Western European Journal of Historical Events and Social Science
Volume 3, Issue 4, April, 2025
https://westerneuropeanstudies.com/index.php/4
ISSN (E): 2942-1926 Open Access| Peer Reviewed

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK FARMING IN SURKHANDARYA REGION

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Abstract: In the Surkhandarya region, due to the small size of the land plots of farmers in the past, it was not possible to fully provide their livestock with feed. Only more than half of them were able to provide their livestock with feed produced by themselves (albeit partially). Most of them, three-quarters, were forced to buy it. One third of farmers cannot provide their livestock with feed grown on their plots. The main reason for this can be considered the lack of land for growing feed crops for more than half of farmers. This can be explained by administrative restrictions on the cultivation of feed crops at the expense of cotton and grain cultivation. The article analyzes the problems in this area in the Surkhandarya oasis and presents their solutions.
Keywords: Surkhandarya oasis, livestock, pastures, fodder, farms, cattle.

INTRODUCTION.

In Surkhandarya region, due to the small size of dehkan land plots, it is not possible to fully provide their livestock with feed. Only 57% of them provide their livestock with feed produced by themselves (albeit partially). Most of them (75%) are forced to buy it. In addition, 62% of dehkan farms are engaged in collecting feed for livestock, as well as mowing grass and collecting food waste. Grazing cattle along roads, ditches and other places is widespread. In particular, grazing livestock on public pastures by hired herders has not become very popular due to the lack of pastures. Not all farmers who raise cattle have their own feed base - 70% of them grow feed on their plots, while 50% have pastures. Therefore, 91% of the farmers surveyed have the opportunity to graze their livestock on public pastures, 42% are engaged in forage collection (mowing grass, collecting food waste, etc.), 11% graze their livestock along roads, along ditches and in other places. The most common feed in dehkan farms is corn. In 2007, 30% of the families surveyed in Surkhandarya region grow this feed, and it accounts for 45% of the total amount of feed they produce. 19% of households grow hay grasses. Other forage crops are extremely rare in dehkan plots. Most households use straw as feed for livestock.

The available feed on most farms in the region is dominated by forage grasses and corn, which are grown by most farms and account for about 80 percent of the feed produced on farms. About two-thirds of farms grow cereal crops as feed for livestock, although in small quantities. Also, according to the situation in 2007, more than half of the dehkan farms (54 percent) that grow feed crops on their plots in the region lacked feed. The main reason for this is the lack of land and the low productivity of feed crops. 37 percent of farmers cannot provide their livestock with feed grown on their plots. 56 percent of farmers can be considered the main reason for this lack of land for growing feed crops [1].

This can be explained by administrative restrictions on the cultivation of fodder crops at the expense of cotton and grain cultivation. For some regions, the lack of irrigation water for

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irrigation of fodder crops is also an urgent problem. Many dehkan farms cannot purchase sufficient quantities of fodder. The main reason for this is the high price (especially for compound feed, kunjara) and the shortage of quality fodder. Therefore, livestock in households is fed mainly with straw and corn, and such a diet was considered unacceptable from the point of view of the nutritional value of the feed. In addition, according to the survey results, most farms (65 percent) do not have enough fodder to keep livestock, and 9 percent of households could not provide their livestock with the necessary amount of fodder [2].

MATERIALS AND METHODS.

In the Surkhandarya region, the further development of livestock farming and the increase in the number of livestock in farm households (as well as the expansion of roughage and succulent feed production) requires the expansion of crop areas. In conditions where irrigated land is limited, the issue has arisen of taking land from specialized farms in other sectors for livestock farming.

When considering the issue of forage crop cultivation in the farms of the Surkhandarya region, the following factors should also be taken into account: Forage crops were often grown on low-quality land, and their yield was not high;

In the farms, forage crops were not rotated or cultivated in a way that would ensure the necessary structure and rotation of crops, nor were they helping to improve soil fertility;

Forage crop seeds were not produced locally, and there was a lack of special agricultural machinery, mineral fertilizers, and fuel-oil materials (for livestock farms not growing cotton and wheat, these are not provided by the state), which negatively affected forage production.

In the region, farms with large numbers of cattle did not have fields dedicated to forage crops like the farm households did. Farmers had 0.12–0.20 hectares of garden plots for their homes and agricultural buildings (0.03–0.04 hectares), gardens and orchards (0.08–0.10 hectares), and only 0.03–0.05 hectares could be allocated for forage crops. According to the State Statistics Committee, the total area of forage crops planted in farmer households amounted to 63,600 hectares. Food waste (stems) accounted for only a small percentage of the necessary feed for cattle [3]

The situation with pastures in Surkhandarya region is also complicated. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management, in 1991, 92% of all pastures in the republic were under the ministry's control. Due to the large and unregulated grazing of livestock, the cessation of pasture rotation, and the inability to restore pasture quality, the area of pastures decreased by 40%. Some of the degraded pastures were transferred to the reserve land category, while others were moved to the forest fund [4].

In the region, cattle and other livestock have been vaccinated against infectious diseases such as protein deficiency, anthrax, brucellosis, mastitis, plague, rabies, and leptospirosis. Special attention was given to vaccination efforts in farms located in border areas with other countries. The vaccination supplies were allocated by the regional veterinary services based on orders indicating the number of cattle, with funds from the state budget to provide vaccines free of charge. Vaccinations were carried out once or twice a year, depending on the type of disease, and covered all livestock in the assigned areas. Livestock owners paid for the syringes and specialist services. The fact that most of the livestock were under the care of the lower-income population and farm households requires a paid veterinary service for this sector.

According to veterinarians, the vaccines allocated for the region were often insufficient, as the number of livestock in farm households had not been accurately accounted for by local

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community committees. As a result, some livestock were not vaccinated, which weakened their immune systems and made them susceptible to diseases. Specialists noted that in some cases, the vaccines were ineffective or had limited efficacy due to poor packaging [5].

In 2007, there were fewer issues with veterinary services in farms with livestock, as most of the problems were related to the lack of some veterinary products or their high prices. Farmers tended to contact veterinarians only for vaccinations or when their animals fell ill. The majority of farmers (83%) fully utilized veterinary services, but 17% encountered difficulties in accessing these services. Additionally, 7% of farmers were dissatisfied with the quality of services, while 6.5% considered their prices excessively high [6].

The artificial insemination of cows owned by the population and farmers is carried out by specialists at veterinary points for the purpose of improving the breed and increasing the number of livestock. The cattle semen is delivered to veterinary points in special containers by the “O‘znaslchilik” company. The semen can be stored in these containers for 30–80 days, depending on the quality and size of the container. Each cow is inseminated twice a day (morning and evening). If insemination is unsuccessful, the livestock owners can return to the veterinary point for further assistance.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS.

Each year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management assigns the Republic's veterinary service to sign contracts with sections of the “O‘znaslchilik” organization to supply veterinary points with semen. However, these plans were often not fulfilled. For example, in 2007, the Ministry's task was to provide over 1 million doses of semen, but by August 10, 2007, only 258,000 doses had been contracted with the “O‘znaslchilik” company, which is only 25% of the target. In reality, only 93,800 doses were sold, which is just 36% of the planned amount. Only 64,600 cows, or 12.7% of the 508,000 cows targeted in the plan, were artificially inseminated [7].

What are the reasons for the unsatisfactory results in artificial insemination? First, most livestock owners are financially incapable of paying for this service. Second, the population does not understand the importance of artificial insemination. Third, the “O‘znaslchilik” company could not fulfill the full volume of orders. Fourth, there is a shortage of artificial insemination points and specialists for insemination.

According to specialists, artificial insemination is often unsuccessful, and cattle owners repeatedly return to the veterinary points. This situation, first, leads to additional costs for veterinary points, negatively affecting their income; second, it raises doubts among the population about the effectiveness of this procedure [8].

A 2007 survey showed that the demand for artificial insemination services was low—only 2% of farmers sought veterinary assistance for artificial insemination. Most livestock owners who used this service were dissatisfied with its quality. The results of the survey indicated that the low demand for this service was related not only to the limitations of its accessibility but also to traditional practices. Only a few households complained about the distance of insemination points, the high costs of services, poor quality, lack of fertilization materials, and other factors.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, over the past period in Surxondaryo region, due to the small size of the land plots, it was not possible for farmers to fully provide their livestock with feed. Only more than half of them managed to provide their livestock with self-produced feed, though only partially. The majority, however, had to buy feed, with about three-fourths of them resorting to

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purchasing it. The practice of hiring shepherds to graze livestock on public pastures has not become widespread due to the lack of pastures.

In most cases, more than half of the farms that grew feed crops on their plots in the region faced feed shortages. The main reasons for this were the lack of land and the low productivity of the feed crops. A third of farmers were unable to provide their cattle with feed grown on their own plots. Half of the farmers considered the lack of land for growing feed crops as the main reason, which can be attributed to administrative restrictions on growing feed crops in favor of cotton and grain cultivation.

As observed in other regions of the republic, Surxondaryo also faced issues with the quota system for cotton and grain cultivation, as well as the government orders for these crops, which prevented the free redistribution of land for other crops, including feed crops. Even in livestock farms, a large portion of irrigated land was used for cotton and autumn cereals. This violates laws related to the targeted use of land in livestock farming. As a result, only one-third of the land allocated for growing feed crops in farms was used for this purpose.

New veterinary points were regularly established in Surxondaryo region, with plans to allocate buildings and provide necessary equipment. However, this process was not always successful throughout the region. In some cases, due to the lack of proper buildings, the points could not operate. Artificial insemination efforts in livestock farming were also often ineffective, and cattle owners had to repeatedly contact veterinary points. This situation, first, led to additional costs for veterinary points, negatively affecting their income; second, it raised doubts among the population about the effectiveness of the procedure.

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