



Effective Record Keeping and Poultry Management in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to evaluate effective record keeping and poultry management in Udu and Okpe local government areas of Delta State, Nigeria. The population of the study includes all the poultry farmers in the two local government areas. A total of 60 farmers were randomly selected using simple random sampling techniques. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect information from the respondents. Section (A) was structured to draw information on demographic characteristics of the poultry farmers, while section (B) was designed to draw information on the various types of records kept by poultry farmers. Section (C) and (D) was designed in line with the principles of 5 point Likert scale of measurement to solicit information on the importance of keeping effective records; and factors affecting effective records keeping by poultry farmers. Data collected were analyzed with descriptive statistics: means, standard error of means, frequency and percentages. SPSS statistical package was used to run the analysis. The findings showed that majority of the respondents were male (75%); 58.3% is the active age range of 40-60years. Considerable proportion of the respondents were literate and kept various types of records. Time constraint were the only determined limiting factor affecting proper record keeping.

Keywords: Effective record keeping, types, constraints, poultry management

INTRODUCTION

Record is information that has been efficiently and deliberately gathered and suitably stored for future use. To be able to run any business successfully, it's a necessity that carefully thought out and properly collected records are kept. Record keeping is a key component of managing an efficient farm business; today's complex world economy and the rapid rate of growth of the farming industry makes it impossible for producers to manage a farm enterprise the way it was done some decades ago. Without a legitimate comprehension of record keeping and its present and future ramifications, the farming business will not make an impressive change in the present business condition (Arzeno, 2004). This is because a farmer who maintains proper records can normally deal with issues superior to the one who does not (Hansen et al., 1991 & Poggio, 2006). Without a proper written record poultry farmers will have to depend on their memories when making decisions to modify their farm operations. Memories can become unreliable, particularly after some period. Henderson and Gomes (1974) as reported in (Tham-Agyekum et al., 2010) averred that one possible approach to improving small-scale farming is through the use of farm records. The first step and most important step in taking control of your farm operation's financial well-being are to keep good and accurate financial records. Farm records are essential to the financial health of your farm business; good and accurate poultry farm records do not necessarily ensure successful farm business; however, success is unlikely without accurate and effective records keeping.

Proper and accurate records provide the farmer with data, information and knowledge that will enhance efficient management of the poultry enterprise. The importance of farm records cannot be undermined in successful poultry production business: Farm records are frequently used as service tool: such as income tax calculations, estate planning, business arrangement reconciliation, and obtaining and managing credit; records can be used to provide data for financial analysis and other diagnostic instruments, such as

identifying the strengths and weakness of the farm business; properly kept records can be used as an indicator of progress. A series of carefully kept poultry records are necessary to monitor progress; and they are a good forward planning tool. Past records can be used to project future cash flows for current and modified poultry management operations.

Farmers considered record keeping as a difficult task, in spite of the importance of proper and accurate records in the efficient management and growth of a poultry production business (Poggio, 2006); and therefore the decisions they make are influenced by imprecise estimates and deductions based on their past experiences (Johl & Kapur, 2001).

In Nigeria most farmers do not attach a great deal of importance to record keeping in their farming operations. Farmers often talk of profit and loss not on the basis of facts and figures derived from properly kept records, but from intuition or guessing. This failure to keep records results in part from the educational background of the farming communities and the subsistence nature of production. Although the most important information is committed to memory from time to time, this system has a number of limitations. Record keeping is not particularly an exciting exercise and it is usually boring. It is time consuming, often tedious and has a few immediate tangible benefits. The benefits of proper record keeping stems from being able to make correct decisions based on credible, documented information which leads to effective management. Effective management relies upon exact record keeping (Dudafa, 2013).

Literature has revealed some challenges of keeping proper farm records. Tham-Agyekum *et al.* (2010) citing Poggio (2006) reported that farmer's sees farm record keeping as ordinary assignment. Minae *et al.* (2003) averred that lack of effective farm records keeping is more obvious because of high levels of lack of education and low numerical levels in most low asset African farming communities including Nigeria. Absence of mindfulness by farmers on the significance of farm record keeping on the performance of farm enterprises by extension agents; While (Singh, 2001) opined that small farmers are not ready to impact economies of scale because of little size of their farm holdings, bringing about absence of enthusiasm for keeping farm records. Another challenge is time constraint which hinder the farmers from keeping proper farm records; this could be adduce largely to the fact that most farmers are involved in several enterprises and mixed farming systems, subsequently much time is required for keeping farm record (John & Kapur, 2001).

Tham-Agyekum *et al.*(2010) citing (Mariene, 1995; & Devonish *et al.*, 2000) reported that farm size, level of education, age, gender, and years of farming experience are autonomous of farm record keeping. However, they averred that there is a considerable relationship between farm record keeping and farmer status, receipt of credit and net income. Full-time farmers tend to keep farm records than part-time farmers; while commercial farmers tend to keep farm records than subsistence farmers.

Johl and Kapur (2001) reported that subsistence farming system does not give any motivation to keeping farm records. Uche (2012) reported that lack of awareness, time constraints, tax, problems of mixed enterprises, lack of interest, high cost of keeping records, inconsistency and high level of lack of education as limitations to appropriate record keeping by farmers.

Statement of the problem

The importance of accurately and properly kept records in poultry production cannot be overemphasized. Record keeping is a key component of managing an efficient poultry farm business. Records are needed not only for legal, financial and taxation purposes but also for maintaining a permanent record of the farm business, analyzing the business, monitoring day-to-day activities and future planning. In spite of the importance of properly kept records in the successful administration and growth of a poultry farm business; poultry farmers appear not to place great importance to effective record keeping. Therefore, the statement of the problem of this study is to investigate the importance of effective record keeping in poultry production in Okpe and Udu local government areas of Delta State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the role of proper record keeping in poultry production among farmers in Okpe and Udu local government areas of Delta State, Nigeria.

Specifically the study is carried out to determine:

- i. The demographic characteristics of the poultry farmers
- ii. The various types of farm records kept by the poultry farmers
- iii. The importance of effective record keeping
- iv. The factors affecting effective record keeping by the poultry farmers

Research Questions

- i. What are the demographic characteristics of the poultry farmers?
- ii. What are the various types of records kept by the poultry farmers?
- iii. What is the importance of keeping farm records?
- iv. What are the factors affecting effective record keeping by poultry farmers?

METHODOLOGY

The study “effective record keeping and poultry management in Udu and Okpe local government areas of Delta State, Nigeria” was carried out using descriptive survey research design. The population of this study is comprised of all the poultry farmers in Udu and Okpe local government areas of Delta State. A multi-stage random sampling technique was employed in carrying out the research. The first stage was the purposive selection of the two local government areas; the second stage involves the random selection of 60 poultry farmers, 30 each from Udu and Okpe local government areas, which formed the sample size. The research instrument is 50 items self-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire is made up of four sections designed to seek information on the demographic characteristics of the respondents, types of records kept by poultry farmers, importance of proper records keeping, and factors affecting record keeping, respectively. Descriptive statistics: mean, frequency, and percentage were used to analyse the data collected. The mean point of Five-Likert scale of measurement was used to determine the types of records kept by farmers, importance of records, and factors affecting proper record keeping. Acceptance level was determined by the mean point value of ≥ 3.00 and otherwise rejected. Scale used: Strongly agreed = 5, agreed = 4, undecided = 3, strongly disagreed = 2, disagreed = 1, respectively. SPSS statistical package was used to run the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Frequency distribution table on the demographic characteristics of poultry farmers

Demographic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender:		
Male	45	75.0
Female	15	25.0
Age:		
20-40	19	31.7
40-60	35	58.3
60 and above	6	10.0
Marital status:		
Single	11	18.3
Married	49	81.7
Educational qualification:		
Primary school	Nil	Nil
Secondary school	9	15.0
Tertiary education	51	85.0
Number of birds:		
Less than 500	4	6.7
500-1000	6	10.0
1000-2000	18	30.0
2000 and above	32	53.3
Farming experience (years):		
Less than 5	31	51.7
5-15	23	38.3
15-25	4	6.7
25 and above	2	3.3
Farming status:		
Full-Time	46	76.7
Part-Time	14	23.3
Farming Level:		
Subsistence	2	3.3
Commercial	58	96.7

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 1 revealed that majority of the respondents are male (45) representing 75% of the sample size. This shows that a considerable proportion of the poultry farmers in the study area are men. The findings shows that the highest numbers of the respondents are within the age range of 40-60 years (35) which represent 58.3%; (49) representing 81.7% of the respondents are married while (60) representing 100% of the sample size had formal education at different levels. The findings also indicated that (32) 53.3% of the respondents had 2000 birds and above, and (31) 51.7% of the sample size had less than 5 years poultry production experience i.e. the poultry farmers in the study area had relatively low experience in poultry farming. The results of this present study corroborate the findings of Enoch *et al.* (2010), which opined that poultry farmers have a comparatively low experience in poultry farming which is a consequence effect of shift of government policy in favour of agriculture, which has brought new entrants into poultry production business. The result of this present study is in disagreement with the findings of (Dudafa, 2013; Olufokumbi, 1984; & Udo, 1975) which averred that considerable proportions of the farmers are illiterates. The results also indicated that (46)76.7% of the respondents are into full-time poultry production business. This is in agreement with (Adekoya, 2005) which stated that majority of the poultry

farmer's are into full-time farming. The findings show that (58) representing 96.7% of the sample size are commercial poultry farmer's i.e. significant proportion of the poultry farmers in the study are commercial farmers.

Table 2: Mean, Standard error of mean of the various types of records kept by poultry farmers

Types of records	No. of respondents	Mean	Standard error of Mean	Remarks
Purchase records	60	4.80	0.05	Accepted
Sales records	60	4.85	0.05	Accepted
Feed consumption records	60	4.82	0.05	Accepted
Mortality records	60	4.85	0.04	Accepted
Performance records	60	4.67	0.09	Accepted
Vaccination records	60	4.88	0.04	Accepted
Baby chicks/broilers monthly records	60	3.98	0.17	Accepted
Account book	60	4.70	0.09	Accepted
Hens & eggs daily and monthly records	60	4.53	0.12	Accepted
Miscellaneous expenditure records	60	4.67	0.08	Accepted
Inventory records	60	4.82	0.05	Accepted

Source: Field survey, 2018

As shown in Table 2, Purchase records, sales records, mortality records, vaccination records, inventory records, feed consumption records, performance records, baby chicks/ broilers monthly records, account book, hens and egg daily and monthly records, and miscellaneous expenditure records with the mean values of 4.80(0.05), 4.85(0.05), 4.82(0.05), 4.85(0.04), 4.67(0.09), 4.88(0.04), 3.98(0.17), 4.70(0.09), 4.53(0.12), 4.67(0.08), 4.82(0.05) on a 5 point scale, respectively; are determined types of records kept by poultry farmers in the study area. The findings revealed that poultry farmers in the study area keep various types of farm records. The results of this present study is in disagreement with the reports of (Tham-Agyekum, et al., 2010; Okantah et al., 2003); Devonish et al., 2000; & Uche, 2012) which stated that most poultry farmers keeps financial, feeds, health and production records only. The study had indicated that farmers keep's various types of records necessary for the successful running of the poultry business; this could largely be adduced to the fact the poultry farmers in the study area had formal education at different level as earlier reported.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics showing the importance of record keeping by poultry famers

Importance of Record Keeping	No. of respondents	Mean	Standard error of mean	Remark
For profit and loss	60	4.73	0.12	Accepted
Use as service tool: income tax calculations, estate planning, business arrangement reconciliation, obtaining and managing credit	60	3.40	0.19	Accepted
Provide data for financial analysis	60	4.68	0.07	Accepted
To determine profitability of various techniques of production	60	4.18	0.16	Accepted
Compare efficiency of inputs	60	3.55	0.19	Accepted
Help in improving efficiency of farm operation	60	3.17	0.21	Accepted
To preserve institutional memory of the enterprises for future reference	60	4.60	0.06	Accepted
Compare managerial ability with other farmers	60	3.95	0.16	Accepted
To access performance and making good decision	60	4.90	0.04	Accepted
To establish eligibility in participating in government programmes	60	3.07	0.17	Accepted
Help in checking cost and returns	60	4.90	0.04	Accepted
Determine proper level of insurance coverage	60	3.07	0.17	Accepted
Good forward planning tool	60	4.77	0.06	Accepted
Indicator of progress	60	4.85	0.05	Accepted

Source: Field survey, 2018

As indicated in Table 3, records are kept to ascertain profit and loss, as service tool, provide data for financial analysis, determine profitability of various production techniques, compare efficiency of inputs, helps in improving efficiency of farm operations, preserve institutional memory of the enterprise for future reference, compare managerial ability with other farmers, access performance and making good decision, to establish eligibility in participating in government programmes, help in checking cost and returns, determine proper level of insurance coverage, good forward planning tool, and indicator of progress with mean values of 4.73 (0.21), 3.40 (0.19), 4.68(0.07), 4.18(0.16), 3.55(0.19), 3.17(0.21), 4.60(0.06), 3.95(0.16), 4.90(0.04), 3.07(0.17), 4.90(0.04), 3.07(0.17), 4.77(0.06), and 4.85(0.05) on a 5 point scale of measurement respectively, are the determined importance of record keeping by poultry farmers in the study area. The result of this present study is in corroboration with the findings of (Uche, 2012; Dudafa, 2013; & Adegeye and Dittoh, 1985).

Table 4: Descriptive statistics showing the factors affecting effective records keeping by poultry farmers

Factors affecting proper record keeping	No. of respondents	Mean	Standard error of mean	Remark
Farmers not abreast with the importance of effective record keeping	60	2.45	0.18	Rejected
Farmers do not see the need to keep proper records	60	1.85	0.14	Rejected
Time constraint	60	3.20	0.19	Accepted
Have no formal training in record keeping	60	2.05	0.17	Rejected
Poor storage of records	60	2.85	0.19	Rejected
Farmers are afraid of increase in tax and or new taxation	60	2.73	0.19	Rejected
Lack of sensitization on the importance of keeping records	60	2.20	0.19	Rejected
Illiteracy and low numeracy level of farmer	60	2.60	0.20	Rejected
Farmers see record keeping as a mundane task	60	2.97	0.19	Rejected
Age of the farmer	60	1.78	0.14	Rejected
Size of the farm	60	1.97	0.17	Rejected
Level of formal education	60	2.52	0.20	Rejected
Gender	60	1.25	0.16	Rejected
Farming experience	60	2.58	0.21	Rejected
Status of the farmer (subsistence or commercial)	60	3.10	0.18	Accepted

Source: Field survey, 2018

The findings revealed that time constraint and status of the farmer with mean value of 3.20 (0.19) and 3.10(0.18) respectively; on a 5 point scale are the only determined factors affecting proper record keeping in the study area. This may be due to the fact that a significant proportion of the farmers in the study area are literate as earlier reported. The result of this present study is in corroboration with the report of (Dudafa, 2013; Minae *et al.*, 2003; Devonish *et al.*, 2000; & Johl and Kapur, 2001)

CONCLUSIONS

In this present study, the findings have shown that poultry farmers have positive attitude towards keeping records; this could be attributed to the fact that a considerable proportion of the farmers in the study area had one form of formal education as have been reported. This study revealed that time constraint and status of the farmer are possible limitations to effective poultry record keeping. Conclusively, proper record keeping has a considerable role in efficiently managing a successful poultry business.

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