**Survival Game – Instructions**

*Experimental conditions are: Visible and Hidden*

**Welcome to the study!**

Please first fill in some information about yourself. This information will remain anonymous.

* *What is your age?*
* *What is your sex?*
* *What is your primary language?*

**Instructions – Introduction**

You are about to participate in an experiment to study how people make decisions in groups. You will play a LIVE group game with one other participant. The experiment should take about 30 minutes.

In this study, you will be paid in the following ways:

1. An initial participation payment ($1.00)
2. Answering the comprehension questions ($0.02 per question)
3. Waiting to be connected to a partner ($0.05 per minute)
4. Playing the game ($0.01 for every 10 cattle, $1.85 on average)
5. Answering optional post-game questions ($0.01 per question)

**Instructions – Playing the Game**

Your goal is to manage a herd of cattle over time, and to survive for as long as possible.

You will begin the game with 70 cattle. You will play for several rounds, with each round acting as a "year" of time. Each year, the size of your herd will grow or shrink, and you will have an opportunity to ask for cattle from the other player in your group.

In order to survive, you must keep your herd size above the "survival threshold" of 64 cattle. Below this threshold, it is impossible to remain a herder.

**Instructions – Playing the Game**

Each year is made up of several stages:

1. **Herd births and deaths.** Cattle will be born, and your herd will increase. You may then experience a "disaster". If a disaster happens, some of your cattle will die. Disasters are unpredictable.
2. **Ask for cattle.** You will have the opportunity to ask for cattle from the other player.
3. **Respond to others.** If the other player asks for cattle from you, you will have the opportunity to respond.
4. **End of Year.** If your herd size is below the "survival threshold" of 64 cattle at the end of the year, a warning message will come up telling you to increase your herd back above the threshold. If your herd size remains under the threshold for 3 years, you will "die" and will be removed from the game.

**Instructions – Playing the Game**

In the game, the other player will always be able to see how many cattle you currently have, and you will always be able to see how many cattle they currently have. You will also be able to see when a disaster strikes the other player's herd. All cattle holdings in this game are public.

*OR*

In the game, the other player will not be able to see how many cattle you currently have, and you will not be able to see how many cattle they currently have. You will also not be able to see when a disaster strikes the other player's herd. All cattle holdings in this game are private.

**Instructions – Earning Money**

You have earned an initial $1.00 for taking part in this experiment. Also, you will earn more money by answering comprehension questions before the game starts, by waiting to be paired with another player, and from your performance in the game.

Your payment from the game is calculated by adding up the cattle you own at the beginning of every year, across the whole game (10 cattle = $0.01). For example, if you survived for ten years, with 70 cattle at the beginning of each of those years, your total would be 700 cattle and you would earn $0.70 from the game.

Therefore, to maximize your earnings, you should try to survive as long as possible, with as many cattle as you can.

**Proceed to Example Year**

To learn more about how the game works, you will now complete an Example Year with a simulated partner. Afterwards, you will complete a few comprehension questions (which we will pay you for) to test your understanding of the game.

You will start the example year with 70 cattle.

**Example Year – Begin New Year**

You are about to begin the Example Year.

You are Player 1.

**Example Year – Herd births and deaths**

After this year's births, your herd grew from 70 cattle to 74 cattle.

No disaster hit your herd this year, so your herd remained at 74 cattle.

You are above the survival threshold of 64 cattle.

Other players:

* Player 2's herd grew from 70 cattle to 74 cattle. They did not experience a disaster this year, and so their herd did not change from 74 cattle.

**Example Year – Ask for cattle**

Your current herd size is 74 cattle. You are above the survival threshold of 64 cattle.

Other players:

* Player 2's current herd size is 74 cattle.

*Would you like to ask for cattle from the other player?*

**Example Year – Ask for cattle**

Your current herd size is 74 cattle. You are above the survival threshold of 64 cattle.

Other players:

* Player 2's current herd size is 74 cattle.

You would like to ask for cattle from Player 2. You currently have 74 cattle. Player 2 has 74 cattle.

*How many cattle would you like to ask this player for?*

**Example Year – All cattle transfers**

This year's cattle transfers:

* Player 2 sent 10 cattle to you.

**End of Example Year**

Your final herd size for the Example Year is 84 cattle. You have ended the year above the survival threshold of 64 cattle.

Other players' final herd size:

* Player 2's final herd size is 64 cattle.

**Comprehension Questions**

Thank you for completing the example year. Please now complete the following comprehension questions. We will pay you an extra $0.02 for every correct answer. If you get a question wrong, a hint will come up and you will have a chance to correct your answer.

1. *What is the minimum herd size survival threshold?* ***[64 cattle]***
2. *A player dies if they remain under the threshold for how many years?* ***[3 years]***
3. *Each year proceeds in which of the following orders?* ***[Herd births and deaths -> Ask for cattle -> End of year]***
4. *After herd births and deaths...* ***[Players can ask for cattle, and respond to requests from others]***
5. *Your payment for how you play the game depends on...* ***[BOTH the amount of cattle you begin each year with AND the number of years you survive]***
6. *Overall payment from this experiment comes from...* ***[All of the above]***
7. *The other player in the game can see how many cattle I have, and I can see how many they have.* ***[True / False]***

**Begin Study**

Thank you. You completed all the comprehension questions correctly. You will now be paired with another player to complete the real game. If you enter the waiting lobby, we will pay you $0.05 for each minute spent waiting to be connected (maximum $0.50). When a partner has been found, you will immediately begin the study.

This will be a LIVE INTERACTION with another REAL PLAYER.

Please pay attention during the game, otherwise the other player will have to wait for you. If you have to wait too long for the other player, you may abandon the game. If this happens, you will proceed to the end of the game and your game payment will be saved.

If you are ready, click Next to be paired with another participant.

***Main game then follows same page templates as example year***

**Earnings**

In total, you earned $X.XX from this study.

1. Your initial participation payment ($1.00)
2. Answering the comprehension questions ($0.14)
3. Waiting to be connected to a partner ($X.XX)
4. Playing the game ($X.XX)

**What was this experiment about?**

Research shows that people may not pay attention when answering questions. If you are reading this, please select the last choice in the following question – the one at the very bottom of the list. Thank you for participating and taking the time to read through the questions carefully.

**Exit Survey**

The following questions are not compulsory, but we will pay you an extra $0.01 on top of what you have already earned for each question answered.

Please state to what extent you agree / disagree with the statements below.

* *I felt bad for my partner when they asked me for cattle.*
* *I felt that it was fair to give cattle to my partner when asked me for cattle.*
* *One way to survive for more years was to give cattle to my partner when they asked.*
* *One way to survive for more years was to keep all the cattle to myself.*
* *If you ever gave cattle to your partner, why did you give? [open-ended]*

**Feedback**

Thank you very much for completing this experiment.

The following questions are not compulsory, but we will pay you an extra $0.01 on top of what you have already earned for each question answered.

Please state to what extent you agree / disagree with the statements below.

* *I felt under time pressure to make decisions during the game.*
* *I felt that I was waiting a long time for the other player.*
* *The instructions for the game were easy to understand.*
* *Any other feedback? [open-ended]*