

UNIT 5 ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Livestock production is the second most important agricultural practice for the production of food and non-food materials to man. Farm animals are kept for many reasons, particularly for food benefits.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to discuss the general and specific benefits of keeping farm animals.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 Food Benefits of Farm Animals: Farm Animals are Kept for the Production of

- 1) **Meat:** This is the muscle tissue or flesh and the associated fat, connective tissue of slaughtered animals. Meat presents a source of high quality protein in human diet, which is essential for body building and repairs.
- 2) **Milk:** This is a white, cream-coloured secretion from the mammary glands of female farm animals, which is produced after parturition (birth of the young animal). It is also a very valuable source of high-quality protein. Food by-products of milk such as ghee, butter and cheese are highly desired sources of protein in human diets.

- 3) **Eggs:** These are produced by poultry, and they serve as a very good source of protein in man's diet.

3.2 Farm Work

Farm animals serve as a good source of power, especially in rural communities where there are no motorable roads. Oxens (cows, bulls, bullocks) can be trained to draw ploughs, harrows, cultivators and carts.

3.3 Transportation

Donkeys, horses, buffalo, bullocks and mules are used to transport farm inputs, farm workers and loads of farm produce to both farm settlements and markets.

3.4 Non-Food Benefits of Farm Animals

Livestock species have other uses derived from other products obtainable from them. These include

- i. provision of skin and hides for industrial manufacture of leather;
- ii. extractions from internal organs of farm animals such parts as liver, pancreas, intestine, gall bladder, etc. used in making drugs in pharmaceutical industries;
- iii. provision of animal fats used in making soap, lubricating oil and drugs;
- iv. provision of hooves and horns used in industrial production of gelatin, glues, buttons, combs and other kitchen household equipment;
- v. provision of manure (e.g. farmyard droppings, excrements) used as alternative fertilizer materials to inorganic fertilizers in crop farms; and
- vi. as a source of household income when livestock and livestock products are sold. In peri-urban areas and rural settings, livestock farmers keep animals primarily to meet their daily expenditures. Livestock keeping also offers huge employment opportunities. This also has important social benefits.

4.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have learned that farm animals are primarily kept for food benefits and secondarily for non-food benefits and services.

5.0 SUMMARY

Man derives considerable food and non-food benefits and services, especially as sources of supplementary farm work and transportation.

6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Write short notes on the non-food benefits of farm animals.
- 2) In what three ways are farm animals used for providing farm power, and transportation?
- 3) List two farm animals that are important for transportation, and farm power.

7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

School of Agriculture & Agricultural Technology, The Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria. *Introduction to General Agriculture* (CSP 201).

Livestock farming in Peri-urban Areas of Faisalabad, Pakistan.<http://www.cipav.org.co/lrrd/lrrd18/1/moae18012.htm>