

Obstacles in Development of Livestock Sector- Evidence from Kazakhstan

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ABSTRACT — in the agriculture sector of Kazakhstan Livestock is considered as an important branch of it. Livestock produces 47% of the total volume of gross agriculture produces. The significance of this sector is specified not only by its considerable share in agricultural gross local product, but also its vast impact on the agricultural economy is crucial as foodstuffs supplier for inland and abroad consumers. Even then this sector encounters various problems. During the economic reforms in Kazakhstan, the use of animal meat as well as meat byproducts reduced significantly. In 1992, meat consumption per capita was 68 kg, in 2004 - 45 kg, or reduced by 33.8%. Presently, before the agro-industrial complex in Kazakhstan is the task of fast progress and expansion of the livestock industries, in addition enhance the efficiency of processing of raw meat. Powerful processing of raw meat supplies not only an increase in the profitability of products, heightens profits of the meat sector, but also increase production of high domestic food exist for customers. In turn, the increase in demand of local products is an significant cause and motivation to increase production of the necessary quality of meat in agriculture sector. Therefore, the efficiency of meat processing is of great socio-economic significance, which indicates the relation of research in this scope.

KEYWORDS: *livestock sector, cattle breeding, agro-industrial complex, Kazakhstan;*

Introduction

In agricultural sector of Kazakhstan Livestock has always been a major focus. Livestock is also considered an important economic lever for Kazakhstan, as for rural livestock - is initially a creator of jobs and income. During last decade, continuance of development in agriculture industry has supported the rural regions to enhance the economic situation. Kazakhstan has innumerable opportunities in this sector, as areas for progress of this sector around. In addition, presently different programs are implemented for the development of livestock, which were sent to a consider volume. Result of this program should increase livestock, fodder and the expansion of land for pastures and to equip them (including the provision of seeds, equipment, increasing the quality of specialists work). Moreover, Kazakhstan's export potential will be increased significantly as a result of all conducted tasks programs. In addition, local demand to a large extent will be satisfied for meat and dairy products (Maciejczak, Yesbolova, 2012, p. 43-50).

Methodology

Materials presented in this article are based on the Program for the agro - industrial complex Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2013 – 2020. Agribusiness -2020 introduced by the government resolution of republic of Kazakhstan from February 18, 2013 N 151 (Program for the Development, 2012). In addition, information from the books, laws and regulations, scientific and statistical journals of the regional and municipal authorities are used for this purpose. The statistical data were aggregated from reports of the Agriculture Ministry and the Ministry of Statistics of Kazakhstan Republic.

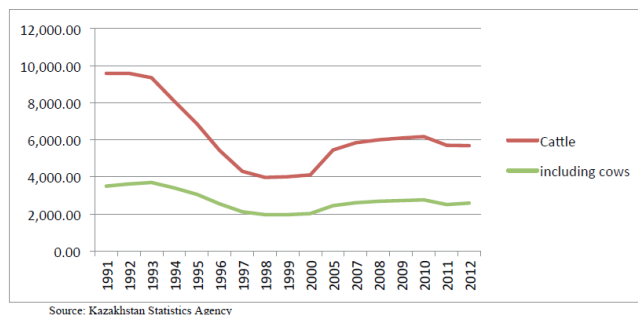
Problem

The fact that almost all farms are in private hands, the government is not able to fully control the whole situation. However, it seeks to provide all possible support and assistance, allocating the finance for it by introducing various programs for development, as well as implementing prophylactic works, such as vaccinations and veterinary services for livestock. Allocation of finance as a subsidy encourages breeders in expanding their own herds, conditions for livestock and fodder base. Livestock in Kazakhstan is growing rapidly, mainly due to imports. However, this fact has a positive effect on the development of the reeding base. Selection works on cattle breeding are now conducted very carefully, that promotes the production of quality products, as well as the removal of thoroughbred animals. Despite the rapid development of the industry, there are still negative factors that affect to implement the intensive promotions. Basically it is the unimproved infrastructure, poor fodder base, small commodity production and nondescript cattle whose level is 82% (RFCA Ratings, 2011). Specifically for deal with these challenges have been established the developing programs, upon completion of which is expected to eliminate all negative factors.

Result

The culture of livestock was born in Kazakhstan in the period of the Bronze Age. In the 50s the main impetus for focusing on the development of agriculture served the famine and food crisis, which has forced inhabitants to develop the virgin lands. Since that time namely livestock and crop production have become the main driving factors of human existence. And today this industry is actively developing and expanding its products on the global market. Rural areas significantly increase their potential thanks to the support of the state, as to develop livestock industry has all the necessary conditions, and the state is required only partial supervision and technical equipment. Kazakhstan's beef production declined rapidly following the break-up of the Soviet Union and the removal of large-scale government subsidies and collapse of government-owned farms. According to the Kazakhstan Statistics Agency, in 1992 the cattle population in Kazakhstan was 9.5 million head and this number fell all the way to below 4 million head by 1999. Since that time there has been a gradual recovery and at the beginning of 2011 there were 6.2 million head (Flake, 2011, p. 2).

Fig.1 Head of cattle in Kazakhstan, thousand



Source: Kazakhstan Statistics Agency

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A large proportion of livestock products produced in private farms of the population, which leads to low productivity, does not allow for the growing consumption in the domestic market, leading to higher costs and lower competitiveness, and leads to the formation of import dependence. Thus, the main producers of all kinds of meat, still are part - time farms, which according to the January 1, 2012 contained 76.7% of cattle, 67% of sheep and goats, pigs 72.5%, 62.7% of the horses and 40.9% of the birds. Livestock productivity indicators are inferior to international several times.

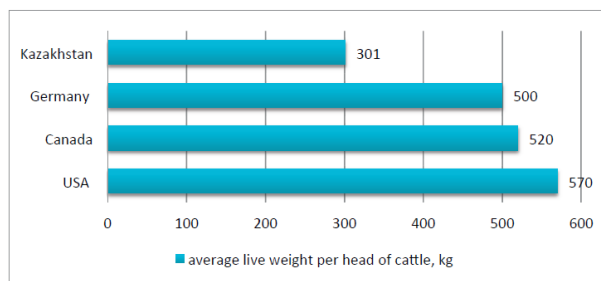
Source: Kazakhstan Statistics Agency
Statistics Division (FAOSTAT), 2010

Figure 2. Livestock productivity indicators

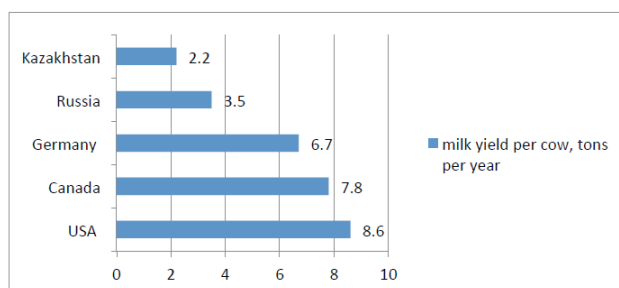
Source: Kazakhstan Statistics Agency
Statistics Division (FAOSTAT), 2010

Figure 3. Milk yield per cow, tons per year

The main reasons for low productivity of livestock in Kazakhstan are the lowest proportion breeding livestock (for example, beef cattle - less than 2.5%), lack of quality feeds and improper conditions for cattle. Due to the fact that most of the herd is concentrated in the households, the livestock industry has such characteristics as low genetic potential of animals and the associated low productivity, lack of use of modern technologies, feeding and other technologies for productivity and product quality and lack of care of animal health. Besides is not used the potential of natural pastures due to the unavailability of water sources for animals. In order to obtain high quality meat and dairy products, in addition to the appropriate conditions necessary to possess the large-scale forage. In Kazakhstan, moreover, that the size of fodder base is small, even a variety is quite narrow. Recent decades private farmers can allocate resources only for roughages, but for capital fattening of livestock is required a dilute feed at least with protein. Now in minimal volumes produced such valuable feed as silage and fodder beet. The succulent feed, which require for cattle, is only 31% of this requirement. The paltry amount of fodder base and the inability to fully contain the cattle can be a cause to a crisis, because with minimal fluctuations, affecting the development of factors, whether drought or even financial crisis, farmers will not be able to provide adequate nutrition for the cattle, and it will lead to bankruptcy. Restoring fodder base is extremely sensitive and lengthy process, as it requires an integrated approach. First need to renew and increase fodder crop rotations, as well as to solve problems on feed preparation and development of the feed mill industry. The problem with pasture is the equivalent with fodder base. Most existing pastures simply do not suggest the presence water bodies due to its location, which significantly reduces the ability to contain livestock. Today the average pasture area is 4 700 ha for agricultural enterprise, 176 hectares - per farm. Size pastures should be at least twice more and equipped with special wells. According to statistics, in Kazakhstan pastures occupy more than 182.2 million hectares or 70% of all agricultural land. However, only about 30% is used for grazing, as the remaining land is dehydrated. Moreover, some of these pastures are seasonal, which does not allow in inappropriate conditions to graze livestock. Also, there is the problem with veterinary. In Kazakhstan Veterinary medicine is not a priority in the professional sphere. In fact there are very few highly qualified employees, only half of which are involved in livestock farming. The veterinary service is financed by a small quantity of finance. Particularly to fight with infectious diseases, diagnostics, and a small range of other services the finance allocated by the state, while the local authorities are forced to allocate a small amount of local budgets even for typical inspections. In 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan estimated a situation, decided to pay about \$ 400 million through 2013 to support veterinary medicine. Such huge sums do require investments, as this sphere is now in a critical financial position. In present time the main problems are not manning the veterinary staff, the absence of cattle cemetery in almost every fourth village. Nearly 20% of created from slaughter houses do not exercise work. Low level of qualified professionals only stimulates the growth of epizootic and epidemiological situation in the country. Diagnosis is still not able to timely prevent or report any known diseases. This time not only slows local production, but also the ability to export meat and dairy products.

Conclusion

We can conclude that the increasing of production volumes and competitiveness of livestock products will be achieved through: strengthening tribal base and improve the genetic potential of livestock and poultry by providing scientific support and implementation of large-scale selection in livestock; creating a sustainable fodder base and provide full feeding animals by expanding of areas under forage crops, expanding the network of seed farms for the production of fodder seeds, management and improvement of pastures and hayfields; stimulation of the formation of medium - and of large-scale livestock production, translation industry on an industrial basis; construction of new capacity and the capacity of existing livestock industries based on new technologies; infrastructure slaughtering, processing, storage, transportation and sale of animal products; modernization processes in livestock production; bring the system into compliance with the veterinary requirements of international standards and ensuring animal health welfare and safety of food products; expansion of state support the livestock industry; personnel, research and information and marketing provide the livestock industry. Expanding tribal base and increase the genetic potential of the animals will be done by the introduction the scale unified system herd reproduction and use of the best genotypes of livestock.

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