
ANIMAL WELFARE AND CRUELTY RELATED ISSUES ON SHEEP AT THE ABATTOIRS, ANIMALS FARMS AND LIVESTOCK MARKETS IN BAUCHI METROPOLIS, BAUCHI STATE.

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ABSTRACT

Thee Research was conducted to determine the "Animal welfare and cruelty related issues in sheep observed in abattoirs, animals farms and livestock markets in Bauchi metropolis, Bauchi State, Nigeria. Data were collected between April to July 2022. Male farmers were more engaged (69%) in sheep rearing than female 31%. Car was the most used (39%) means of transportation while the other means of animals transportation apart from use of trucks/motorcycle were found to be the lowest (3%) for the condition animals that reach the farms 60(60%) of sheep arrived to slaughter house, livestock farm and markets in healthy condition while 40(40%) arrived unhealthy. Out of one hundred animals observed in the study, 32(32%) enter vehicles by beating, 21(21) by loading devices, 38 (38) with gradual manipulations but only 5 (5) by beating and gradual manipulations while 4(4%) through other means into vehicles. It was also observed that 79(79%) of farms that keep sheep dewormed their animals while 21(21%) does not dewormed the animals. It was therefore concluded that the cases of animals cruelty cannot be over looked as it has proven to several implications to animal health and production as well as humanity in general.

Keywords: Animal welfare, cruelty transport, market and abattoir

INTRODUCTION

Animal welfare is an essential element of modern animal production. First and foremost, animal welfare is grounded on ethical concerns that derive from the fact that animal are sentient beings (Le Neindre *et al.*, 2017). Animal cruelty is defined as any intentional and repeated behavior that causes physical or psychological distress in animals, including, but not limited to, causing unnecessary pain, suffering, distress, or death of an animal (Felthous, 2016; Dadds, 2018 and Ascione, 2019).

Sheep production contributes to the domestic meat production in Nigeria and serve as source of income to the rural farmers especially during festive season. The products from sheep farming i.e. meat, milk and wool are increasing in demand globally thereby indicating the importance of this agricultural sector (Mehdi elGHarbi *et al.*, 2015; Ferguson *et al.*, 2017). As new technologies develops, it is likely that current sheep production system will change in order to evolve a parallel with new knowledge gained which will lead to improved systems and practices that maximize productivity maintaining the welfare of the animals (Al-Dawood, 2017; Mohammed *et al.*, 2019 and Vera-Herrera *et al.*, 2019).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria. Bauchi lies between latitude 90N and 120N of the equator and between longitude 80E and 110E of the Greenwich Meridian (Vera *et al.*, 2019).

Research Sample and Sampling Technique

Stratified sampling procedure was used to select a sample area for the study which represents the entire Bauchi metropolis. The total study sample used was 100 animals in the study area. (sheep)

Data Collection Instrument

The data used for the study was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected through the administration of structured questionnaires, while secondary information were obtained from journals, books and records from Bauchi State Agricultural Development Programme (BSADP). Multi-stage sampling procedure and simple random sampling technique were employed for selecting the respondents in the study area.

Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The responses indicated majority of the respondents to be male (69%) while 31% were female. It was also observed that majority of the respondents (60%) control animals ectoparasites by dipping/spraying while 40% were found to control ectoparasites by hand picking. This was similar to the findings of Hemiswork, 2020 in North America who reported that majority of respondents practice dipping/praying as a means of ticks control rather than hand picking. Most of the farmers (79%) dewormed their animals.

Table 1 : Respondents Biodata (N=100)

Socio-Demographic	Variables	Freq (%)
Gender	Male	69
	Female	31
Deworming the animal	Yes	79
	No	21
Ticks control	Hand picking	40
	Dipping or spraying	60

The results in table 2 indicated that majority (47%) of the respondents used cars as a means of transportation while the least (18%) uses motor cycle. The conditions in which animals reach market/slaughter house showed that majority (60%) were in healthy condition, while 40% of the animals were observed to reach the markets in a stressful and unhealthy condition. This is as reported by Gallo *et al* (2003) a similar research carried out in Uruguay.

Table2: Animals transportation means and management system (N=100)

Socio-Demographic	Variables	Freq. (%)
Means of Animals transportation	Car	47
	Truck	35
	Motor cycle	18
Conditions animals reach markets/slaughter house	Healthy	60
	Unhealthy	40
If unhealthy conditions above	Bruising	22
	Dislocation	11
	Fracture	15
	Decumbency	19
	Death	5
	Bruising/Dislocation	11
	Bruising fracture/death	8
	Bruising/fracture/decumbency	9
Animals entering vehicles for transportation	Beating	32
	Loading device	21
	Gradual manipulation	38
	Beating/gradually manipulating	5
	Others mean	4
Management System of production		51
		33
		16

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Majority of animals 39% were transported to the abattoir or markets in cars. Also large numbers of animals 32% were found to undergo severe beating while loading into vehicles before transportation. Large numbers of animals 40% were observed to reach markets in unhealthy conditions,

the study area attributed to the fact that more male individuals found to be engaged in activities in abattoir, animals' farms and livestock markets

- i. **Vehicles intended for carrying of animals must also be provided with a ventilation system.**
- ii. There is a responsibility on market operators to ensure that all staff handling livestock are informed of the basic principles of the current legislation and were aware of best practice as outlined in the Codes of Practice.
- iii. There is the need for socio-cultural re-education and public enlightenment on animals welfare and right to create a consumer based that concern itself with animal rights and welfare which is the basis for recreating a robust and competitive animal right and welfare systems in Bauchi state.

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