Assessment of Beef Cattle Husbandry Practices in North Shoa Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia

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Introduction

The Ethiopian economy is highly dependent on agriculture and Ethiopian Agriculture is also highly dependent on livestock. Livestock play an important role in agriculture and contribute about 40% to the Agricultural economy excluding the values of draught power and manure [1]. Livestock farming supplies meat, milk, manure, hide and skin and serves as income source. Cattle fattening is an effective tool for poverty alleviation and has become an important business for smallholder farmers as well as urban dwellers in Ethiopia. Ethiopia's domestic meat consumption for 2015 has been estimated at 2.5kg/capita per year for beef and veal, 1.3kg/ capita per year for sheep meat and 0.6 kg/capita per year for poultry meat and 0.0kg/ capita per year for pork meat. About 21.81 million animals (499,841 cattle, 3,539,278 sheep, 2,421,576 goat 15,339,804 poultry and 4,625 camels) were slaughtered by households [2]. The consumption practice of meat in Ethiopia has associated with cultural practices and it plays important role in cultural and/or religious ceremonies and its cultural symbolic weight is significantly greater than most other food [3].

Beef productivity in Ethiopia constrained by different factor these include feed shortage, poor genetic resource in terms of productivity, poor management, prevalence of animal disease unfavorable socio-economic factors, traditional production system, poor selection practice and lack of livestock policy [4]. To increase beef production and improve beef quality it is important to improve beef cattle production sector by designing and implement breeding strategy. Beef yield and quality is the result of management practice and breed difference. In different parts of Ethiopia, backyard cattle fattening using locally available feed resources is practiced by traditional and indigenous systems [5]. North Shoa Zone known by its high-quality beef and cattle fattening is a tradition and widely practiced. There is information gap on husbandry practice of beef cattle in the zone. Therefore, the objective of the present study was to assess indigenous beef cattle husbandry practices in North Shoa zone.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in the North Shoa Administrative Zones of Amhara Regional State. The area is situated approximately between 38° 40’ 2” to 40° 6’ 36”E longitude 68° 43’ 46” to 10° 43’ 35”latitude and 38° 28’ E and 40° 5’ E longitude. The zone has a total surface area of about 16,193.6 square kilometers,
comprising the highland masses in the west and the lowlands in the east. The topography of the area is characterized by flat to undulating and hilly landscapes, with contrasting tropical, subtropical and temperate climates. From the total of 22 districts and 5 town administrations, 6 districts (Minjar shenkora (39° 46’ 54” E and 9° 6’ 54” N, Bassona worena (39° 46’ 32” E and 9° 28’ 39”N, Efratanagidim (39° 59’ 43” E and 10° 29’ 37”N, Ankober (39° 55’ 6” E and 9° 47’ 4”N, Moretna jiru (39° 19’ 24” E and 10° 6’ 2”N and Menzgera midir (39° 49’ 45” E and 10° 33’ 25”N) were purposely selected based on the distribution of cattle population and agro ecological zones. A total of 490 households were selected by a simple random sampling technique for individual interviews. The study design was formal survey based on focus group discussion and individual interview using semi structured questionnaire. Elders, village leaders and individuals endowed with extensive knowledge on socio economic situation and cattle husbandry systems were selected in consultation with local agricultural extension for focus group discussions. SPSS software was used to analyze the collected data.

Result and Discussion

Management practice of growing calves

Feeding of growing calves has very important effect for the efficiency of Beef production. Giving supplementary feed for growing calves will improve bone and muscle development of Beef cattle and intern improve Beef production efficiency. According to the result indicated in Table 1, Majority of respondents (80.7%, 78.3%, 65.0%, 81.7%, 40.0% and 75.0%) in Minjar shenkora, Bassonaworena, Menzgera midir, Ankober, Moretna jiru and Efratana gidim respectively, provide supplementary feed for their calves. The overall percentage of respondent who provide supplementary feed for their calves was 70.0%. The respondents who manage their calves separately were 26.1% and the rest 73.9% did not practice separation.

Table 1: Management practice of growing calves.

| Variables                          | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Supplementation practice           |                 |                |                |         |              |              |       |
| Use supplementary feed             | 92.7            | 78.3           | 65.0           | 81.7    | 40.0         | 75.0         | 70.0  |
| No supplementation                 | 17.3            | 21.7           | 35.0           | 18.3    | 60.0         | 25.0         | 30.0  |
| Separate calves                    | 10.3            | 3.3            | 22.0           | 1.7     | 51.7         | 66.7         | 26.1  |
| No separation                      | 89.7            | 96.7           | 78.0           | 98.3    | 48.3         | 33.3         | 73.9  |

Breed Type and Culling Practice of Local Cattle

Based on the result revealed in Table 2, fattening activities were low in most districts. Majority of respondents (91.4, 60.4, 91.7, 51.7 and 56.7%) in Minjar shenkora, Bassonaworena, Menzgera midir, Ankober and Efratana gidim respectively use exotic cattle for fattening it might be due to exotic animals are larger in size and preferred by farmers for fattening but 80% of respondents in Moretna jiru fatten local cattle. The overall percentages of respondents who fatten local cattle were 38.1.

Accoring to focus group discussion most respondents have not practice recording information about health status, body condition and financial records during fattening. Respondents in Minjar shenkora (93.2%), Bassonaworena (100%), Menzgera midir (90%), Ankober (85%), Moretna jiru (71.9%) and Efratana gidim (85%) practice culling in different reasons. The main reasons of culling animals were aging (52.2%), infertility (10.3%), unhealthy (22.8%), deformed conformation (6.2%) and unwanted color (0.3%). The replacement method of culled cattle was through own production (48.6%), bought (49.5%) and credit (0.3%).

Table 2: Breed type and culling practices of local cattle.

| Variables                          | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Breed type used for fattening      |                 |                |                |         |              |              |       |
| Local                              | 8.6             | 40.0           | 8.3            | 48.3    | 80.0         | 43.3         | 38.1  |
| Exotic                             | 91.4            | 60.0           | 91.7           | 51.7    | 20.0         | 56.7         | 61.9  |
| Culling practice                   |                 |                |                |         |              |              |       |
| Yes                                | 93.2            | 100            | 90             | 85      | 71.9         | 85           | 87.6  |
| No                                 | 6.8             | 0              | 10             | 15      | 28.9         | 15           | 12.4  |
| Reasons of culling                |                 |                |                |         |              |              |       |
| Age                                | 50.9            | 96.7           | 29.1           | 36.2    | 34.1         | 60.8         | 52.5  |
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Unhealthy | 23.6 | 1.7 | 16.4 | 34.5 | 61.0 | 9.8 | 22.8
Infertility | 23.6 | 0 | 25.5 | 1.7 | 0 | 9.8 | 10.3
Deformed conformation | 1.8 | 0 | 3.6 | 25.9 | 4.9 | 0 | 6.2
Unwanted color | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.7 | 0 | 0 | 0.3
Age and unhealthy | 0 | 1.7 | 25.4 | 0 | 0 | 19.6 | 7.8

Replacement methods

| Own production | 11.9 | 91.7 | 55.4 | 66.7 | 39.1 | 21.6 | 48.6
| Bought | 88.1 | 6.7 | 44.6 | 33.3 | 60.9 | 68.6 | 49.5
| Not replaced | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9.8 | 1.5
| Credit | 0 | 1.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.3

Income Generation and Young Calves' Utilization Practice

According to the respondents report most respondents in Menzgera midir (36.7%), Ankober (35.0%), Moretna jiru (71.7%) and Efratanagidim (48.3%) sold castrated bull when they need money but those respondents sold crop when they need money soon except Menzgera midir (Table 3). However, respondents from Minjar shenkora and Bassona worena sold sheep/goat when they need money. Based on focus group discussion the price of cattle was fluctuated in all districts. In all studied areas the highest price of the fattening cattle was recorded February - may, on the other hand the low price was studied in Jun – august. The price of cattle differed according to sex, body conformation and age of cattle [6-8]. Most respondents (43.8%) sold calves when they reach to market.

Table 3: Income generation and young calves’ utilization.

| Variables | Income generation | young calves’ utilization |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|           | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
| Calves    | 25.4 | 0 | 23.3 | 33.3 | 5.7 | 11.7 | 16.8 |
| Bull      | 11.9 | 0 | 21.7 | 20.0 | 11.3 | 18.3 | 13.9 |
| Cow       | 20.3 | 0 | 0 | 1.7 | 7.5 | 0 | 4.8 |
| Castrated ox | 10.2 | 0 | 36.7 | 35.0 | 71.7 | 48.3 | 33.0 |
| Sheep/goat | 32.2 | 100 | 18.3 | 10.0 | 3.8 | 21.7 | 31.5 |
| Sale      | 65.5 | 39.0 | 20.0 | 58.3 | 31.7 | 50.0 | 43.8 |
| keep for production | 34.5 | 5.1 | 53.3 | 6.7 | 58.3 | 25.0 | 30.5 |
| keep fattening | 0 | 55.9 | 26.7 | 35.0 | 10.0 | 25.0 | 25.7 |

Health Management Practice

The overall percentage of the respondents who prefer modern treatment was 85% which in Minjar shenkora (96.7%), Bassonaworena (90%), Menzgera midir (58.3%), Ankober (74.6%), Moretna jiru (98.3%) and Efratanagidim (91.7%) take their animals to clinic when disease outbreaks (Table 4). This result was similar with Hassen [9] who reported 58.54% preferred the government service, 21.14% liked both services equally and 20.33% preferred the private service. About 47.22% of farmers preferred government service because of cost. Non-technical constraints of animal health such as insufficient money to purchase drugs or vaccines were also reported on the review paper by Andualem [10]. The farmers who preferred the private service attributed their preference to the availability of service whenever it was needed. The existing service delivery under the current animal health service was seen to be unsatisfactory, both in the private and public service systems, in terms of both quality and range. Most respondents (77.4%) vaccinate their cattle before the disease was outbreak and the main cause of animal death (55.1%) in the study areas was parasite and disease. According to the result indicated in Table 4, respondents in Minjar shenkora, Bassonaworena, Menzgera midir, Ankober, Moretna jiru and Efratanagidim (98.3, 95.0, 100, 67.8, 100 and 75 %) respectively were vaccinate their cattle.
Table 4: Health management practices.

| Variables                        | Districts                                      |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                  | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
| Treatment methods                |                |                |                |         |             |              |       |
| Modern                           | 96.7           | 90.0           | 58.3           | 74.6    | 98.3        | 91.7          | 85.0  |
| Traditional treatment            | 3.3            | 1.7            | 5.0            | 20.3    | 0           | 0             | 5.0   |
| Recover by itself                | 0              | 0              | 0              | 5.1     | 0           | 0             | 0.8   |
| Prevention                        | 0              | 0              | 6.7            | 0       | 1.7         | 0             | 1.4   |
| Both modern and traditional      | 0              | 8.3            | 30.0           | 0       | 0           | 8.3           | 7.8   |
| Veterinary services              |                |                |                |         |             |              |       |
| Woreda agricultural office       | 16.7           | 0              | 58.3           | 23.2    | 0           | 30.0          | 21.4  |
| Kebeles                          | 80.0           | 100            | 41.7           | 60.7    | 100         | 70.0          | 75.5  |
| Private                          | 3.3            | 0              | 16.1           | 0       | 0           | 3.1           |       |
| Vaccination                      | 98.3           | 95.0           | 100            | 67.8    | 100         | 75.0          | 89.4  |
| No vaccination                   | 1.7            | 5.0            | 0              | 32.2    | 0           | 25.0          | 10.6  |
| Time of vaccination              |                |                |                |         |             |              |       |
| After the disease outbreak       | 31.6           | 22.8           | 16.7           | 30.0    | 3.3         | 15.6          | 19.4  |
| After some animals died          | 3.5            | 0              | 10.0           | 0       | 0           | 4.4           | 3.1   |
| Before the disease outbreak      | 64.9           | 77.2           | 73.3           | 70.0    | 96.7        | 80.0          | 77.4  |
| Reason for death of animal       |                |                |                |         |             |              |       |
| Parasite and disease             | 67.8           | 12.5           | 75.0           | 34.2    | 74.6        | 56.7          | 55.1  |
| Feed poisoning                   | 5.1            | 0              | 13.3           | 0       | 3.4         | 6.7           | 5.1   |
| Predators                        | 1.7            | 0              | 0              | 0       | 0           | 8.3           | 1.8   |
| Deformity                        | 0              | 0              | 1.7            | 0       | 18.6        | 28.3          | 8.7   |
| Unknown reason                   | 25.4           | 87.5           | 10.0           | 65.8    | 3.4         | 0             | 29.2  |

Feed Conservation and Grazing Management

Most of the farmer used owns grazing land rather than renting and these grazing lands have no any fences in most cases. According to current study most of the interviewed households (64.3, 53.3, 47.5, 51.7, 82.2 and 55.0) % of Minjar shenkora, Bassonaworena, Menzgera midir, Ankober, Moretna jiru and Efratana gidim respectively used private grazing land for their cattle. The overall percentage of respondents who used private grazing land was 57.7%. As indicated in Table 5, the coverage of communal grazing land in all studied areas was very low. This shows that the size of communal grazing lands was varied in different districts and the respondents also reported that the status of both private and communal grazing land is becoming decreased, this result agrees with Abdi Etafa, Alemayehu & Dawit [11-13]. The respondent reported that the main cause of decreasing of the grazing land was the expansion of farm.

Table 5: Feed conservation and grazing management.

| Variables                  | Districts                        |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                            | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
| Grazing land ownership     |                |                |                |         |             |              |       |
| Communal                   | 35.7           | 0              | 25.4           | 11.7    | 0           | 28.3          | 16.6  |
| Own                        | 64.3           | 53.3           | 47.5           | 51.7    | 82.2        | 55.0          | 57.7  |
| Purchased                  | 0              | 8.5            | 36.7           | 17.8    | 3.3         | 11.3          |       |
| Combination of above       | 0              | 46.7           | 18.6           | 0       | 0           | 13.3          | 14.4  |
97.5% of respondent save feed when there is plenty of feed. According to the result indicated in Table 5, Majority of the feed resources which saved by the respondent were straw, hay and both straw and hay (29.5%, 2.6% and 67.9%) respectively. This indicated that most farmers used both straw and hay. Present result in agreement to [14] that indicate natural pasture were the major feed resource and contributes 92.6% as feed resource and ranked 1st in both dry and wet season of year followed by crop residues contribute 58.1% of total feed resource and ranked 2nd in highland and mid-altitude areas. Most respondents in Minjar shenkora, Bassonaworena, Menzgera midir, Moretna jiru and Efratana gidim (81.1, 88.3, 57.1, 60.5, and 90.5) % herd cattle with other animals but major respondents (63.8%) from Ankober district were herd their cattle separately. The most type of feeding system reported by the respondents was free grazing, semi grazing and stalling. According to respondent most herding systems were (59.1 and 58.1%) in dry and wet season respectively.

**Toxic Plants**

There are different types of toxic plants which poison animals but the species and distribution of such toxic plants were different across district. The result revealed in Table 6, Maget (21.1%), young sorghum leaf (48.9%), gurte (22.6%), alumma (3.8) and akenchira (3.8) were the main toxic plants for cattle. These toxic plants distribution was varied in different agro ecological zone.

| Variables | Districts | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratana gidim | Total |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| Is there toxic plant for your cattle | Yes | 45 | 33.3 | 40 | 45.8 | 50 | 38.4 |
| No | 55 | 83.3 | 66.7 | 60 | 54.2 | 50 | 61.6 |
| Local name of toxic plants | Maget | 0 | 30 | 100 | 20.8 | 0 | 0 | 21.1 |
| Young sorghum leaf | 57.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90.5 | 100 | 48.9 |
| Gurte | 7.1 | 70 | 0 | 79.2 | 9.5 | 0 | 22.6 |
| Ahuma | 17.9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.8 |
| Akenchira | 17.9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.8 |
Supplementary Feeds and Practice of Supplementation

Majority of (96.1 %) of respondents provide supplementary feed for their cattle and wheat bran (22.8%), oil seed cake (5.5%), grain (2.9%), crop residues (55.5%), salt (11%) and food refuse (2.3%) were the main supplementary feeds in the study areas (Table 7). Most respondents (85%) in Minjar shenkora supplement their cattle with wheat bran but respondents from Bassonaworena (95.5%), Ankober (61.4%), Moretna jiru (37.5%) and Efratana gidim (91.7%) supplement their cattle with crop residues. All studied districts supplement their cattle with salt except Efratana gidim. Based on foci group discussion, majority of the respondents in all studied areas were not used concentrate mix, fodder crops and grass pea as supplementary feed but “atella”, wheat bran and Noug cake mix and conserved hay were used as supplementary feed for their cattle in both dry and wet season however, 17.9 and 11.6% of respondents supplement their cattle only in dry and wet season respectively. Similar to the present result Fekadu [15] report farmers in Gonder also use 41.4%, 37.1% and 21.5 farmer use wheat straw, hay and nugcake respectively as supplementary feed and in the contrary to the current result farmers in Gonder never use atella as a supplementary feed. The frequency of providing supplementary feed was varied in across districts. 73.3% (Minjar shenkora), 43.9% (Ankober) and 71.7% (Bassonaworena) respondents supplement supplementary feed daily but 45.5% and 52.8% of respondents in Moretna jiru and Menzgera midir provide supplementary feed twice a day and as the feed available respectively. In general, 60.0% respondents provide supplementary feed twice a day. This result is also reported by Tsegay and Mengistu which was almost all commercial farms was feed twice and only few farms were followed three times of feeding.

Table 7: Supplementary feeds supplementation practice.

| Variables                        | Districts          | Minjar shenkora | Bassonaworena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| Do you provide supplementary feed| Yes                | 100             | 100           | 88.3           | 95.0    | 93.3        | 100           | 96.1  |
|                                  | No                 | 0               | 0             | 11.7           | 5.0     | 6.7         | 0             | 3.9   |
| Supplementary feeds              | Wheat bran         | 85.0            | 0             | 41.5           | 0       | 1.8         | 8.3           | 22.8  |
|                                  | Oil seed cake      | 0               | 3.3           | 3.8            | 0       | 26.8        | 0             | 5.5   |
|                                  | Grain              | 1.7             | 0             | 3.8            | 12.3    | 0           | 0             | 2.9   |
|                                  | Crop residues      | 10              | 95.5          | 34.0           | 61.4    | 37.5        | 91.7          | 55.5  |
|                                  | Salt               | 1.7             | 1.7           | 9.4            | 26.3    | 28.6        | 0             | 11.0  |
|                                  | Food refuse        | 1.7             | 0             | 7.5            | 0       | 5.4         | 0             | 2.3   |
| When you provide additional feed | Dry season         | 31.7            | 0             | 39.6           | 7.0     | 10.7        | 20.0          | 17.9  |
|                                  | Wet season         | 25.0            | 1.7           | 15.1           | 3.5     | 16.1        | 8.3           | 11.6  |
|                                  | In both season     | 43.3            | 98.3          | 45.3           | 89.5    | 73.2        | 71.1          | 70.5  |
| Frequency of feeding supplementary feed | Daily | 73.3              | 71.7          | 17.0           | 43.9    | 16.4        | 20.0          | 41.2  |
|                                  | Twice a day        | 83              | 10.0          | 30.2           | 28.1    | 45.5        | 60.0          | 30.1  |
|                                  | Based on availability | 183             | 183           | 52.8           | 28.1    | 38.2        | 20.0          | 28.7  |

Watering Practice

Differences in watering frequency across seasons constituted one of the most distinctive elements of livestock management. The overall watering frequency in dry season was 52.2 %, 47.5% and 0.3% and in wet season 31.9%, 64.2 % and 3.9% twice, once and three times a day respectively. According to the respondents report in Table 8, Minjar shenkora, Bassonaworena and EfraTana gidim (65.5, 80 and 80) % respectively provide water once a day in dry season but Menzgera midir (81.7%), Ankober (75%) and Moretna jiru (81.7%) provide water twice a day in dry season. 64.2 % of respondents provide water for their cattle twice a day in wet season. This result is disagreeing with Azage [16]. According to the focus group discussion it was observed that when water is freely available, particularly when livestock are grazing near water resources during the dry season and no herding, frequency of drinking increased but drinking was in small quantities at any one time and about 82% of the respondents revealed that fattening cattle have got access to the water source within <1.6 km distance [17].
**Table 8: Watering practice.**

| Variables          | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| **Dry season**     |                 |                |                 |         |             |               |       |
| Twice a day        | 35.0            | 20.0           | 81.7            | 75.0    | 81.7        | 20.0          | 52.2  |
| Once a day         | 65.0            | 80.0           | 18.3            | 25.0    | 16.7        | 80.0          | 47.5  |
| Three times a day  | 0               | 0              | 0               | 0       | 1.7         | 0             | 0.3   |
| **Wet season**     |                 |                |                 |         |             |               |       |
| Twice a day        | 36.7            | 56.7           | 13.3            | 45.0    | 31.7        | 8.3           | 31.9  |
| Once a day         | 61.7            | 43.3           | 65.0            | 55.0    | 68.3        | 91.7          | 64.2  |
| Three times a day  | 1.7             | 0              | 21.7            | 0       | 0           | 0             | 3.9   |

**Housing System**

The result revealed in Table 9, majority of respondents (66.1%) stay their cattle at day and nighttime and the remaining 23.5%, 4.8% and 5.6% of respondents stay their cattle for nighttime, daytime only and not house at all respectively. 33.3% of respondents from Minjar shenkora construct a simple shed for their cattle. 95.1%, 70%, 66.7%, 50%, 31.7% and 62.5% of respondents in Minjar shenkora, Bassona worena, Menzgera midir, Ankober, Moretna jiru and Efratana gidim respectively keep their cattle at separate house. According to the result Minjar shenkora, Bassona worena, Menzgera midir and Efratanagidim respectively have separate house for their fattening cattle but respondents from Ankober have animal house which was join with human house but separated. Most respondents not keep cattle with human house. This result was also reported by Shitahun, three types of houses which had been used to keep the fattening cattle were separated room in the family house (56%), separated house constructed for the cattle (32%), and enclosed barn with simple shed (12%) of the respondents.

**Table 9: Beef cattle housing system.**

| Variables                  | Minjar shenkora | Bassona worena | Menzgera midir | Ankober | Moretnajiru | Efratanagidim | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| When your cattle stay in the house |                 |                |                 |         |             |               |       |
| For night time only        | 23.3            | 0              | 26.7            | 41.7    | 43.1        | 5.4           | 23.5  |
| For day time only          | 3.3             | 0              | 8.3             | 1.7     | 6.9         | 8.8           | 4.8   |
| For day and nighttime      | 40.0            | 100            | 65.0            | 56.7    | 50.0        | 85.7          | 66.1  |
| No house at all            | 33.3            | 0              | 0               | 0       | 0           | 0             | 5.6   |
| Type of house              |                 |                |                 |         |             |               |       |
| Separately                 | 95.1            | 70             | 66.7            | 50.0    | 31.7        | 62.5          | 60.8  |
| Join with human            | 4.9             | 30             | 11.7            | 50.0    | 48.3        | 37.5          | 31.8  |
| Together with human        | 0               | 0              | 21.7            | 0       | 20.0        | 0             | 7.4   |

**Conclusion**

The study showed that most of the farmers give supplementation for growing calves and fattening animals and no separation and manage the growing calves together with other animals and farmers prefer modern treatment and governmental clinic. With the exception of Moretnajiru woreda the farmers prefer exotic animals for fattening. Age was the main reason for culling. Most farmer sale castrated ox, sheep and goat to generate income. The major feed resources in study areas were crop residues, conserved hay, industrial by products and natural grazing. Most producers in all districts keep their cattle in separate house and have care taker for their animals during grazing and watering frequency across seasons was different in all districts.

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