



THE STATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN NAMANGAN REGION DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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Abstract

This article provides detailed information about the state of animal husbandry—one of the main sectors of agriculture—in Namangan region during the early years of independence, along with an analysis of the indicators of livestock product production across the region's districts.

Keywords: animal husbandry, agriculture, product, economy, industry, finance, credit, dairy products, meat products, grain products.

Animal husbandry, as one of the core branches of agriculture, is a rapidly developing sector. Supporting this sphere of agriculture ensures that the population is supplied with affordable livestock products. As is well known, the majority of cattle in our country are raised in household plots. In the early period of independence, alongside other sectors, great attention was paid to the development of agro-industrial branches. As First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov noted: *"Solving the problems of developing the agrarian complex of the economy is the decisive link in Uzbekistan's entire strategy for transitioning to the market."* [1]

It is well known that the agro-industrial complex supplies a large portion of consumer goods for the population. The livestock sector, being a part of agro-industry, has long been one of the primary occupations of our people. This sector serves as an important branch that produces milk and meat products for the population of our republic and provides industry with high-quality raw materials. Animal husbandry is one of the essential sectors of agriculture.

It serves as a source of essential nutrient products—protein sources derived from livestock such as milk, meat, eggs, and fish—and provides raw materials for industrial production and processing industries (milk, cheese, kefir, meat, sausage, leather, etc.) [2].

As a result of economic reforms initiated in the livestock sector starting in 1993, 1,499 collective livestock farms were transformed into joint-stock companies, while 600 livestock farms were sold as private property to collective members on an auction basis [3]. These and similar measures, furthermore, the development of legislative systems related to the sector, served as the foundation for the growth of animal husbandry.



In 1992, there were 378,202 hectares of agricultural land within Namangan region, of which 197,552 hectares belonged to the category of arable land. Out of every hundred hectares of these lands designated for livestock grazing, 8,114 kg of meat was produced in 1990, while 8,002 kg of meat products were produced in 1991. In 1990, 38,003 kg of milk was produced, and in 1991 this figure reached 38,609 kg [4].

In the early years of the transition to a market economy, a series of measures were implemented aimed at stabilizing the economy and improving the financial condition of farms. Advanced methods of labor organization in farming and animal husbandry—such as leasing, family contracts, and other forms—were widely introduced into practice. In 1992, 16,050 tons of meat were produced across the region, fulfilling the plan by 84.7%. Uychi (50.7%), Norin (83.7%), Yangikurgon (86.7%), and Chust (88.8%) fell behind, allowing shortcomings in plan fulfillment. In 1992, due to a decrease in produced fodder, especially mixed feed (concentrates), the productivity of cows—specifically milk production productivity—declined [5].

Namangan region fulfilled the state order in the animal husbandry sector in the first quarter of 1993. Specifically, 3,184 tons of meat, 16,367 tons of milk, and 7,085 thousand eggs were prepared. However, shortcomings were permitted in certain districts [6].

In the first 4 months of 1993, in the Zadarya district (present-day Mingbulak district) of Namangan region, compared to the same period in 1992, 3 farms reduced meat production by 42 tons, 3 farms reduced milk production by 90 tons, 4 farms reduced egg production by 76 thousand units, and 2 farms reduced meat preparation by 4 tons, while 6 farms reduced egg preparation by 81 thousand units. The "Gigant" collective farm milked 168 kg less milk per single cow [7].

In Kosonsoy district, 10 farms fell short by 178 tons of meat, 6 farms by 52 tons of milk, and 4 farms by 1,423 thousand eggs [8]. As seen from the above data, certain districts failed to fulfill the plan.

As of January 1, 1995, 56 livestock farms in the region were handed over to their collectives as private property in the form of joint-stock companies. 10.5 thousand hectares of land were allocated to these farms for growing fodder, as a result of which 0.45 hectares of feed-crop land corresponded to 1 conditional head of livestock. Concurrently, short-term preferential credits amounting to 2 million UZS were allocated to these farms [9]. The responsibility of privatized farm collectives toward the work being performed increased significantly. As a result, in the "Samarkand" private farm in Namangan district and the

"Yangikurgon" private farm in Yangikurgon district, meat production volumes compared to 1993 reached 100.2% and 135%, milk production reached 110.9% and 109%, total cattle headcount reached 107.8% and 100%, and cows among them reached 108.3% and 100%, respectively. Average milk milking per cow was 111% and 101%, calf acquisition was 100.7% and 103%, meat sales were 151% and 153%, and milk sales constituted 103.2% and 109%. Alongside these positive developments, shortcomings also existed. Primarily, this manifested as an excessive increase in meat production volume in certain farms [10]. To solve these problems, it would have been appropriate to implement the following measures:

- Allocating preferential credits to replenish the herds of privatized farms;
- Introducing a payment instrument with broad usage rights for products sold by them.

By 1994, while workers operating in agriculture received an average monthly salary of 277.8 UZS, the highest average salary of 540.1 UZS fell to the share of workers operating in the finance and credit system. At the lowest tier, the average monthly salary was provided to those operating in forestry [11].

Production of Livestock Products in 1995

Product name	Unit of measurement	Plan	real	Execution %	Percentage of 1994	1994 As a percentage of 1993
Meat	ton	14063	12280	87.3	98,4	95
Milk	ton	77472	73183	94,5	100,3	97,6
Egg	Thousand pieces	30762	10735	94,9	55,7	67,4
Livestock headcount						
Total cattle	headcount	112898	101868	90.2	93.9	99.3
Sheep and goats	headcount	144996	130139	89.8	95.1	93.5
Poultry	headcount	713278	258951	36,3	66,8	91,6

During 1995, 12,280 tons of meat were produced, fulfilling the annual plan by 87.3%, which means this indicator decreased by 1.6% compared to the previous year. The volume of milk production also decreased by 0.3% compared to the previous year, amounting to 73,183 tons. The volume of egg production dropped sharply; specifically, in 1995 it totaled 10,735 thousand pieces, fulfilling only 34.9% of the annual plan [12].

In conclusion, it can be stated that despite the fundamental changes in the approach to the livestock sector in the Namangan region during the early years of independence—specifically between 1991 and 1995—livestock productivity steadily declined year by year.



The reasons for this decline include:

- **Increased Demand:** First, the demand for livestock products increased as a result of population growth.

- **Fodder Shortages:** Second, the livestock feed plan was consistently unfulfilled, resulting in observed shortages of livestock fodder.

- **Outdated Methods & Poor Services:** Furthermore, the retention of old management styles in privatized livestock farms, the inadequate organization of zoo-veterinary services, and poorly conducted breeding work served as the underlying causes for the year-on-year decline in productivity.

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