

LESSON NOTE 6

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT



This refers to the activities carried out by a farmer in his effort to raise farm animals from day old to the point of marketing or disposing the animals. It can also be defined as the rearing of animals and birds in a farm.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

In order to successfully manage livestock for management, the following factors or requirement has to be made available

1. Good housing in good location with necessary equipment
2. Feeding
3. Favorable climatic condition
4. Knowledge of animal breed being produced
5. Knowledge of pest and diseases
6. Hygiene
7. Finance etc.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR NON RUMINANT ANIMAL

PIG FARMING

There are 3 systems of rearing pigs namely

1. **The extensive system** in which the pigs are allowed to roam about and fend for themselves. No capital is invested in this method and production cost is low.
2. **Semi-intensive** in which houses are provided for the pigs and they are allowed to move out to feed on natural vegetation. The house is usually fenced.
3. **Intensive system** in which the pigs are confined within a building and not allowed to move out.

Housing



Pigs are housed in pens which should be sited far from residential areas because of their noise and odor. The pens should be constructed to allow free air flow, the floors hard and slightly rough to make cleaning easy and prevent pigs from slipping.

Feeding



A balanced diet should be offered to pigs but not in excess to prevent excessive fat deposit. During fattening stage, fatteners should mash should be given till they reach a market weight of 60-90kg at 7months.

Health/ hygiene



Pig pens should be cleaned regularly and disinfected. Their water and feeding troughs should be cleaned to prevent contamination. The pigs should be dewormed and vaccinated against diseases.

Finishing



weighing pig before sale

Once piglets are born, heat should be provided to prevent cold and 2 doses of iron dextran injections to avoid baby pig anemia. Male piglets not needed for breeding are castrated at 2 weeks of age and are weaned at 42 days. Weaners are fed with weaning mash and fatteners mash a few weeks later. Fatteners reach market weight at about 5-6 months of age depending on management and nutrition.

HOME FUN

Identify 4 diseases and parasites of pigs.