

increases and follicles as small as 1-3 mm in diameter are able of producing developmentally competent oocytes.

5. Safeguarding livestock during drought disasters in Kenya can safeguard livelihoods and food security in the affected regions: case study of Mwingi – *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*

Mutembei Henry M'ikiugu (BVM, Msc, PhD); hmutembei@uonbi.ac.ke, Charles Matiku Mulei (BVM, PhD); cmulei@uonbi.ac.ke, Peter Mbithi (BVM, Msc, Mvsc, PhD); pmbithi@uonbi.ac.ke Clinical Studies Department, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 29053-0025, Nairobi, Kenya

ABSTRACT

Some of the world's poor and most disaster-vulnerable communities are also those most reliant on livestock, poultry and working animals for their survival. When disasters strike, in addition to the immediate devastation, food insecurity and loss of life, the loss of livestock can leave a secondary legacy of economic instability, debt and dependency. In September 2011, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) worked in collaboration with the University of Nairobi to mitigate both immediate and long-term effects of the devastating drought affecting Kenya's animals and people. In that year, following three years of poor or failed rains, more than 11 million people faced starvation in East Africa. It was the region's worst drought in 60 years. In Kenya alone, 3.5 million people were affected by the crisis, which was declared a national disaster by the Kenyan government. For the people of Kenya's Mwingi districts, the keeping of livestock – including cattle, goats, sheep and camels – is the primary local livelihood and forms the basis of the regional economy. As the drought continued, daily life became a struggle for survival for both people and their animals. Of the estimated animals thought to have been affected, in some areas, up to 45 per cent of the animal population died. Management of livestock during this case helped to safeguard livelihoods and food security of the affected region.

6. Dewormer administration to small ruminants in emergency drought responses: assessing the impact in two locations of northern Kenya. – *Disasters Journal*

Okell, C.N.¹, Mariner, J.C.², Allport, R.³ Buono, N.⁴ Mutembei, H. M.⁵ R., Rushton, J.R.¹, Verheyen, K. L.¹

¹Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts AL9 7TA, UK

²International Livestock Research Institute, Old Naivasha Road, PO Box 30709-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

³Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Office, United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

⁴VSF Germany, Piedmont Plaz, Ngong Road, Nairobi

⁵Department of Clinical Studies, Veterinary Faculty, University of Nairobi

Abstract

Internal parasites are a significant determinant of the productivity of ruminant species in the tropics. Provision of dewormers has become a predominant part of animal health interventions in emergency drought responses, aiming to maintain the food conversion efficiency of livestock when pasture is scarce. This study aimed to assess the owner-perceived impact of dewormer provision on the health and productivity of small ruminants in the drought-prone counties of Isiolo and Marsabit, northern Kenya. Participatory approaches were used to retrospectively measure differences in key indicators of livestock output before and after dewormer administration. Results showed that there was no perceived impact of dewormer administration during droughts on small ruminant health and productivity but some benefit of deworming during rainy season were perceived. The study also