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Pursuing Excellence

PREVALENCE AND CAUSES OF KID MORTALITY IN ARAPAI SUB COUNTY, SOROTI DISTRICT

BY

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DECLARATION

I, **TURYAGYENDA,** declare that this study is original and has not been submitted to any other University or institution of learning for the award of any degree.

Sign: ..... **Date:** 6/09/2013.....

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, and to the entire family of the late Mr. Ndyanabo Cleophas for their motivation, support and guidance throughout my academic pursuit. Also, dedicate this work to all my course mates of BAPM 2010 for their kindness and cooperation during the first year of study.

Also I am dedicating this work to all students offering agriculture at tertiary level upwards and to all those interested in changing the face of agriculture and improving rural livelihoods in Africa through reforms in the animal production and management sector not forgetting my fellow researchers who will be able to add to my findings.

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Finally, I would like to give special recognition to my Parents, and the family of Mr. Ndyanabo Cleophas.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NAADS	National Advisory Agricultural Organization
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
ABD	Average Body Weight
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Security Action Fund
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
Dr	Doctor
%	Percentage
Mr	Mister
<	Less than
>	Greater than

ABSTRACT

The study focused on kid mortality with a purpose of determining the prevalence and causes of kid mortality in Arapai Sub County. 4 Parishes were covered in the study that involved 55 goat farmers selected at random to whom questionnaires were administered by the author ,observation and inspection of the farm premises were also be done.

Data was entered and analyzed in Statistical Package for Social Scientists. Point prevalence by was calculated as the number kids that died within 6 months divided by the total number of individuals sampled and multiplied by 100. The study revealed the kid mortality rate and also observed the major causes of kid mortality and about 252 kids were considered.

The results revealed that the overall mortality rate is 38.1%. It was also observed that infectious causes were the major causes of kid mortality in Arapai Sub County.

The main infectious cause of mortality was pneumonia (33%).This study also revealed that 49% of the goat owners were aged between 31-50, 18-30 years (44%), >50 years (7%).

Small East African goats were mostly kept (70.9%), followed by 21.8% crosses, Mubende (1.8%), and Saanens 1.8%.

This study also contains conclusions where mojar attention should be on the facets of goat husbandry, which is crucial to the overall health of the herd. The farmer must be in tune with various factors that affect the health of the kids, nutritional and housing factors must be considered.

Finally, the study contains recommendations where maintenance of good health through application of appropriate disease control prevention by routine vaccination of vaccinatable diseases and regular tick control and deforming construction of proper and affordable kid houses coupled with maintenance of cleanliness in these structures to reduce on the hygiene related diseases.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground

Goats make up a great potential resource in Africa because they are more numerous than sheep, the majority of goats in the tropics are found in part-time, low output, scavenging systems, in herds of 5 to 10 animals. They are nevertheless very important as a source of meat and for religious purposes as well as savings. Savings mean that goats provide a way of generating capital and maintaining acceptable cash flow according to Fielding, (1987).

In Uganda, stakeholders like NARO and NAADS encourage most farmers especially those living in rural areas to engage in goat production mainly because they are very hardy in terms of diseases and drought tolerance. In the study conducted by Donkin, (1998)., indigenous goats were shown to have genetic resistance to heart water, an important tick-born disease.

The advantages of farming with these adapted animals are tolerance to heat stress and water deprivation during drought periods as well as resistance to the many tropical diseases and parasites found in Africa (Maree and Casey, 1993, Ramsey *et al.*, 1994). They are generally raised extensively on communal lands with minimal veterinary and other management inputs (Stewart, 1997).

However, the goat kids are more susceptible and perishable stage of a goat flock and any effort made to ensure their survival is bound to increase productivity and economic returns (Lebbie and Manzini, 1989). The death of kids before they are weaned is perhaps the single biggest cause of loss experienced by goat farmers. The predisposing factors may be a lack of colostrum at birth, poor mothering, poor nutrition of the dam leading to low milk production, dirty housing and pen areas which allow build up of infective agents, dirty water and failure to vaccinate the dam appropriately (Peacock, 1996).

High mortality among kids and slow growth among those that survive are the major constraints to production. Diseases, inadequate nutrition and poor management are the main underlying causes of the high mortality and low growth rates, especially among young animals (Lebbie and

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