

## Lecture 2

### PROBLEMS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA

1. Feed Supply: Wide seasonal variations have an important influence on feed production. When there is high variation in feed supplies particularly, forages, marked fluctuations arise in the rate of weight gain of grazing animals causing low productivity and poor quality animal products.

The major part of the feed supplied thus goes just to satisfy maintenance requirements; can encourage adulteration of feeds by feed millers and make cost of feed to increase in case of grains for monogastric animals.

2. Low animal nutrition leads to high susceptibility to diseases and parasites. These cause exceedingly high losses in animal productivity.

3. Excess of animals to be supported by the environment. This is brought about largely because individual farmer and community or tribal groups do not relate their stock numbers according to available feed supplies. Overgrazing/underfeeding can lead to malnutrition

4. Much of the time the prevailing **temperature and humidity** impose stresses on animals. When this happens, the animals must expend extra energy if they are to maintain their thermal balance. This results in a low input-output efficiency of feed energy for productive processes.

5. The programmes for **genetic improvement are few** and this constitutes an important inhibitor to successful livestock enterprises.

6. Incentives to increase production are often low for the majority of the livestock owners because of **inadequate marketing organizations**, including processing and storage facilities for providing reliable supplies of products to consumers and feed to producers.

7. **Poor transportation** is a serious deterrent to producer incentive. For example, after cattle have been trailed a very long distance (400-600km), there may be little profit from their sales because of the weight shrinkage.

8. The system of **land tenure** can be a further inhibitor to potentially successful livestock enterprises since many of the owners will have to graze their animals in lands other than their own.

9. Other problems include those of **insufficient capital** for implementing innovations in husbandry e.g. improved variety of stock, feeding and milking devices, scarcity of appropriate technology, poor educational background of the intended users of the technology and inadequate means for informing farmers about worthwhile changes.
10. **Religious beliefs and social customs** are very difficult to alter and this limits the type and number of animals that can be reared or raised in some parts of the country.

### **SOME TERMINOLOGIES IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

**Cattle:** This refers to the entire Bovine species

**Cow:** Female cattle of mature age which have had one or more parturitions

**Heifer:** Female cattle of immature age which has not produced any offspring

**Bull:** A mature male cattle

**Calf:** Young cattle of either sex under one year old and usually not weaned

**Calve:** Act of giving birth (parturition) in cattle

**Bull Calf:** Young male cattle under two years of age

**Steer:** Male cattle which has been castrated at early age

**Stag:** Male cattle which was castrated after reaching sexual maturity

**Free Martin:** refers to female cattle born as a twin along with a male cattle which is usually sexually sterile

**In-calf:** Pregnant cow

**Swine:** refers to entire porcine species that has reached mature age

**Sow:** A mature female pig that has given birth at least once

**Farrowing:** The act of giving birth in swine

**Gilt:** Female swine/pig of immature age or which has not produced any offspring

**Boar:** A mature male swine

**Piglet:** Young pig of either sex

**Litter:** Entire offspring produced at a single birth

**Barrow:** Male swine that has been castrated at an early age

**Hog:** the entire swine species reaching mature age

**In-sow:** Pregnant sow

**Sheep:** refers to entire ovine species

**Ewe:** refers to female sheep after reaching sexual maturity and has produced one or more offspring

**Ram:** Mature male sheep

**Lamb:** refers to sexually immature sheep of either sex

**Lambing:** act of giving birth in sheep

**Ram Lamb:** sexually immature male sheep

**Ewe lamb:** Sexually immature female sheep

**Wether:** Male sheep castrated at an early age

**Fleece:** The wool of a single sheep

**Goat:** refers to the entire caprine specie

**Buck or Billy:** Mature male goat

**Doe or Nanny:** refers to female goat that has given birth once or twice

**Kid:** Young or sexually immature goat of either sex

**Kidding:** Act of giving birth in goat

**In-Kid:** Pregnant goat

**Castrate:** castrated male of any livestock at an early age

**Poultry:** refers to entire avian specie. These include domestic fowls, duck, goose, turkey, guinea fowl and pigeon.

**Hen:** Sexually mature female chicken

**Cock:** Sexually mature male chicken

**Pullet:** Sexually immature female chicken

**Cockerel:** Sexually immature male fowl

**Capon:** male chicken castrated at an early age

**Chick:** very young chicken of either sex

**Chicken:** domestic fowl of either sex and of any age

**Fertility:** the ability of an animal to reproduce. In the case of poultry it is the percent of eggs set which develops an embryo

**Set:** the acts of placing eggs under a hen or in an incubator

**Hatch:** the emergency of chick from the egg shell

**Fowl:** any vertebrate containing wings and feathers

**Hatchability:** the percent of eggs set which produce a living chick

**Broiler:** Poultry of either sex produced for meat purpose and slaughtered between the ages of 8-12 weeks.

**Rabbit:** refers to *Aryctolagus cuniculus* group of animals. They exist in the border line between the ruminant and the non-ruminant animals i.e. they are herbivores.

**Rabbit buck:** refers to mature male rabbit

**Kindling:** act of giving birth in rabbit

**Rabbit Doe:** refers to mature female rabbit

**General:**

**Lactation:** Act of milk production

**Parturition:** Act of giving birth to offspring

**Weaning:** removal of young one from milk feeding

**Concentrate:** Feed that is low in fibre but high in total digestible nutrients

**Roughage:** Feed that is high in fibre but low in total digestible nutrients

**Udder:** refers to the milk gland of an animal

**Service:** This is mating, coitus, breed, sexual intercourse or copulation between male and female domestic animals. The best results are usually achieved when the female is on heat. Service can be natural or artificial. Natural service is the direct mating of male and female animals.

**Artificial Insemination:** Is the artificial process of placing the spermatozoa in a position for contact with the female ovum or egg by an instrument other than penis.

**Oestrus cycle:** the interval from the beginning of one heat period to the start of the next

**Heat or estrus:** is a regular period in the female mammals when copulation is allowed or period of sexual desire in female animal.

**Libido:** period of sexual desire in male animals

**Pregnancy:** period from the time of conception to the time the animal gives birth to the offspring. It is described as the growth of foetus within the uterus of the female animal.

**Still birth:** when the foetus is born dead after a full time pregnancy. It could be as a result of prolonged labour in which case the foetus become tired and eventually died or infection in the uterus or accidental blow on the foetus, in the uterus.

**Abortion:** when the foetus is born before time. This could be as a result of disease such as those caused by *Brucella spp.* Mixing of animals of different sources can also cause abortion e.g. when the males are still struggling to mate the pregnant female.

**Wean:** to cease providing milk in the ration of the young animal

**Ruminant herbivore:** compartmented stomach animal e.g. cattle, sheep & goat

**Non ruminant herbivore:** simple stomach ruminant e.g. Horse

**Non herbivore:** Monogastrics