in English Language. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and mean were used to analyse the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

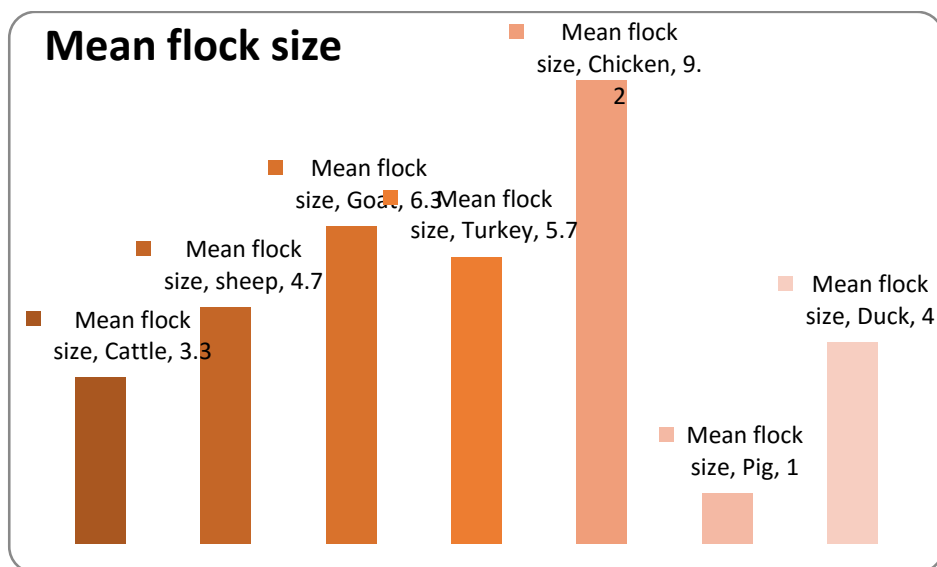


Figure 1: Mean flock size of livestock raised in Fashola farming community, Oyo
(Source: Field survey, 2018)

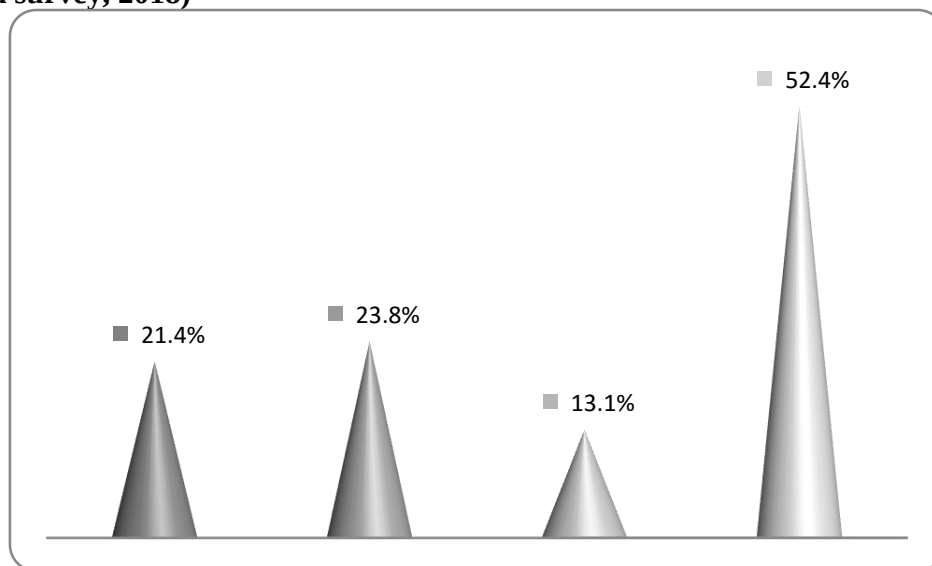


Figure 2: Common ailment affecting livestock in Fashola farming community, Oyo.
Source: Field survey, 2018
*Multiple responses

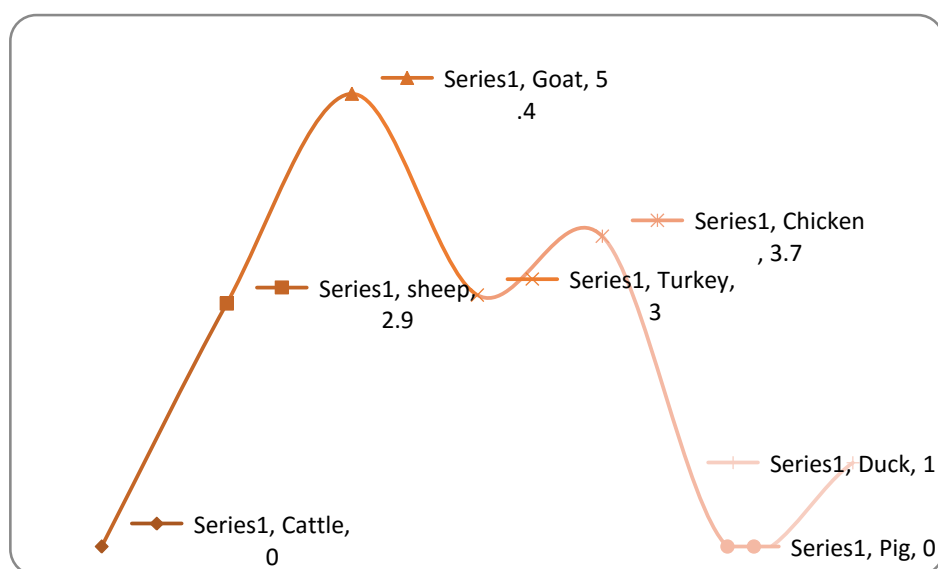
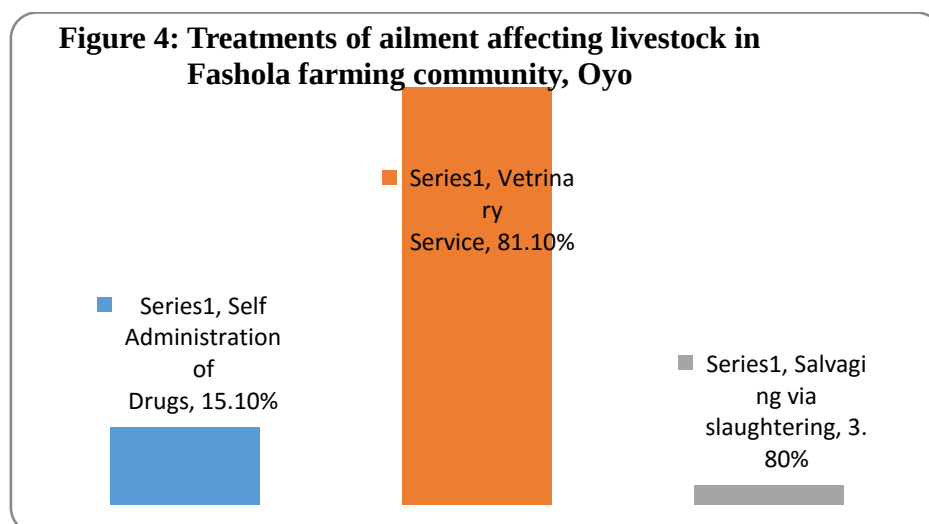


Figure 3: Yearly average mortality rate of livestock raised in Fashola farming community, Oyo.
Source: Field survey, 2018



Source: Field survey, 2018

Figure 1 shows the mean flock size of livestock raised in the study area. Local chickens had the average flock size of 9.2 followed by goats which was 6.3 and pig (1) was the lowest. The high population of chickens and goats could be due to the production system adopted by the farmers as majority of the animals were raised on free range. This system of production requires low capital and less managerial involvement. Common ailment affecting livestock in Fashola farming community, Oyo is shown in figure 2. The study revealed that *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) was the commonest reported by 52.4% of the respondents while 21.4% reported Newcastle

Disease (ND). PPR and ND are viral diseases that affect goats and local chickens, respectively. The widespread of these viral diseases could also be attributed to the production system as little attention is given to the vaccination of the animals to prevent the occurrence. The yearly average mortality is represented in figure 3. Goats had the highest mortality of 5.4 followed by chickens (3.7). This high mortality can be due to the production system adopted in the study area as less attention is given to vaccination of animals until they come down with ailment. Moreover, Newcastle Disease is reported to be the most prevalent and fatal disease of poultry (Kingori *et al.*, 2010). Figure 4 represents the treatments of ailments affecting livestock raised by farmers in Fashola farming community. The study revealed that 81.1% of the livestock keepers relied on veterinary intervention when the animals are sick. About 15.1% were involved in self-administration of drugs to animals while 3.8% salvage the animals for consumption when the animals are sick as reported by Aklili, 2007.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) and New castle diseases were the predominant diseases common to livestock in the study area. The attitude of “not vaccinating animals” was observed among farmers and led to the high percentage of mortality of goats and poultry.

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