

Review of: "Economics of Cattle Fattening - A Case of Bangladesh"

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Paper "Economics of Cattle Fattening – A Case Study from Bangladesh" is a useful paper, primarily due to (according to the author's findings) the fact that until now there have been no studies on that topic. The authors applied their own methodology for determining economic efficiency, which is not completely consistent in some parts. Some terms used in the text are not familiar to English-speaking people. E.g., I understood that bepars are middlemen in the livestock trade. This should be clearly indicated on the first use of the term or replaced by some more common substitute. The same relationship applies to the word upazila (what does upazila really mean?).

In the introduction, attention is drawn to the fact that animals are sold with higher margins before a religious holiday (Eid-UI-Azha), at higher prices. The rational assumption is that in the results of our presented research, sales prices were used in the calculation of gross and net margins, so statements about the possibility of achieving higher prices are not relevant to the results of the presented research.

The claim that the rural population can increase their income through the fattening of more animals should be argued for the possibilities of producing fodder for an increased number of animals. What is the situation in Bangladesh in this regard?

Some symbols from the formula for calculating profitability are either not well interpreted in the legend or profitability cannot be calculated that way. As written, the formula can be used to calculate the sum of the net profits of all (n) farmers ($i=1, 2, \dots, n$), not just one (i -th) farmer as written. For the average farmer profit, the sum should be divided by the number of farmers. Q_i cannot be the quantity of the i -th cattle fattening farmer (No. /year) but the quantity (number) of sold animals because the price is indicated per fattened animal.

Why is the value of the equipment calculated as a variable cost and not as a fixed one through its depreciation? Labor costs are a variable cost; they change with the volume of production (number of fattening heads). Here they are treated as fixed costs. Police punishments and tips to the police are unusual costs (although perhaps realistic in Bangladeshi conditions).

The greatest value of the work is that it tracks the costs and earnings of different channels for the sale of live animals and meat. The result of calculations indicating that most of the value in the sales chain is retained by farmers is evidence of some kind of fair trade in livestock farming under Bangladeshi market conditions.

