

Effect of Drought on Livestock in North-Central State

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THE North-Central State is located between 6°-9° East 13° North and 9.05° south, thus it can be easily seen that by virtue of its geographical location the more northern part of the State will fall within the drought-affected belt of West Africa, which is now considered virtually a disaster zone for both human and animals alike because of the great shortage of food, water and grazing.

Rainfall Pattern

The rainfall pattern for the last six years in three of the principal towns in the state has been sporadic, inconsistent and far below average (table 1). The average rain-fall figures of these major towns prior to 1968 are:

Katsina 35", Zaria 42" and Kaduna 55".

TABLE 1

Annual rainfall figures in Katsina, Zaria and Kaduna; 1968 — 1973

Year	Total rainfall, invher		
	Katrina	Zaria	Kaduna
1968	23.5	39.5	32.2
1969	22.5	40.5	77.2
1970	25.5	34.0	21.2
1971	21.2	31.7	32.0
1972	24.5	39.0	79.3
1973	20.5	41.2	20.2
Average	24.6	37.7	73.3

Thus from the foregoing figures it can be seen there is a deviation from the norm. In addition, within the last two years the rainfall pattern has been characterized by a period of heavy down pour followed immediately by another period of a long dry spell which consequently caused crops and other vegetation to shrivel and die, thereby creating a complete failure especially in the northern and drier areas of the state.

Livestock Population

The latest estimated livestock population figures in the state recorded in 1972/73 are: Cattle 408,938; Sheep 1,189,572; Goats 779,450; Horses 431,778; Donkeys 151,621.

Before the onset of the drought, over 70% of total estimated livestock population of all species indicated above were usually found in the northern areas of the

Livestock population in the affected areas as estimated

i) The livestock population in the worst affected area are:

<i>District</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>
Daura	5219	7123	20177	187	1879
Baure	9148	923	48184	1240	6819
Zango	12646	13935	32601	2100	6519
Mai'aduwa	11207	10882	46594	875	4566
Sandamu	9685	6889	20332	2773	472
Mani	12632	16122	77141	1617	7416
Mashi	14972	11801	46958	1398	5646
Dutsi	7876	2238	9443	815	3174
Tsagero	1614	2374	1211	214	2021
Total	84999	72287	296301	12019	36748
No. of animal units	84999	18072	74075	12019	36748

Total number of animal units + 225,913

ii) The livestock population in the areas approximately 50% affected by the drought:

<i>District</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>
Katsina	7185	15425	28247	738	5489
Kaita	16254	30650	77527	1714	9010
Jibia	4242	9915	38994	247	1963
Ingawa	15157	11810	42086	1840	4357
Rimi	7858	63441	86080	889	9199
Bindawa	6873	9098	22097	664	3728
Batagarawa	4403	6834	15104	194	2205
Batsari	12978	8431	2224	1324	2458
Total	72910	155602	312359	7310	38446
No. of animal units	72910	38900	78090	7310	38446

Total number of animal units + 235,656

State where "tsetse" fly challenge-major inhibitor in livestock development-is unknown.

Effect of Drought on Livestock

The devastating effect of the drought will be with us for a long time in this state as numerous livestock of great economic

importance have either perished due to starvation because of lack of grazing and water or have been rendered completely emaciated and unproductive. Thousand of valuable young breeding stock have been slaughtered untimely, thereby creating severe losses in the livestock industry.

Records from Cattle Market

Records for 1973 from important cattle markets, particularly in the drought affected areas of the State shows that young stock 37,052 males and 21,115 females under 4 years were brought to the markets for sale primarily for slaughter (Table 2). Thus it can easily be seen that the high proportion of young females under four years of age should definitely

cause a serious alarm, as this amounts to wanton destruction of the actual breeding stock, the consequence of which will certainly be disastrous not only to this state but to the nation as a whole in the very near future. Already, Nigeria has a serious meat shortage and the picture will be more gloomy in years to come if this massive destruction of valuable breeding stock is allowed to continue.

Table 2. Important Cattle Market figures, December 1972-November, 1973

Name of Market	Market Population	Local and on Permit	Imported	Males Over 4 yrs.	Males Under 4 yrs.	Females over 4 yrs.	Females under 4 yrs.	Total
1. Daura	5,398	336	2,327	1,261	721	421	260	2,663
2. Ma'aidua	11,701	5,723	27,177	12,258	7,886	8,840	3,916	32,900
3. Kanda	12,891	1,814	4,703	3,211	1,356	1,555	395	6,517
4. Garki	9,714	1,726	3,289	1,970	3,230	980	435	5,815
5. Ingawa	15,171	454	—	283	170	37	24	454
6. Kan Musa	34,808	5,615	—	1,961	1,277	1,169	1,208	5,615
7. Iutsin Ma	—	17,768	—	6,639	4,303	3,716	3,110	17,768
8. Batsari	—	2,007	—	859	384	590	274	2,007
9. Iankama (Kaita)	16,237	—	4,674	1,010	1,274	1,485	905	4,674
10. Mashi	14,743	10,905	—	3,293	2,554	3,266	1,792	10,905
11. Jibia	4,872	3,186	11,952	7,358	2,811	3,347	1,622	15,138
12. Dutsi	8,622	5,846	—	2,867	1,615	740	624	5,846
13. A'iwa	5,551	17,586	—	5,634	3,968	4,742	3,242	17,586
14. Charanchi	5,929	10,119	—	3,587	3,098	1,965	1,468	10,118
15. Rin'in Baushi (Bindawa)	6,860	5,071	—	1,168	1,358	1,271	1,271	5,071
16. Katsina	5,551	5,543	—	1,570	1,047	2,060	566	5,243
Total	224,877	98,179	54,622	54,069	37,052	36,184	112,12	148,420

In view of the prevailing conditions due to the drought effect, such young breedable females are flooding all major livestock markets for this inevitable fatal journey to slaughter houses. This unhealthy situation must be arrested at once, and it is therefore suggested that some positive steps be taken to save these valuable breeding stock from untimely death thereby depleting both the state and the national herds.

Remedial Measures

In view of the deplorable situation now facing the livestock industry it is suggested

that the following long term measures be undertaken by all States Governments, Federal Government and related agencies:

- That an active breedable female recovery programme be undertaken in order to stop large scale slaughter of young females or potentially breedable old females for a minimum period of ten years;
- That the Federal Government should give top priority to and speed up the tsetse eradication programme so that livestock could move there and reproduce in these areas freed from tsetse fly manifestation.

- (c) Acquisition, establishment, and development of more areas as grazing reserves and pastures with plenty of drinking water for livestock through construction of earth dams.

It is certain that more difficult years for the livestock industry are ahead because of ever increasing human population which gives rise to a high demand for animal protein, and with numerous problems

now facing the industry ranging from diseases to malnutrition, starvation or even death due to drought. It is indeed a challenge to all professionals in this discipline to come up with permanent, practical and realistic solutions to these problems for the well-being of all, through careful, organised and coordinated planning.

Average of 1960-1964	
Forest lands	6,740,000
Non-Agricultural lands	23,000
(Forest, pasture, etc.)	2,670,000
Forest reserves	2,670,000
Unimproved forest and brush	2,670,000
Waste land (barren and	2,670,000
etc.)	2,670,000
Total	10,210,000

We agree with the Federal Livestock Department estimate that for the estimated 200,000 cattle in the State to survive, we