

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN RUMAH RANGELAND AREA

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ABSTRACT

Livestock grazing practices in Saudi Arabia has changed from the traditional pastoral system to a more sophisticated, business oriented practice. This led to the dependence of grazing practices on forage supplementation, water hauling, hired labor and other livestock production factors. In order to build a data base on livestock production on rangelands, a survey research was conducted to study the most important economical factors affecting livestock grazing in Rumah area.

The objective of this study was to determine factor inputs of grazing operation through measurement of livestock production factors per animal unit. Studied factors included herd size and components, labor, forage supplements, water, health care, fuel and transportation. The results indicated that livestock grazing currently depends year around on water hauling, forage supplements (besides grazing for four months), fuel and transportation. It is therefore recommended that forage supplementation, especially when grain barley and alfalfa are involved, should have more consideration. Besides, forage supplementation, fuel for transportation should also receive more attention.

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