

MONTHLY DIGEST

(Livestock/Dairy Sub sector)



EAC LIVESTOCK SECTOR NEWS UPDATES

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List of Abbreviations / Acronyms

ABS	African Breeders Services Ltd limited
AEZ	Agro-Ecological Zone
ASF	African Swine Fever
CBPP	Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
DFID	Department of International Development
EAAPP	Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Project
EADD	East African Dairy Development
EASZ	East African Shorthorn Zebu
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
MT	Metric Tonnes
SMS	Short Message Service
TDA	Trans-boundary Animal Diseases
USAID	United States Development Agency
VAT	Value Added Tax
VWB	Veterinarians Without Borders

1. EFFORTS TOWARDS CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN UGANDA AND TANZANIA

1.1 Altitude determines susceptibility of cattle to trematodes: case study of Iringa Rural District, Tanzania

A study conducted to investigate the epidemiology of trematode infections in cattle in the highlands and lowlands areas of Iringa Rural District in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania has revealed that cattle in the highlands are more susceptible to infections by trematode than their counterparts in the lowlands. The study concluded that high altitude is a contributing factor in trematode infections among cattle thus calling for heightened control measures in these areas.

Nzalawahe J., Kassuku A., Stothard J., Coles G. and Eisler M. (2015): Associations between trematode infections in cattle and freshwater snails in highland and lowland areas of Iringa Rural District, Tanzania. *Parasitology / Volume 142 / Issue 11 / September 2015, pp 1430-1439*
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9915478&fileId=S0031182015000827>

1.2 ‘Gendering’ of Delivery of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) vaccine in Northeastern Kenya found to be effective

“Women should be included as relevant stakeholders in the cattle industry in North Eastern Kenya to prevent spread of cattle lung disease”. This is a recommendation that came from a recent study by ILRI to investigate delivery mechanisms that exist for cattle lung disease vaccine scientifically known as contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and a comparison between adoption of prevention methods by men and women. The study also established that a dual mechanism of public and private actors exists whereby households that own cattle use paraprofessionals to vaccinate their animals with vaccines that they have purchased as a coping mechanism of the current shortage of veterinarians in the region. However, the study found out that men are willing to pay significantly more money, owing to their comparatively greater control of cattle compared to women. In addition, whereas women appeared to be more knowledgeable about clinical signs of early manifestation of the disease, men knew more about latter stages of the disease. Therefore, bridging the knowledge gap presents an opportunity for preventing the spread of cattle lung disease. Indeed, if women alerted the community when they see early signs of disease, it would lead to quarantine of suspect animals and herds and ring vaccination to uninfected animals ultimately preventing the spread of the disease.

Waithanji, E., Mtimet, N. and Muindi, P. 2015. Delivery of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) vaccine in northeastern Kenya. ILRI Discussion paper 31. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. 7 September 2015
<http://livelihoods-gender.ilri.org/2015/09/02/gender-in-delivery-of-contagious-bovine-pleuropneumonia-vaccine-lessons-from-kenya/>

1.3 Do Pigs have a role to play in transmission of Ebola? Case study of Uganda

Increasing importance of piggery in many households in Uganda and proportionate increase in emergence of zoonotic diseases such as bird flu in recent times has elicited a study to investigate the role of pigs in transmission of Ebola. The concern is specifically that expanding pig populations, particularly under free-range systems that may share habitat with fruit bats which are suitable hosts for the Ebola virus would render pigs as possible hosts of the deadly virus. The study which was conducted by scientists from ILRI and published in the journal of Transboundary and Emerging Diseases found out that there is no substantial evidence that pigs have any role in past outbreaks of Ebola in Uganda. However, the researchers recommended further study to better understand the inter-relationship between pigs, the Ebola virus and other emerging zoonotic diseases. This would aid in efficient allocation of otherwise scarce veterinary and medical health resources in the country.

<http://news.ilri.org/2015/09/01/new-study-recommends-continued-research-on-the-possible-role-pigs-could-play-in-transmitting-ebola-in-uganda/>

1.4 Spatial Differences in occurrence of brucellosis among indigenous cattle populations in Uganda

Agro-ecological predisposition has a role to play in occurrence of brucellosis in indigenous cattle in Uganda. This was a finding from a study conducted to determine prevalence of the disease among Ankole *Bos taurus indicus*, Nganda East African Shorthorn Zebu (EASZ) cattle. North Eastern Highlands of Uganda exhibited higher rates of brucellosis prevalence compared to those from lowland areas of Lake Victoria Crescent (LVC). Furthermore, the study found a correlation between brucellosis and incidences of abortions of infected herds. Scientists noted that these findings reinforce existing evidence on widespread occurrence of brucellosis among indigenous cattle populations in Uganda and could be used to inform future deployment of control strategies and creation of awareness.

Kabi F., Muwanika V. and Masembe C. (2015): Spatial distribution of *Brucella* antibodies with reference to indigenous cattle populations among contrasting agro-ecological zones of Uganda. Preventive Veterinary Medicine: Volume 121, Issues 1-2, 1 September 2015, Pages 56-63
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167587715002196Abstract>

1.5 Campaign on prevention of Transboundary Animal Diseases launched in Karamoja region of Uganda

Karamoja region of Uganda is the latest recipient of FAO's support in the livestock sub-sector in Uganda as it plays host to a three months long vaccination programme aimed at controlling livestock diseases and enhancing resilience. The programme which is implemented in conjunction with the Government of Uganda will target control and prevention of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TDAs) involving over two million livestock animals including cattle, goats and sheep.

The intervention dubbed “Strategic livestock vaccination programme” has been informed by the fact that Karamoja region is typified by pastoral movement of livestock animals, a situation that drives the spread of TDAs especially Foot and Mouth Disease. The campaign which is funded by the United Kingdom’s Department of International Development (DFID) will see 500,000 and 240,000 cattle vaccinated against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) respectively, 1,000,000 goats and sheep against combined Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) also known as ‘goat plague’ and Sheep/Goat Pox, and 400,000 goats against Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) by the end of December, 2015. The programme is expected to reinforce resilience of the already fragile region which is host to a big percentage of the national livestock herd and whose livelihoods heavily depend on livestock.

1.6 Uganda butchers trained on hygiene and biosafety practices in handling of pork products

Uganda has the highest annual per capita consumption of pork in EAC at 3.4kg. Implicitly, there are a lot of activities that go on along the value chain to deliver the ‘delicacy’ to a Ugandan table. However, these activities are largely not done in a proper way to ensure hygiene and health of consumers. For example, the country only has one centralized pork slaughterhouse in Kampala that supplies a big percentage of the pork consumed in the city and its environs. It is against this backdrop that scientists from ILRI and Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB) have partnered with Mukono Local Government and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) to train pork butchers in Mukono District on pork hygiene, carcass handling and biosecurity practices.

The researchers developed a manual using data collected from Masaka, Mukono and other peri-urban areas around Kampala on proper post-mortem exam techniques, common endemic and zoonotic diseases of importance to pork butchers in Uganda, important hygiene and sanitation protocols, and biosecurity practices. Forty seven butchers from Mukono municipality, where most pork from the district is consumed, benefited from the training.

<http://www.ilri.org/uganda>

1.7 Ugandan Farmers trained on Biosecurity measures as an alternative control of African swine fever

As reported in the July-August article 2015 article of this Livestock news series, farmers in Masaka district were lamenting loss of their animals to the endemic African Swine Fever (ASF) and were calling on official from ILRI to help them alleviate the problem. This call was headed as pig farmers in Lira and Masaka districts in Uganda have benefited from training on biosecurity measures to control African Swine Fever (ASF) spearheaded by ILRI. The training comes against a backdrop of non-existence of neither a vaccine nor a cure for the disease currently and the significant challenge the disease poses to smallholder pig farmers in Uganda. Indeed, ASF is endemic in Uganda with outbreaks occurring years on end. Although occurrence of the disease causes huge economic losses due to massive loss of the herd, there is limited knowledge on its

transmission and control among pig farmers. The training used participatory tools which included group discussions, case studies, demonstration, brainstorming, session stories and practical/observations which benefited 800 and 356 farmers in Masaka and Lira respectively. Refresher training is planned for January 2016. Preceding the training of farmers was training of extension staff who will in turn extend training to other farmers and follow up on implementation. Technicians from other institutions including CHAIN Uganda, Voluntary Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO), Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MUZARDI) and ADINA Farm all partners with ILRI also benefited from the training. <http://livestockfish.cgiar.org/2015/09/11/asf-training-uganda/>

2. USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND ACCESS TO MARKET INFORMATION IN TANZANIA

2.1 Genetic improvement project to increase milk yields of indigenous cattle herds in Tanzania

An ILRI-led project dubbed “Tanzania Dairy Genetic Project (AgriTT)” is being implemented in Lushoto and Rangwe districts in Tanzania in efforts to improve breed composition of hitherto indigenous dairy cattle that are unsuitable for most environments in the country. These environments, combined with poor dairy management practices results in low milk production. Currently, farmers-led initiatives to improve the situation have revolved around cross-breeding indigenous animals with higher producing ones. However, due to the absence of a breeding and mating strategy, resulting breed composition of these animals is unknown, making it extremely difficult to improve low milk yields. The project seeks to find and transfer knowledge on dairy cattle genotypes that will help farmers identify dairy breeds most suitable to farm environments thus increasing their yields.

<http://clippings.ilri.org/2015/09/15/animal-genetics-project-seeks-to-understand-and-improve-tanzanias-dairy-herd-to-increase-milk-yields/>

2.2 New study calls for increased awareness to boost milk consumption in Tanzania

A study conducted by East African Dairy Development (EADD) II project has revealed that limited awareness of health benefits of milk has curtailed increased consumption of the commodity thereby dampening prospects of increased milk production in Tanzania. The study also showed that dairy products take a back seat as consumers prefer other beverages such as teas, carbonated soft drinks and porridge. Benchmarking the findings against the scenario in Kenya, the biggest producer of milk in the EAC region, the survey revealed that despite Tanzania having a bigger stock of dairy cattle, the country produces about 2.06 billion litres of milk per year compared to its counterpart’s 5.2 billion litres of milk annually with a national average per capita milk consumption of 47 litres per person per year.

As a result ,researchers in the EADD project are calling for more efforts by stakeholders in the dairy sector to popularize milk products as a healthier and more nutritious alternative. However,

other constraints such as quality, price and seasonal fluctuations will also need to be addressed so as to boost consumption of dairy products.

<http://clippings.ilri.org/2015/09/22/new-study-calls-for-more-awareness-and-promotional-campaigns-to-boost-milk-consumption-in-tanzania/>

3. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT TO INCREASE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN EAC

3.1 Host Countries of EAAP request for Extension

Four countries which benefited from the first phase of the funded Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Project (EAAPP) have appealed to the World Bank to extend its support for phase two to continue with the gains made during the first phase. Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda which have seen establishment of Centers of Excellence for the commodities of interest of the programme: wheat, dairy, rice and cassava respectively have jointed appealed to the bank noting that phase two will also aid in full exploitation of the massive infrastructure put up during phase one. As an example, an official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Kenya noted that one of the successes from phase one of EAAPP is development of dairy value chain infrastructure under the dairy Center of Excellence in Kenya that has transformed the dairy sub-sector in the country and which is available for use by other regional stakeholders. A representative from World Bank also reckoned that the projects have benefited countries especially in adoption of modern technologies in the respective value chains of concentration.

<http://in2eastfrica.net/extend-financing-for-eaapp-world-bank-told>

3.3 Fiscal Relief on feed raw materials in Kenya

It would appear that there is a wave of public commitment to boost the livestock industry going by the fiscal concessions dished out to the sub-sector by governments in the EAC. The Government of Kenya (GoK) is following in the footsteps of that of Rwanda in its plans to waive duty on raw materials imported for manufacture of feeds. Admitting that high cost of feed constrains increased commercialization of the dairy sub-sector, acting Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Kenya said that plans to waive duty on feeds would take effect in 2016. This announcement was made during the Africa Dairy Conference and Exhibition in Nairobi organized by the East and Southern African Dairy Association. Experts in the dairy industry said that this was an opportune move as demand for dairy products in the country is expected to triple against the backdrop of increased urbanization and population.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-plans-tax-waiver-animal-feeds-raw-materials>

4. KENYAN DAIRY FARMERS DISGRUNTLED BY POOR MILK PAY BY PROCESSORS

As reported in an earlier edition of this livestock news series, milk processors in Kenya had reduced buying prices of milk from farmers in June and July 2015 owing to increased supply. However, it is emerging that this move has not gone down well with farmers as they disparage high feed costs that eat into their already thin margins. Kenya Dairy Farmers Federation (KDFF), have protested the move saying that milk processors had revised farm-gate milk prices downwards by Kshs. 4 per liter without due consultations with farmers. As such, farmers are threatening to halt supply of milk to the processors until an agreement on prices is reached upon. KDFF is reading an underlying ill motive to stifle the domestic dairy industry by unscrupulous businessmen who are raking millions from importation of cheap powdered milk, a move he said would water down gains made to develop a vibrant small-scale dairy industry in Kenya.

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2000178030/dairy-farmers-in-kenya-threaten-to-cut-milk-supplies-to-processors>