

## **AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SITUATION IN MBALE**

Mbale district is found in Eastern Uganda from which 4 districts were carved out namely sironko, Bulambuli, Manafwa and Bududa which all together form the Bugisu region. Despite the splitting, it has remained the main commercial center of the said districts including those which are not in the Bugisu region. It is also the trade rout right away from Malaba boarder, Busia boarder, the Teso region, Sebei, karamoja region, Lango and Acholi regions. These factors have increased pork consumption in the suburbs (pork joints).

### **Pig population in Mbale district;**

According to the National Livestock Census report of 2008, it puts the population of pigs at 23,310. Number of HH owning pigs was 11% corresponding to 9,710 HH. Mean herd size, all HH at 0.3.mean herd, pig owning HHS 2.4. Median herd size, pig-owning HHS is at 1. The common breeds are large white, landrace, saddle back, caumbro which are mainly crossbreeds. .

### **Production methods**

Mbale may be characterized as a small holder when it comes to herding. Majority of the farmers are peasants with 1-5 pigs per household. They are mainly confined on ropes or under small intensive system similar to zero grazing units.

Commercial farmers are just a handful. The small holders always tend to release their pigs to move freely in the night and confine them during day time; posing a higher risk of disease spread.

### **Marketing and slaughter of pigs;**

Mbale district has only one livestock market which was vibrant in the 90s but has now declined, with current sales of pigs is about 40 per month. The sell, movement and slaughter of pigs is not really very much restricted and not done in special gazzeted places. Almost every trading center or dinking place is also a slaughter/butchery for pork especially in the rural or periurban areas.

**Feeds;** \_\_ mainly greens, cassava, potatoes, leftover food, maize bran, commercial feeds, and brewers waste. Commercial farmers attempt to formulate their own feeds. The main source of maize bran (Mbale industrial area) is poor quality as it is mixed with sand intentionally.

## Common diseases in piggery

**African swine fever** is a disease known to all piggery farmers as the most killer disease. It is common during the dry spell i.e. December to March. The predisposing factor is the free mobility of pigs which are left free at night. Broader boarder motorcycles' which are the cheapest and fastest mode of transport of pigs in marketing, hence rapid spread of the disease.

ASF cases reported in the last six months

Months	Basis of diagnosis	No. of cases	No of animals.		
			SL	DD	DS
Aug 2015	Clinical/pm				
Sept 2015	Clinical/pm	74	51	11	-
Oct 2015	Clinical/ pm	-	-	-	-
Nov 2015	Clinical/ pm	66	40	26	
Dec 2015	Clinical/ pm	78	56	22	-
Jan 2016	Clinical/ pm	108	78	30	-
Feb 2016	Clinical/ pm	76	36	40	-
Mar 2016	Clinical/ pm	-	-	-	-
April 2016	Clinical/ pm	-	-	-	-

- SL= Slaughtered, DD = dead, DS = destroyed.

AFS in the small holder herds mainly go unnoticed since they may not report or use quacks to treat. Unlike ruminants, slaughter of pigs is not really in gazzeted places hence leading to disease spread. Those farmers who obtain brewers waste from local bars pose a very high risk of collecting contaminated feeds for their pigs, (almost all local bars are located close to pork butcheries).

In the last years, at least three commercial farmers had their herds wiped out, (Ecofarm lost up to 85 pigs last year, Nyama Choma over 200 pigs 3 years ago, Mzee Nathan of Makhai 22).

**Interventions far have been;**

- Sensitization of the farmers about ASF.
- Disinfection of the affected farms.
- Quarantine restrictions have been difficult due to motor cycle mode (boarder boarders).

**Other common disease/conditions**

- Trypanosomosis might be on the increase, pigs respond to Diaminazine aceturate in combination with OTC and these are sporadic cases. ( attempts for B/S are always negative, the attempt to use Diaminazine is because of high positives in bovine B/S)
- Mange.
- helminthosis and.
- Malnutrition.

THANK YOU

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