
**ASSESSMENT OF FACTORS AFFECTING THE QUALITY OF HIDES AND SKIN IN
BUDAKA TOWN COUNCIL**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
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AWARD OF BACHELORS DEGREE IN ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND
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DECLARATION

I Maganda Keneth, declare that the research dissertation for assessment of factors affecting the quality of hides and skin within Budaka town council is one of my own unique works. Except as noted and properly attributed, all concepts, ideas and techniques in this dissertation are entirely mine. I certify that, in compliance with academic norms and information sources utilized in the creation of this proposal have been properly cited and referenced.

Furthermore, I certify that I have not submitted this proposal for consideration towards any academic degree.

Approval

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DEDICATION

To my supportive father Mr. Dongo Wasoma, mother Miss. Baluka Suzan and to my beloved sisters and brothers.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ITC

International Trade Centre

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ABSTRACT

The hide and skin industry in Budaka Town Council is characterized by a predominantly male workforce (65%), with a significant representation of middle-aged individuals (47% aged 28-38

years). This demographic trend reflects a young and active labor force, which is promising for the industry's sustainability. A notable commitment to improving the quality of hides and skins was found, with 83% of respondents implementing specific animal husbandry practices, particularly in parasite control and hygiene management. However, the reliance on traditional processing methods, such as salting, coupled with inadequate processing facilities and limited market access, reveals critical areas for enhancement. The cultural dynamics, including the predominance of Islamic slaughtering methods, further influence consumer expectations and market dynamics, while 62% of respondents acknowledged quality standards, indicating a foundational awareness ripe for further development.

To address the challenges identified, this study recommends significant investments in infrastructure development to improve processing capabilities and quality control within the industry. Training sessions focused on advanced processing techniques, humane handling, and animal health management are essential for equipping stakeholders with modern knowledge and skills. Additionally, promoting the formation of cooperatives among farmers and processors can strengthen collective bargaining power and enhance market access. Engaging government agencies and non-governmental organizations to support infrastructural investments and training initiatives tailored to the hide and skin sector will foster sustainable development. Finally, launching awareness campaigns on the importance of adhering to quality standards and best practices will elevate the overall quality and marketability of hides and skins produced in the region.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The hide and skin industry in Uganda remains a crucial economic sector, contributing significantly to livelihoods and export revenues (Wangui, 2016). Despite Uganda's substantial livestock population, traditional slaughtering methods and limited processing infrastructure pose challenges to the sector's development (Muzzo & Provenza, 2018). Challenges such as inadequate access to modern equipment, inconsistent quality standards, and weak regulatory enforcement have been documented, affecting the sector's competitiveness and market opportunities (Were, 2016). However, there is a growing recognition of the importance of value addition and investment in processing facilities to enhance product quality and expand market access (Page, 2003). With targeted interventions to address infrastructure limitations and improve regulatory enforcement, Uganda's hide and skin sector has the potential to significantly contribute to economic growth and employment creation (Wangui, 2016).

An important part of the global leather trade, the hides and skins sector creates jobs and stimulates economic growth in many parts of the world (Onyango et al., 2019). Hides and skins are essential to the local economy of Budaka Town Council, which is in Uganda's Eastern Region. They help many people who raise cattle and manufacture leather make a living. The quality of the materials produced poses a difficulty for Budaka Town Council's hides and skins business, notwithstanding its significance.

The quality of hides in Uganda is influenced by various factors, including livestock management practices, slaughtering methods, and processing techniques. Poor livestock management, such as inadequate feeding and disease control, can lead to hide defects and poor quality (A. Tilahun et al., 2016). Additionally, improper slaughtering practices and inadequate skinning techniques can result in damage to the hide, affecting its quality (Kahsay *et al.*, 2015). To address these factors, interventions such as improving animal husbandry practices, providing training on proper slaughtering and skinning methods (Wambui, 2016). By enhancing livestock management and slaughtering practices, the quality of hides can be significantly improved, leading to higher-value products.

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