

BOVINE WASTAGES IN ABATTOIR AND SLAUGHTER SLABS OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA: PATTERN AND ETHICAL CONCERNS

S.S. ABIOLA, C.O.N. IKEOBI AND M.A. DIPEOLU

College of Animal Science and Livestock Production University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

Abstract

A study was conducted to determine the extent of foetal losses in Ibadan abattoirs and slaughter slabs, since Ibadan constitutes a key cattle trading centre in South-Western Nigeria. Factors that were considered included the year of slaughter and the effects of season. The month of slaughter did not significantly ($P > 0.05$) affect any of the cattle slaughter indices assessed. More pregnant cows were slaughtered in Oyo State abattoirs and slabs in the early wet season (comprising April, May and June) relative to the other three monthly seasons of the year. The highest percentage of pregnant cows slaughtered in Ibadan within the period under study was 6.33% and this was much lower than the figures reported for other livestock species. The ethical and economic implications of the results are discussed.

Keywords: Bovine, foetal wastages, abattoir