

## FOETAL WASTAGE OF FOOD ANIMALS (CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOAT) SLAUGHTERED IN KANO MAIN ABATTOIR

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### ABSTRACT

A 3-months active abattoir surveillance study was carried out to determine the foetal wastage of food animal slaughtered in Kano Main Abattoir. The results in this study showed that more female goats 2874 (72.55%), sheep 2138 (78.14%) and cattle 3032 (70.94%) respectively were slaughtered than males of goat 1087 (10.87%), sheep 598 (21.85%) and cattle 1242 (29.03%) respectively. Of the slaughtered does, ewes and dams 8.94%, 10.52% and 2.86% respectively were detected to be pregnant. The result of this study demonstrated cases of foetal wastage due to slaughter of pregnant animals. Furthermore, this practice further reduces the availability of animal protein for Kano City populace. It is therefore suggested that suitable measures including legislation enforcement, capacity building on pregnancy diagnosis for abattoir staff be put in place to regulate the slaughter of pregnant stock. Traders and livestock owners should be informed on the implication on foetal losses and sustainability of meat production associated with continued slaughtering of female and pregnant animals.

**Keywords:** Abattoir, foetal loss, does, ewes, dams, Ruminants.

### INTRODUCTION

The need for adequate human nutrition cannot be over emphasized, not to talk of acute protein mal nutrition that is endemic in the most developing countries (FAO/WHO, 1983; Adass *et al.*, 2010), Nigeria inclusive.

In Nigeria the situation is largely due to low economic standards of the citizens and worthy to note are many other factors including inadequate meat inspection practices have also been contributory. An undesirable effect of these lapses in veterinary public health duties is the indiscriminate slaughtering of pregnant animals (Garba, *et al.*, 1992; Adass *et al.*, 2010).

Today there exist a wide disparity between the Food and Agricultural Organization report for the quantity of animal protein intake of 35kg/person/day and the actual protein intake by Nigerians and this is due to several factors that account for inadequate supply of meat in Nigeria bringing less consumption of meat compared to plant source of protein which is relatively cheaper. The animal product in the diet of average Nigerian has been diminishing year after year due to the low-level of output which results from decline in productivity of the national herd (Oyensa, 1987) the common

animals slaughtered for meat in Nigeria are cattle, goat, sheep, pig and poultry. Others include camel, buffalo, donkeys, horses, rabbit and other games and forest animals that are edible (Alabi, 1993).

A decrease in animal growth rate in Nigeria, CBN, (CBN, 1993) annual report showed that there was a decline in the percentage contribution of livestock sector to the gross domestic product (GDP) between 1991 and 1995). If the situation is compared to with the rapid growth in human population of 21% per annual and the diminishing disposable income, and average growth rate of 1.6% per annual in the livestock product on index grim prospect for animal protein supply and this situation is tragic. The economic recession that has been witnessed in Nigeria since the 1980s has brought deterioration in quality and quantity of animal protein in the diet of Nigerians, this has forced farmers to sell out and consequently slaughtering of not only prone breeding males, but also pregnant animal (Ogwuegbu *et al.*, 2009). The slaughter of pregnant domestic animal *vis-a-vis* cattle sheep and goat will worsen the already precarious supply of animal

protein to the populace as well as threatens the Nigerian livestock industry.

Wastage of conception through indiscriminate slaughter of pregnant female animal is one of the most destructive practices, Man has ever used against his production endeavour. For more reason livestock production has been observed as being vital to the substance and economic development in Africa where it provide years round flow of essential food and non-food production sustain the employment and income of millions of people and also contribute draught of power and manure for crops (Rege, 1998). The objective of this study is to determine the number of food animal slaughter with fetus in Kano main abattoir at the same time giving awareness to the people (or butchers) to detect ante mortem before animals is allowed to enter the slaughtering hall.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out at a Kano Main Abattoir. The Kano main abattoir was constructed in 1966, it is located at Kofar Mazugal Kano, Nigeria. The abattoir receive a slaughter ruminant animal from various part of the region, the abattoir provide livestock meat for human consumption. At operation the abattoir has a daily slaughter of around 275 of goat, 221 of sheep and 435 of cattle daily.

##### Animals Used

The sex of cattle, sheep and goat were identified and marked as they entered the slaughtering hall randomly. Hand glove, designed data sheet, knives, lab coat, rain boot and pins were used.

##### Data Collection

Data were collected once per week (Monday) from 6-9 am during which animal slaughtering take place, data collected include total number of cattle, sheep and goat slaughtered daily, number of males and females per breed slaughtered daily, total number of female animal with foetus per breed were kept.

##### Data Analysis

Data collected were subjected to Descriptive statistic using WASP statistical software. Frequency and percentages of pregnant slaughtered cattle, sheep and goat and the foetal wastage encountered from the female animals were analysed.

#### Ethic Statement

The permission to carry out the study was generated by the in-charge of the abattoir who issued research permit to conduct this active abattoir assessment work in Kano city. Verbal consent was obtained from each of the trade stock owner after explaining the purpose and importance of the study prior to start of data collection.

#### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In a period of 12 weeks study (May-July) 2016, 3961 goats, 2736 sheep and 4274 cattle were presented to the abattoir and slaughtered. The majority of the stock was local breed (Red Sokoto goat, Ouda, Yankasa, Balami sheep and White Fulani Red Bororo Cattle and of medium to measure size. In goat 1087 (27.44%) males and 2874 (72.55%) females of which 257 (8.94%) were pregnant, in sheep 598 (21.85%) males and 2138 (78.14%) females of which 225 (10.52%) were pregnant and in cattle 1242 (29.03%) males and 3032 (70.94%) females of which 87 (2.86%) were pregnant respectively. The result of proportion of males and females and pregnant does, ewes and dams slaughtered are shown in table 1.

#### DISCUSSION

The result in this study revealed that more female goat, sheep and cattle were slaughtered than males. The low percentage of male animals is due to the fact that male animals are set aside and fattened before sale for specific occasions to fetch higher price than ordinary market days. The higher rates of females animals slaughtered in this study is in accordance with the work of (Bokko, 2011). In an abattoir survey of sheep and goat in the Gambia, west Africa 60% of the 1,248 female goats slaughtered at an abattoir over period of 1 year were pregnant (Goossens *et al.*, 1998). Both the sample size and the duration of study in that survey were different from the present study.

The average foetal wastage rate of 8.94% in goat and 10.52 in sheep revealed in this survey is lower than other observed rates of 57% reported by Mohammad *et al.* (2009) in Nigerian. The reason for the rate observed is that probably

farmers and traders are aware of the loss observed during slaughtering.

The ever increasing slaughtered ruminant stock in their various stages of gestation has some additional motives other lack of competence on pregnancy (PD) or gross ignorance. It is also possible that livestock keepers/ or traders sell pregnant female because, phenotypically they appear heavier and presentable and consequently sell at prices as posed to non pregnant ones.

Financial limitation in time of crises such as dry season may motivate indiscriminate sale of female for slaughter. The high volume of foetal wastage encountered poses significant threats not only to meat and livestock production but also to the economy of the country.

### CONCLUSION

The study has indicated that the foetal wastage or loses associated with slaughtering of female stock population is observed in Kano region as described elsewhere across the African continent. An important factor contributing to the increasing in the slaughtering of pregnant stock is poor abattoirs infrastructures, lack of technical know how on pregnancy diagnosis among abattoir members of staffs, poverty, cash challenges and ignorance among livestock keepers and traders and lack of enforcement of livestock legislation.

Therefore, it is recommended that urgent need of creating more awareness and educational campaign towards behavioral changes among keepers, traders and butcheries toward the slaughter of pregnant animals. Appropriate measures including legislation enforcement,

capacity building on pregnant diagnosis for abattoir staff be put in place to control the slaughtering of female animals and pregnant stock.

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**Table 1: Proportion of Food Animals (Goat, Sheep and Cattle Slaughtered in the Abattoir, Kano, Nigerian (May-July 2016)**

Species	Parameters	Number	Proportion (%)
Goat	Total goat slaughtered	3961	
	Female goat slaughtered	2874	72.55%
	Male goat slaughtered	1087	27.44%
	Pregnant goat slaughtered	257	8.94%
Sheep	Total sheep slaughtered	2736	
	Female sheep slaughtered	2138	78.14%
	Male sheep slaughtered	598	21.85%
	Pregnant sheep slaughtered	225	10.52%
Cattle	Total cattle slaughtered	4274	
	Female cattle slaughtered	3032	70.94%
	Male cattle slaughtered	1242	29.05%
	Pregnant cattle slaughtered	87	2.86%