



## **Effects of Cattle Rustling On Cattle Producers' Welfare in Yobe State, Nigeria**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study aimed at determining the Effects of Cattle Rustling on Cattle Producers' Welfare in Yobe State, Nigeria. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. Descriptive Survey research design was adopted for the study. The target population of the study was 323 registered cattle farmers in Yobe State. The random sampling technique was used to select 160 registered cattle farmers. Structured questionnaire with 31 items was the instrument used to collect data for the study. The data obtained were analysed using mean and standard deviation. The decision rule of 2.50 was used to determine the mean scores. The findings of the study revealed that, poverty, political interference, Climate change occasioned by droughts and reduced access to water and competition over access and control of scarce natural are some of the factors responsible for Cattle rustling in Yobe State. The findings of the study also revealed that, generation of income from the sale of pastoral products (meat, milk, leather and hides), provision of raw materials for to the sale of live animals and Cattle are source of economic security and pride for herding communities are some of the benefits derived by Cattle Producers in the study area. The findings of the study further revealed that, deaths, immigration, Internally Displaced Persons, Incidence of Human Right Abuse, Sexual Assault and Rape as well as Arresting and Detention without probable cause or warrant are some of the effects of Cattle Rustling on Welfare Status of Cattle Producers in the study area. The findings of the study also revealed that, clear demarcation between farming sites and grazing routes in the region and promoting religious tolerance among farmers and cattle rustlers are some of the strategies to be employed to prevent cattle rustling in Yobe State. It was recommended that, there is need for creation of cattle ranges and ranches for easy security of herds as well as effective regulation of grazing activities.

**Keywords:** Effect, Cattle, Rustling, Farmer Welfare, Cattle producers'

### **INTRODUCTION**

The methods of traditional animal husbandry are changing, not only in Nigeria, but across the African countries where pastoralism is practiced. There are over 25 million pastoralists spread in almost all the countries in Africa (African Union, 2010). The pastoralists are major players in livestock production, particularly in the breeding of ruminant livestock. In West Africa, livestock production contributes to nutritional and food security; to poverty reduction; and foreign currency earnings in most Sahelian countries. Livestock and poultry production represents 17%, 20% and 18% of the GDP of Mali, Mauritania and Niger, respectively. In Nigeria, livestock was accounting for about 26% of the agricultural GDP and about 10% of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product in the 1990's, but the level of this contribution has significantly declined with agriculture contributing only about 19.65% of the GDP in the first quarter of 2014 (National Bureau of Statistics, Abuja, 2014).

The dominant method of pastoral production involves free-ranging of animals, mainly through the use of natural range and grasslands. Grasses and woody plants (browse) provide feed for animals while also

depending on natural sources of water, particularly rivers. In areas where surface water is limiting, underground water has been exploited for watering livestock. Thus, most of Nigeria's ruminant livestock resources are managed under pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems that adopt mobility as a means of accessing feeds and water (Morton, n.d.).

There are many challenges limiting the contributions of livestock sub-sector to the socio-economic development of Nigeria. Some of the challenges facing the sub-sector include low productivity resulting from the pastoralists' adoption of traditional breeding techniques; the degradation of rangelands due to overgrazing and climate change; and conflicts between pastoralists and farmers. In recent years, cattle rustling in the North-western and Middle Belt areas of Nigeria have further affected the productivity and viability of the sub-sector. Incidences of cattle rustling have significantly expanded in Nigeria since 2010 in many States thereby affecting the livelihoods of pastoral and agricultural households.

However, reduced access to the natural grassland for grazing, and water caused by cattle rustling has undoubtedly and increasingly put pastoralists under intense pressure for survival. In other words, the continued wave of cattle rustling across Nigeria has not only affected cattle producers' substantial contributions to the nation's economy but hampered their economic and welfare support to their households, villages and towns (Manu, Andu, Tarla & Aghari, 2014). Defined as a criminal intent to expropriate cows from the owners for meat and sale, the act has reportedly evolved into a pattern of organized crime with immense criminal sophistication and efficiency (Alemika, 2013).

Okoli & Okpaleke (2014) also viewed the menace as a global phenomenon that now manifest in various scales and dimensions across nations. For instance, Daily Trust (2014) in Okoli & Okpaleke (2014) revealed rustling of 300 cattle in 2013 in Scotland necessitating government declaration of cattle rustling as a national emergency. In Cameroon, Manu, *et al* (2014) noted a fundamental transformation of the scenario from a cultural practice of testing one's bravery and prowess to bloody warfare between various groups or communities. This same source further revealed rustling of 2599 cattle in North West Cameroon between 2008 and 2012. The act was reportedly massive in Lesotho causing widespread chronic poverty and inability of rural households to apply asset smoothing (Dzimba & Matoane, 2005).

In Nigeria, the scenario has continued to rise, particularly in the northern part of the country where livestock production is dominant. It is also revealed that the scenario which presently takes the dimensions of petty/localized rustling, inland rustling, and trans-border rustling has claimed about 60,000 cows and killing of 322 herders in northern Nigeria in 2013 (Daily Trust, 2013). Okoli, (2014), Daily Trust, (2014), Okoli and Okpaleke, (2014) reported a recurrent trend in some northern States leading to loss of animals, human lives and economic gains.

There is no doubt however, that parents may be made poor and unable to sponsor their off-springs to school and supply other basic needs of their families. This stems from the fact that a loss of a livestock through rustling means possible loss of benefits that could have accrued from both the sales and consumption of the products. It can also mean a loss of livelihood source to some very poor households that managed to earn income (FAO, 2007). Many rich households can also be impoverished by the activities of rustlers. Manu, *et al*. (2014) listed the effects of cattle rustling to include a loss of household wealth, an enforced cut back in own consumption and in the sale of animal products, reduced households' heads' abilities to invest in the human capital development of their children as well as a deterioration of household's nutritional status. It is however, obvious that the menace of cattle rustling and effects could vary in dimension, effects and locations, thus; the need to investigate its effects on herders' welfare in Yobe State.

### **Statement of the Problem**

There is no doubt that, cattle rustling has metamorphosed into a new system of economic predatory and exploitation in Northern Nigeria. Violence, fighting, killings and economic deprivations are almost constant elements within the milieu of cattle producers. Thus; the trade today is almost a matter of life and death to cattle rearers in an attempt to resist rustling of their animals. It is expected that the study will reveal cattle producers level of welfare as result of cattle rustling.

Pastoral communities in Yobe State have been involved in cattle rustling and banditry for some years (Bashir, 2017). The problem of cattle rustling has also been compounded with other disputes that revolve

around ownership of land and resources like water and pasture. Over the years, these pastoralist regions have suffered a series of droughts that have seriously threatened the viability of pastoralism as a way of life. These communities have suffered decades of neglect that have deprived them of the education, infrastructure and other prerequisites to the diversification of other livelihood strategies that are not overtly dependent on natural resources. Internal strife and collapse of state control in these areas have enabled the proliferation of small arms that have drastically increased the intensity and impacts of cattle rustling. The peripheries of the country are poorly policed and provide safe havens for raiders within the state as well as neighboring countries such as Niger republic.

Cattle rustling have also visited deep into the emotional and physical status of residents in these areas who have to live with the wounds of terror, torture and rape. The destabilization of livelihoods has also altered the interaction between people and the environment, to the detriment of the latter, and on to economic and social development of residents (Onuoha, 2008). Cattle rustling and banditry has caused social and economic disruptions and an unprecedented loss of livelihoods for poor men, women and children in the areas. Affected populations have suffered the loss of means of production, assets, and the means to convert their production to income.

Of particular interest is the impact of livestock rustling on food security of communities living in area. When animals are stolen, food prices skyrocket, farm and pasturelands are abandoned and communities displaced, hunger and malnutrition especially for the young and the aged becomes a reality. The Nigeria government spends a considerable amount of security and overall budgets trying to bring a semblance of order to conflict prone areas. The dilapidating effect of this budget distortion is traceable to all sectors and areas in the country. To achieve sustainable development in these areas, conflicts must be conclusively managed. It is in the light of the above background that this study sought to establish the Effects of Cattle Rustling on Cattle Producers' Welfare in Yobe State, Nigeria.

#### **Purpose of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to determine the Effects of Cattle Rustling on Cattle Producers' Welfare in Yobe State, Nigeria. Specifically, the project is aimed at:

- i. Ascertaining the benefits derived by cattle producers in the area
- ii. Determine the factors responsible for Cattle rustling in Yobe State.
- iii. Identify the effects of Cattle Rustling on Welfare Status of Cattle Producers.
- iv. Find out the strategies to be employed to prevent cattle rustling in Yobe State?

#### **Research Questions**

The study will be guided with the following research questions;

- i. What are the factors responsible for Cattle rustling in Yobe State?
- ii. What are the benefits derived by cattle producers in the study area?
- iii. What are Effects of Cattle Rustling on Welfare Status of Cattle Producers?
- iv. What are strategies to be employed to prevent cattle rustling in Yobe State?

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Research Design**

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. This design was adopted because according to Ali (2006) is a descriptive study which uses sample of an investigation to document, describe and explain what is in existence or non-existence on the present status of phenomena being investigated. The survey research design is suitable for this study since data were collected through questionnaire from cattle farmers on the Effects of Cattle Rustling on Cattle Producers' Welfare in Yobe State, Nigeria without manipulating the independent variables.

#### **Population of the Study**

The target population of the study was 323 cattle farmers obtained from Cattle Farmers' Association in Yobe State.

### **Sample and Sampling Techniques**

Yobe State has a total of 17 Local Government Areas, out of which 60% of the Local Government Areas was selected from three senatorial districts using proportionate sampling technique to give ten local government areas. The second stage was involved using random sampling technique to select 4 communities from each of the selected Local Government Areas. At the third stage, a list containing members of Registered Cattle Farmers' Association was obtained in each of the 40 selected communities using systematic sampling technique and 3 members from the list was selected to get a sample size of 160 cattle farmers that were used for the study.

### **Area of the Study**

The study was carried out in Yobe state located in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria. The state, covers an area of 45,502 sq. km and is located between latitudes 12; \O'N and 11 A °30'N and longitudes 7; \ °50'E and 8A °22'E and is bounded by Diffa Region and the Zinder Region of Niger Republic to the north. It also has borders with Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Jigawa States. Yobe State has rich cultural values 'with annual rainfall ranging from 800mm to 1000mm.

### **Research Instrument**

A structured questionnaire was designed by the researchers titled “Effects of Cattle Rustling on Cattle Producers' Welfare in Yobe State, Nigeria”. The structured questionnaire was designed with thirty-one (31) items in form of four scale Likert-type with the response modes of Strongly Agreed (SA<sup>4</sup>), Agreed (A<sup>3</sup>), Disagreed (D<sup>2</sup>) and Strongly Disagreed (SD<sup>1</sup>) respectively.

### **Validation of Research Instrument**

In order to ensure the validity (appropriateness) of the instrument for data collection, it was subjected to face and content validity with the assistance of assistance of experts (lecturers). To also ensure that the data to be obtained are reliable, an analysis of internal consistency of the instrument was carried out. A total number of 40 copies of the questionnaires was administered to cattle producers in Borno State that were not be included in the study.

### **Reliability of Research Instrument**

The reliability coefficient of the instruments was established using the test, re-test method. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.85, which indicates that the instrument was very reliable.

### **Method of Data Collection**

Before the actual data collection exercise takes place, the researcher was undertakes preliminary survey within the selected research areas to familiarize with the study areas. The researcher was also schedule appointments with the identified persons. During the appointment day, the researcher was planned to distribute the questionnaires in the morning and collect them in the afternoon. However, during that period the researcher was available for any consultation or clarification. Personal interview was conducted with the respondents and particularly with those in charge of handling the illiterate farmers.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected for the study was analyzed using the descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation. A cut- off point of 2.50 was used to determine the mean.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Research Question 1:** *What are the factors responsible for Cattle rustling in Yobe State?*

**Table 1:** Mean and Standard Deviation on the factors responsible for Cattle rustling in Yobe State

S/N.	Item Statements	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remarks
1	Poverty	120	30	6	4	3.66	0.67	Agreed
2	Political interference	80	40	30	10	3.18	0.95	Agreed
3	Climate change occasioned by droughts and reduced access to water	130	20	8	2	3.73	0.60	Agreed
4	Competition over access and control of scarce natural	125	10	10	15	3.52	0.98	Agreed
5	Pastoralists culture and traditions passed over the years that have promoted animosity in the area	80	60	17	3	3.35	0.74	Agreed
6	Limited natural resources	60	90	8	2	3.28	0.63	Agreed
7	Commercialization of livestock rustling	70	50	30	10	3.11	0.92	Agreed
8	Poor policies on pastoralists community that have destabilized the livelihoods of the community	100	40	10	10	3.43	0.86	Agreed
9	Invading of private farmlands and ranching in search of grazing land	120	30	6	4	3.66	0.67	Agreed

From table 1 above, the findings of the study revealed that, poverty, political interference, Climate change occasioned by droughts and reduced access to water, competition over access and control of scarce natural, pastoralists culture and traditions passed over the years that have promoted animosity in the area, limited natural resources, commercialization of livestock rustling, poor policies on pastoralists community that have destabilized the livelihoods of the community and invading of private farmlands and ranching in search of grazing land are some of the factors responsible for Cattle rustling in Yobe State.

**Research Question 2:** *What are the benefits derived by Cattle Producers in the study area?*

**Table 2:** Mean and Standard Deviation on the Benefits derived by Cattle Producers in the study area

S/N.	Item Statements	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remarks
1	Generation of income from the sale of pastoral products (meat, milk, leather and hides)	140	10	7	3	3.79	0.60	Agreed
2	Provision of raw materials for to the sale of live animal	150	5	3	2	3.89	0.45	Agreed
3	Cattle are source of economic security and pride for herding communities.	130	20	8	2	3.73	0.60	Agreed
4	Source of protein to aid growth and development of both human and livestock	100	40	17	3	3.47	0.75	Agreed
5	Provision of foreign exchange	120	20	15	5	3.59	0.78	Agreed
6	Cattle production create employment opportunities to many people	135	20	3	2	3.79	0.52	Agreed

From table 2 above, the findings of the study also revealed that, generation of income from the sale of pastoral products (meat, milk, leather and hides), provision of raw materials for to the sale of live animals, Cattle are source of economic security and pride for herding communities, source of protein to aid growth and development of both human and livestock, provision of foreign exchange and Cattle production

create employment opportunities to many people are some of the benefits derived by Cattle Producers in the study area.

**Research Question 3:** *What are effects of Cattle Rustling on Welfare Status of Cattle Producers?*

**Table 3:** Mean and Standard Deviation on the Effects of Cattle Rustling on Welfare Status of Cattle Producers

S/N.	Item Statements	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remarks
1	Deaths	125	15	18	2	3.64	0.72	Agreed
2	Immigration	100	40	6	4	3.47	0.77	Agreed
3	Internally Displaced Persons	130	20	5	5	3.71	0.67	Agreed
4	Intolerance between Pastoral communities	105	35	17	3	3.50	0.75	Agreed
5	High Number of Police Patrol and Military Personnel	20	10	30	100	1.67	1.03	Disagreed
6	Incidence of Human Right Abuse, Sexual Assault and Rape	140	10	6	4	3.78	0.62	Agreed
7	Arrest and Detention Without Probable cause or warrant	120	20	18	2	3.61	0.73	Agreed

From table 3 above, the findings of the study further revealed that, deaths, immigration, Internally Displaced Persons, Intolerance between Pastoral communities, Incidence of Human Right Abuse, Sexual Assault and Rape as well as Arresting and Detention Without Probable cause or warrant are some of the effects of Cattle Rustling on Welfare Status of Cattle Producers in the study area while they disagreed with the statements that high number of police patrol and military personnel is the effect of cattle rustling on welfare status of cattle producers in the study area.

**Research Question 4:** *What are strategies to be employed to prevent cattle rustling in Yobe State?*

**Table 4:** Mean and Standard Deviation on the strategies to be employed to prevent cattle rustling in Yobe State

S/N.	Item Statements	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remarks
1	Clear demarcation between farming sites and grazing routes in the region.	140	15	3	2	3.83	0.50	Agreed
2	Promotion of religious tolerance among Farmers and cattle rustlers	100	40	10	10	3.43	0.86	Agreed
3	Establishment of mechanism for settling dispute between Farmers and cattle rustlers	60	90	7	3	3.28	0.63	Agreed
4	Deployment of security forces to deals with cattle rustlers	130	20	4	6	3.71	0.69	Agreed
5	Provision of relief materials, Payment of compensation, relocation and rehabilitation of victims	140	10	8	2	3.46	1.00	Agreed
6	Arrest and prosecution of offenders	120	10	15	15	3.37	0.92	Agreed
7	Assisting Federal security agencies with necessary equipment to curb the menace of armed banditry	100	30	20	10	3.71	0.67	Agreed
8	Enforcement of community policing and crime prevention measures.	130	20	15	25	3.21	1.14	Agreed
9	Provision of necessary equipment and materials required for adequate crime control and prevention.	120	10	25	5	3.52	0.86	Agreed

From table 4 above, the findings of the study also revealed that, clear demarcation between farming sites and grazing routes in the region, promoting religious tolerance among farmers and cattle rustlers, establishment of mechanism for settling dispute between Farmers and cattle rustlers, deployment of security forces to deals with cattle rustlers, provision of relief materials, Payment of compensation, relocation and rehabilitation of victims, arrest and prosecution of offenders, assisting Federal security agencies with necessary equipment to curb the menace of armed banditry, enforcement of community policing and crime prevention measures and provision of necessary equipment and materials required for adequate crime control and prevention are some of the strategies to be employed to prevent cattle rustling in Yobe State.

### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The findings of the study revealed that, poverty, political interference, climate change occasioned by droughts and reduced access to water, competition over access and control of scarce natural, pastoralists culture and traditions passed over the years that have promoted animosity in the area, limited natural resources, commercialization of livestock rustling, poor policies on pastoralists community that have destabilized the livelihoods of the community and invading of private farmlands and ranching in search of grazing land are some of the factors responsible for Cattle rustling in Yobe State. The findings of the study is collaborated with the work of Manu, Andu, Tarla & Agharib (2014) who reported that, the continued wave of cattle rustling across Nigeria has not only affected cattle producers' substantial contributions to the nation's economy but hampered their economic and welfare support to their households, villages and towns.

The findings of the study also revealed that, generation of income from the sale of pastoral products (meat, milk, leather and hides), provision of raw materials for to the sale of live animals, Cattle are source of economic security and pride for herding communities, source of protein to aid growth and development of both human and livestock, provision of foreign exchange and Cattle production create employment opportunities to many people are some of the benefits derived by Cattle Producers in the study area.

The findings of the study further revealed that, deaths, immigration, Internally Displaced Persons, Intolerance between Pastoral communities, Incidence of Human Right Abuse, Sexual Assault and Rape as well as Arresting and Detention Without Probable cause or warrant are some of the effects of Cattle Rustling on Welfare Status of Cattle Producers in the study area while they disagreed with the statements that high number of police patrol and military personnel is the effect of cattle rustling on welfare status of cattle producers in the study area. The findings of the study is in line with the work of Manu, *et al.* (2014) whose listed the effects of cattle rustling to include a loss of household wealth, an enforced cut back in own consumption and in the sale of animal products, reduced households' heads' abilities to invest in the human capital development of their children as well as a deterioration of household's nutritional status.

The findings of the study also revealed that, clear demarcation between farming sites and grazing routes in the region, promoting religious tolerance among farmers and cattle rustlers, establishment of mechanism for settling dispute between Farmers and cattle rustlers, deployment of security forces to deals with cattle rustlers, provision of relief materials, Payment of compensation, relocation and rehabilitation of victims, arrest and prosecution of offenders, assisting Federal security agencies with necessary equipment to curb the menace of armed banditry, enforcement of community policing and crime prevention measures and provision of necessary equipment and materials required for adequate crime control and prevention are some of the strategies to be employed to prevent cattle rustling in Yobe State.

### **CONCLUSION**

Cattle rustling is one of the critical dimensions of public insecurity in contemporary Nigeria. The objectives of this study were met and an overall conclusion is that cattle rustling have major effects on cattle producers' welfare status in Yobe State, Nigeria. From this study, the raids have mainly resulted in deaths, immigration, poverty, high illiteracy levels as well as high levels of hunger in the community. Cattle rustling is a huge problem to the cattle producers' communities in Yobe State, Nigeria and the world. From the findings of this study, cattle rustling affect various aspects the cattle producers which

need to be addressed in order to improve the quality of life in the study area. There is also need for risk reduction strategies on conflicts to be put in place in order to ensure that the insecurity around cattle rustling is put to rest. It is also concluded that, governments need to address the development challenges affecting both farmers and pastoralist and harness the economic potentials of our nation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made that:-

1. There is need for the government and other agencies working in the area to focus on Building Peace and Development. Adult Education and livelihoods should be considered as a development issue.
2. Involvement of the herding communities in the fight against cattle rustlers by way of Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) of community policing.
3. The government together with other organizations should take a leading role in addressing the challenges affecting youths especially unemployment, idleness and illiteracy which would go a long way in reducing their participation in cattle rustling in the study area.
4. Creation of cattle ranges and ranches for easy security of herds as well as effective regulation of grazing activities.

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