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MAJOR DEFECTS AFFECTING QUALITY OF CATTLE HIDES DURING SLAUGHTER AT SOROTI MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR, SOROTI DISTRICT.

BY



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DECLARATION

I, OROMA CHRISTINE, hereby declare that this dissertation is out of my original concept and has never been submitted to any University or institute of higher learning for any academic award.

Signature Date 14 July 12016

This dissertation has been submitted with my approval as the University supervisor.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to all those who has and is still putting hands in shaping me. Without you I would not be able to reach this level, may God the Almighty bless your hands abundantly.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

UNBS Uganda National Bureau of Standards

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNIDO United Nation Industrial Development Organization

CFC Common Fund for Commodities

CfD Conference for Financing Development

ESALIA Eastern and Southern Africa Leather Industries Association

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization

GDP Gross Domestic Productivity

ESGPIP Ethiopia Sheep and Goat Productivity Improvement Program

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

PEAP Poverty Eradication Action Plan

QSAE Quality and Standard Authority of Ethiopia

UBOS Uganda Bureau of Statistics

UMA Uganda Manufacturers Association

ABSTRACT

A study to assess the major defects affecting quality of cattle hides during slaughter was conducted from March to April 2016 at Soroti municipal abattoir in Soroti district, to identify defects inflicted on hides of cattle during slaughter; causes of defects on hides during slaughter and to establish the relationship between defects and grading of hides. Seventy five (75) cattle, their hides and fifteen flayers were used in the study. Data on defects on hides, causes on defects and grade of hides were collected and analyzed using SP\$S version 16. The results were presented using pie charts, graphs and tables. Seventy three (97.3%) hides had one or more defects. The major defects were: flay cuts (49,3%), incorrect shape (5.3%), bruises (28%), and veininess (70.6%) while others were: gouge marks (96%) and dirt (85.3%). Majority of flayers had enough experience in flaying: 16-20 years (26.7%). 11-15 years (45%), 6-10 years (20%). Whereas none had any training on flaying and handling of hides. Major causes of defects were: inhumane slaughter, lack of training of the flayers, use of un-recommended facilities and equipment. The hides recovered were: 50.6% (grade I), 28.0% (grade II) and 21.3% (rejects). The study concluded that the quality of hides during slaughter were mainly affected by flay cuts which end up lowering the grade of the hides and the money paid to the farmers. It was recommended that abattoir should put in facilities for humane slaughter, earry out rigorous training on flaving methods and procedures while emphasizing the need to replace equipment such as worn out flay knives and provide electricity to improve of quality hides.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

According to Jabbar et al. (2002), Livestock contribute up to 28% of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of sub-Saharan Africa with the major products such as milk, meat, eggs, wool, hides and skin and it is one of the main component of agricultural industry in Uganda contributing 9% of the total GDP and 18% as agricultural GDP (UBOS, 2011; Mbabazi and Mahmud, 2012). Livestock does not only provide food and income but also social security/insurance and serves as mobile banks, wealth accumulation and social esteem (Ruhangaverbare, 2010). Over 85% of the Uganda's population lives in rural areas in which agriculture is the major contributor to their livelihoods.

Globally, it is estimated that cattle hide production grew by 70% between early 80s and late 90s, with two third taking places in developing countries. In this period the share of Africa remained around 10% (Rafik, 2002). According to Leach and Trevor (2009), the production of cattle hides was projected to increase in developing countries and expected to be equivalent to 75% of global production of cattle in 2010. In Uganda, livestock production stands at 12.8 million cattle, 14.0 million goats and 3.8 sheep. In 2000 and 2001 alone 27,992 tons of raw hides and skins were exported worth US \$ 54.4 million (Temsch & Merchich, 2002; UBOS 2011). Footwear industry alone: a subsector of leather is employing over 1600 and it is not producing to its full capacity.

However, the huge resource potential of cattle populations of the country are constrained and threatened by compound effect of various defects of pre-, peri- and post-slaughter origins (Leach, 2002; Okuni *et al.*, 2011). Peri-slaughter defects of flay cuts and bruises caused by unskilled flayers, use of inappropriate flaying tools, and inhumane slaughter are among these threats resulting in serious economic losses to the tanning industry and the country as a whole (Yacob, 2013).

In Uganda, 80% of the hides are rejected based on quality grounds but mostly due to poor flaying. The Uganda Leather and Allied Industries Association (ULAIA) in 2000/2001 reported that between 50% and 80% of Uganda cattle hides were rejected because of poor flaying and putrefaction. ULAIA also estimated that losses due to flay damages in Uganda varies between 60-80% in raw hides (King, 2002).

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