

Lecture 6

LIVESTOCK BREEDS AND BREEDING

Livestock

- One or more domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce commodities such as food, fiber or labour.
- Usually the use of livestock does not include poultry or farmed fish, although these are now generally included among domesticated livestock.
- Animals generally reared for subsistence or for profit.
- They are important components of modern agriculture practiced in many cultures since the transition from hunter-gathering lifestyle to farming.
- The global livestock population is presently around 65 billion.

History of Livestock Domestication

Animals are domesticated when their breeding and living conditions are controlled by humans. On a broader scale the term livestock refers to any breed or population of animal kept by humans for a useful purpose. This includes:

- domestic animals,
- semi-domestic, or
- captive wild

Table 1: Animal types and history of domestication

Animal/type	Status	Wild Ancestor	Time of first captivity	Area of Domestication	Current Commercial Use
Alpaca (mammal, herbivore)	Domestic	Vicuna	5000 - 4000 BC	Andes	Wool
Camel(mammal, herbivore)	Domestic	Wild Dromedary	4000- 1400BC	Asia	Mount, Meat, Milk
Bison	Captive	N/A	Late 19 th Century	North America	Meat, Leather
Cattle	Domestic	Aurochs (extinct)	6000BC	WS Asia, India, North Africa	Meat, Beef, Veal, Blood,

					Milk, Leather
Dog	Domestic	Wolf	12,000BC		Herding, watching, meat, pack animal
Donkey	Domestic	African wild ass	4,000 BC	Egypt	Draught, meat, milk
Goat	Domestic	Bezoar goat	8,000BC	South West Asia	Meat, milk, wool, leather
Mule	Domestic	Sterile hybrid of Donkey and Horse			Mount, Pack animal, draught
Pig (omnivore)	Domestic	Wild Boar	7,000BC	Eastern Anatolia	Pork, Bacon, leather, brushes
Rabbit (omnivore)	Domestic	Wild rabbit	400 – 900 AD	France	Meat, Fur
Sheep (Herbivore)	Domestic	Asiatic Mouflon sheep	9,000 – 11,000 BC	South West Asia	Meat, milk, wool, leather, mutton & lamb
Buffalo (herbivore)	Domestic	Wild Asian Buffalo (Arni)	4,000 BC	South Asia	Mount, meat, milk, draught
Yak (herbivore)	Domestic	Wild yak		Tibet, Nepal	Meat, milk, wool, mount, pack animal, draught.

Economic Value of livestock

Livestock are very important in the supply of the following commodities which are of very high economic value in the community.

- **Meat**
- **Milk (Dairy Products)**
- **Fiber**
- **Fertilizer**
- **Labour**

Nigeria's Animal Agriculture

- 13.8 million cattle, 97% of which are traditional Zebu breeds,
- 34.8 million goats,
- 22 million sheep,
- 72.4 million local chicken,

- 11.8 million ducks,
- 4.7m guinea fowls and
- 3.4 million pigs,
- The average Nigerian consumes less than 25% of the recommended 34 gm/head/day animal protein, i.e. less than 9 gm.
- 90% of the cattle are in the hand of Nomads, who move up and down the country in search of food and water, despite Nigeria's 923,738 sq. km. of land mass which are grossly underutilized with only 31% under cultivation.
- 100% of the sheep and goats are in small holder units
- 70% of the poultry breeds are in the backyard.

Table 2: Nigeria's livestock population

	Pastoral	Village	Urban	Total	% S.E.
Cattle	11,478,145	2,358,078	49,590	13,885,813	1.6
Goats	1,142,154	32,287,589	1,023,981	34,453,724	2.9
Sheep	2,678,152	18,356,718	1,057,732	22,092,602	3.2
Pigs	-	3,352,560	53,821	3,406,381	6.0
Rabbits	-	1,475,437	244,409	1,719,846	8.3
Poultry	-	97,860,320	6,397,640	104,257,960	3.3

Source: FAO 2007.

NIGERIA'S LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION

CATTLE:

NW-----SOKOTO GUDALI; BUNAJI

NE-----ADAMAWA GUDALI; SHUWA; WADARA; KURI

SW----- MUTURU; KETEKU (a cross between Bunaji and Muturu)

SE-----MUTURU

N'DAMAS originated from D.R. of Congo and Senegal were imported into Nigeria.

GOATS:

NW-----MARADI; SOKOTO RED OR KANO RED

NE-----SAHEL; FULANI

SW-----WEST AFRICAN DWARF

SE-----WEST AFRICAN DWARF

SHEEP:

NW----- UDA

NE-----BORNO WHITE; BORORO; BALAMI

N CENTRAL-- YANKASSA

SW-----WEST AFRICAN DWARF

SE-----WEST AFRICAN DWARF

PIGS:

INDIGENOUS NATIVES;

EXOTICS---- DUROC; HAMPSHIRE; LARGE WHITE; LANDRACE.

POULTRY:

NORTH-----

- FULANI;
- GUINEA FOWLS;
- TURKEYS;
- DUCKS

SOUTH-----

- DWARF
- FRIZZLE FEATHERED;
- NAKED NECK;
- NORMAL FEATHERED
- TURKEYS AND
- DUCKS

PLATAEU---

- BIRHUM CHICKEN;
- DUCKS AND
- TURKEYS

EXAMPLES OF LIVESTOCK BREEDS

PIG BREEDS

Duroc

Red to Mahogany

Coloured pigs with droopy ears

American Landrace