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Attitudes of Farmers Towards alternative proposed policies for Livestock development in villages of Sharkia Governorate

by

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This paper examines producers attitudes toward poLici.es which might improve livestock production. The study examines evidence from a survey of 123 farms in four villages of Sharkia Governorate. The survey was conducted in May and June of 1981.

Farmers were asked whether they considered a given policy or program to be: very important, important or not important. These responses were in turn, coded as two, one, or zero, respectively, and were then averaged by size of animal holdings. Chi-square tests were conducted to check for significant differences in the response of the two groups (the large and small livestock holdings). The large size it was that with five heads and over, while the small size was with less than five heads

Farmers thought that policies that forbid the slaughter of female animals are the most important. To have a veterinary unit with a doctor in the village is also very important. They believe also that it is important to improve the genetic make up of their village herds) but they prefer this to be done with natural breeding rather than by artificial insemination. There were no significant differences among the livestock holding size groups on these issues.

With respect to where the hulls of improved breeds should be located in the village, there was disagreement, as is seen in Tables 3 and 4. Seventy percent of the small producers (those with less than 5 heads) think that bulls should be kept by the village cooperative, and 66 percent of this group disagrees with the idea of having such bulls be owned by large producers in the village. The large producers are not so strong on their opinions in this regard, but even 51 percent of this group think that bulls should be kept by the cooperatives.

Most of the traditional producers think that increasing the quantity of feed concentrates available. per animal is very important in developing livestock production. Many farmers also think that expansion of berseem area is not important. Large farmers are more in favor of expansion the area devoted to new summer forages than small ones.

It is shown that the producers do not seem to have very strong opinions or ideas about marketing policies. Relatively, few think it is important to establish milk collection centers in the villages or to improve roads and transportation facilities. Most small producers think that it is important to fix the prices of both animal and meats but large producers do not share this opinion.