



Analysis of the Current Situation and Prospects of Livestock Farmers Specializing in Meat Production in Uzbekistan

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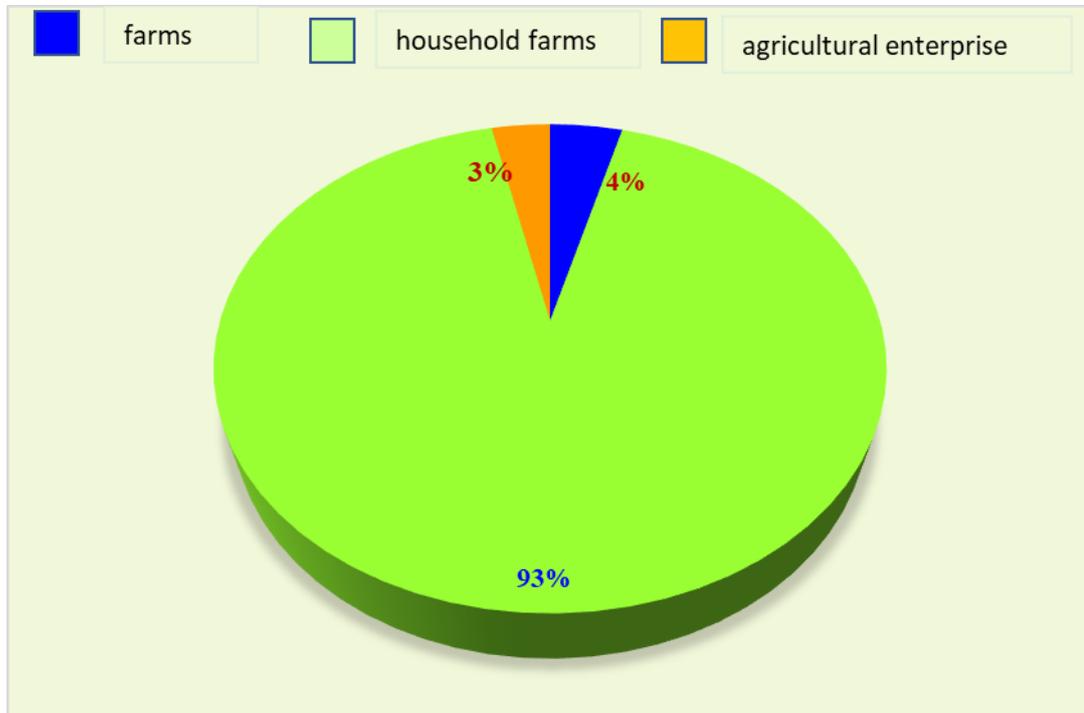
Abstract: *The growth of the world's population will increase the demand for food, including the increase in the demand for meat, which is expected to double by 2050. In most years, the supply and demand for beef in Uzbekistan was in balance, but in recent years, due to the sudden change in the climate and other factors, the supply of feed in livestock has increased in the consumer markets. There are imbalances in the supply and demand balance. Nowadays, Uzbekistan is among the countries that import meat from a self-sufficient country. This article is about the current characteristics of beef production systems in Uzbekistan and aimed at illuminating perspectives. This article presents the current state of livestock breeding in Uzbekistan, today's problems, their solutions, and scientific recommendations for the development of livestock breeding in the future. Also, the breeding work carried out in livestock farming, opinions on implementation and support mechanisms of the results of scientific research in this regard are given.*

Keywords: *import meat, cattle, livestock, support mechanisms, farmers, peasant farms, reforms, feed, ephemerals, nutritional value, protein, prices, meat market, and consumer market.*

The population of Uzbekistan was 26.3 million people in 2006, and it will reach 36.02 million people by 2023. That is, we can see that the population has grown by almost 36% in the last 17 years. The growth of the population demography, the high level of urbanization was not considered positive for the development of the country's economy, but it leads to an increase in the demand for food products, including meat and livestock products, using the available resources. Due to the fact that the majority of the population of the republic is Muslim, the consumption of beef is very high. Therefore, it is important to support livestock farms and strengthen the fodder base for the country's food security.

The total number of cattle in Uzbekistan is 13.3 million, of which 92 percent are under the care of farmers. The fact that most of the cattle are owned by the population and farmers, on the one hand, increases the employment of the population and provides additional income, but on the other hand, it limits the possibility of keeping accurate statistics on the number of cattle. It also complicates the accurate analysis of changes in the dynamics of meat production. Population growth and increasing the number of livestock and productivity are becoming one of the urgent issues. If you look at the statistics of meat production, you can see that the share of peasant farms is very high. Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows that the share of farmers in the production of livestock products is high. Because a large part of the population lives in villages and a large part of the population in mountain and sub-mountain areas is engaged in animal husbandry, the share of peasant farms in the volume of produced products is large.



1 picture. The share of meat production among peasants, farmers and agricultural enterprises.

In recent years, as a result of the imbalance between the volume of meat production and consumer demand, a sharp increase in the price of meat has been observed. It is influenced by a number of factors, but due to the complexity of keeping accurate statistics on changes in the number of livestock, as well as the complexity of forecasting the volume of meat produced by farmers, it is difficult to accurately forecast the volume of production. At the same time, the population and peasant farms increase the number of livestock due to several factors: firstly, in rural areas, livestock is mainly considered as a means of saving idle funds, increasing the number of livestock or It is not intended to increase the volume of production; secondly, the majority of farmers and residents increase the number of livestock for additional income, and if another extra income is formed, the probability of abandoning livestock is high. Also, the increase in the price of meat encourages cattle breeders, but the costs of maintaining and increasing the productivity of large horned cattle are also increasing sharply. As a result of the sharp increase in the price of meat, the government has given a number of incentives to imports¹ partial reduction of dependence on foreign meat purchases is being achieved. However, the high costs of increasing the number of livestock and strengthening the feed base require reforms in the sector.

In fact, the use of the possibilities of people's homesteads and farmers' farms in the development of animal husbandry has been used in the experiments of several countries². Although it is possible to

¹ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No. 627 dated 07.10.2021

² Widi TSM. Mapping the impact of crossbreeding in smallholder farming systems in Indonesia [PhD Thesis]. Wageningen, the Netherlands: Wageningen University; 2015

Djajanegara A, Diwyanto K. Development strategies for genetic evaluation of beef production in Indonesia. In: Proceedings of ACIAR Workshop 2001; 2001 July 23-28; Khon Kaen, Thailand: ACIAR; 2001. pp. 40-7.



ensure the employment of farmers and the population through this method, it limits the possibility of conducting in-depth research in the field of animal husbandry, as well as the number of livestock in the population and farms should not make up a large part of the share of the total number of cattle, otherwise the market causing a disturbance or sudden change in balance. According to the analysis, the inhabitants of the southern regions of the republic deal with cattle. However, livestock in the hands of the population is mainly kept by extensive methods, that is, the volume of production is related to the growth of resource consumption.

In our opinion, one of the most pressing problems in animal husbandry is feed supply. Farmers can feed their livestock with simple weak hay for maintenance, but, this method cannot be used in livestock farms. It can be seen that keeping livestock for farmers' farms costs less than farmers. Crop residues (wheat, barley and other cereal plants) are the worst feed for livestock, but they can be widely used by farmers and the population, but these types of feed cannot be used by specialized livestock farmers. According to the researchers, it is relatively cheap to use naturally growing food plants (ephemerals) and agricultural plant residues as feed. However, the nutritional value of these plants is low, their protein content is from 5.6% to 15.7%, and the amount of neutral detergent fiber is from 45.2% to 85.4%³. This feed can keep the cattle alive, but due to its low nutritional value, it is necessary to give the cattle additional strong feed. At the same time, most farmers do not have in-depth knowledge of livestock⁴, they operate only based on their years of experience.

Today, a mechanism for state support of livestock farmers specializing in meat production has been developed. However, the fact that the system of supporting meat imports to the republic is implemented does not encourage domestic production. Such support in meat production restricts the laws of the market, which is why it does not give the expected effect. Also, the government has given customs benefits to the import of black cattle imported from abroad and cattle raised for meat, which, on the one hand, satisfies the demand for meat in the domestic market, but has a negative effect on farmers' farms and livestock of the population.

In our opinion, the sharp fluctuation and growth of prices in the meat market of our republic is caused not only by the supply of food and the mechanisms of incentives for meat producers, but also by the problems of releasing the produced meat to the consumer markets. In fact, meat traders charge live weight cattle from farmers. Farms sell by trickle weight, but middlemen who buy live weight earn more than farmers. We must not forget that there are no live weight scales in traditional commodity markets.

There are cattle slaughterhouses only in big cities and their suburbs. While most of the meat consumed in large cities is obtained from Zamobavian slaughterhouses, there are also butchery services engaged in slaughtering cattle in live weight. Because the majority of meat production is in the hands of farmers and the population, they do not use slaughterhouses due to additional expenses. Also, it is impossible to obtain accurate statistical data on how much meat is supplied from slaughterhouses and how much is imported for the requirements of general catering establishments and meat processing enterprises.

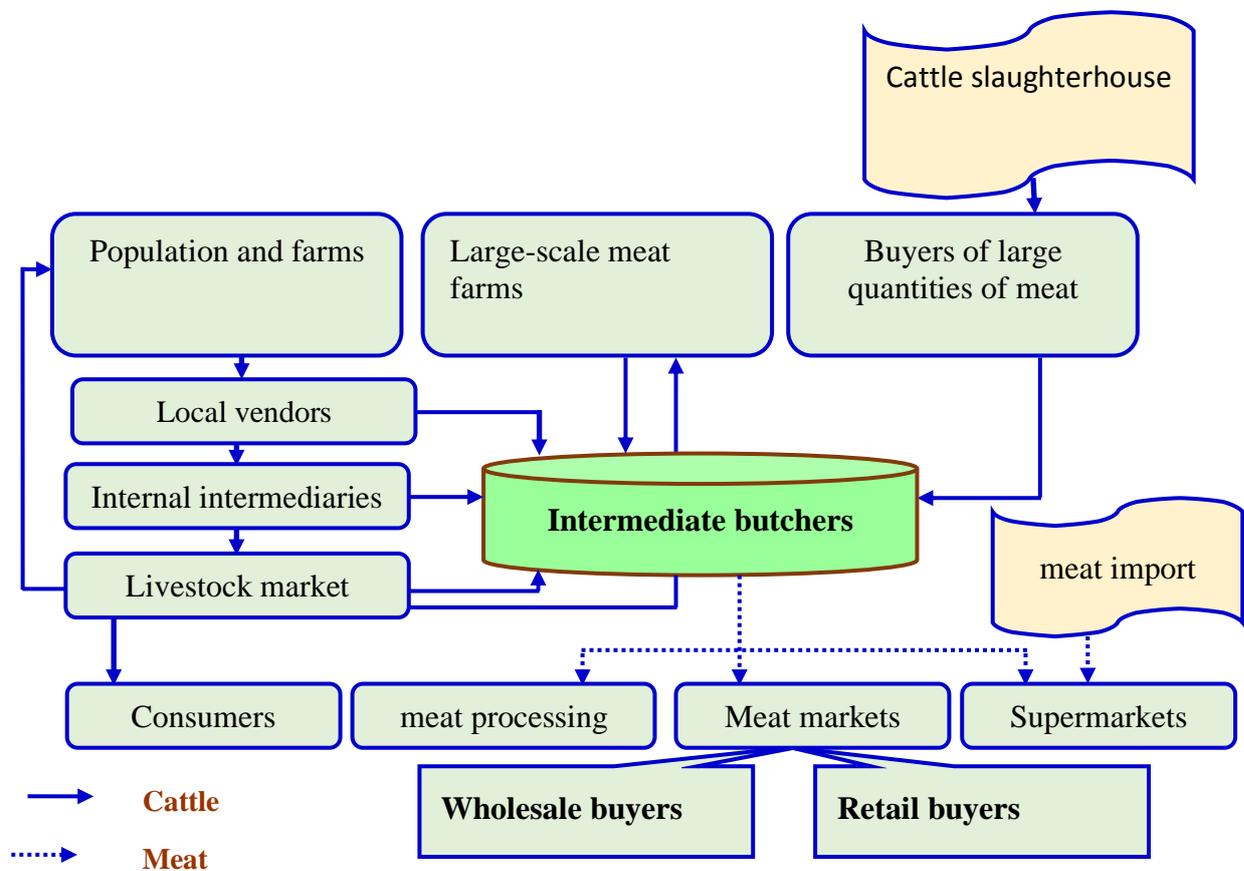
In our opinion, one of the most important factors affecting the slow development of the livestock industry or the strong fluctuation of the meat market is the incomplete protection of meat farms, the

Priyanti A, Hanifah VW, Mahendri IGAP, Cahyadi F, Cramb RA. Small-scale beef cattle production in East Java. In: Proceedings of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Annual Conference 2012; 2012 Feb 7-10; Fremantle, Western Australia: AARES; 2012. pp. 1-22

³ Bakrie B, Hogan J, Liang JB, Tareque AMM, Upadhyay RC. Ruminant nutrition and production in the tropics and sub tropics. Canberra, Australia: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; 1996

⁴ Moss J, Morley P, Baker D, Al Moadhen H, Downie R. Improving methods for estimating livestock production and productivity. University of New England; 2016 Technical Report Series No: GO-11-2016

population, and farmers from intermediate intermediaries figure 2. Although the price of meat in consumer markets is high and stable, the profit of farmers and farms is low. In most cases, the government sees the mechanisms of influence only when the market prices are unfavorable for consumers, although the analysis of whether the current market price is beneficial or harmful for farmers and farms is not up to the level of demand. Also, in order to prevent fluctuations in the price of meat, it is advisable to carry it not only with the consumer markets, but also with the lower links (in the field of livestock breeding, development of the feed base, preferential crediting system for producers). At this point, the state should also support the system of fodder crops. Because, currently, subjects engaged in livestock breeding for meat production also use extensive methods for growing fodder crops. This will increase the cost of feed, and the quality of feed for livestock will not be high. At the same time, the reforms adopted to stabilize the price of meat should cover the interests of all producers, not only a part of farmers.



2. picture. Factors influencing the price of meat in consumer markets.

From Figure 2, we can see that the organization of meat production and delivery to markets is important not only to farmers and peasant farms engaged in livestock breeding, but also to the market infrastructure and the delivery system to consumers. Therefore, in animal husbandry, it depends not only on the production of products, but also on the ability to properly organize the production. Researchers divide the production system into 4 main groups⁵: 1) the development and prospects of pasture livestock; 2) prospects of dry farming, it is no secret that in many cases food

⁵ Djuraev Bekzod. The way of Reducing the Losses of Agricultural Products in Harvesting/
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crops are also grown on dry land; 3) development of irrigated agriculture; 4) animal husbandry is organized in an industrial way.

With a population of 34.3 million people, Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia. Also, the meat products grown in the Republic were 32.5 kg per person per year on average. Considering the population growth in the coming years, the demand for proteins is expected to increase further. The gap between the increase in demand and the growth of meat products grown in livestock is widening. Therefore, in order to fully meet the demand for meat, it is necessary to expand imports or industrialize animal husbandry. Because the existing situation, i.e., the possibility of growing meat in an extensive way, is limited. The gap between the demand and supply of beef is increasing. Importing live cattle and frozen meat is a short-term solution in the short to medium term. Because imported goods affect the market situation at a certain time and stabilize the price. In our opinion, it is appropriate to revise the mechanism of support for the meat production system. Taking into account the existing opportunities in our republic, Uzbekistan is not a country that imports meat, but has the opportunity to export it. Also, it is desirable for the government to pay great attention to the breeding sector in its reforms in the livestock sector, as well as to encourage the breeding of productive animals.

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