

Opportunities for integrated of manure management in Argentinian feedlots

Implementation Details

Area: Argentina
Period: April 2015 to April 2016
Goal: Policy development



Finishing beef cattle on feedlots.

Situation Analysis

With a market boom of cash-crop agriculture, modern Argentinian beef cattle enterprises compete for land with various grain and oilseed crops. Whereas in the 1990s the vast majority of beef cattle were finished on grass with occasional grain supplementation, Argentinian feedlot systems today account for an estimated 50% of animals slaughtered, amounting to almost 13 million heads in 2013 alone. As a result of this rapid transformation, new and specific regulations have been applied to cope with the dynamic situation. Different feedlot good practice guidelines have been developed by the chamber to improve construction design, and improved animal handling and feeding systems. Manure management is diverse including good examples of Integrated Manure Management (IMM), but this information has not been systematized and shared between key stakeholders, fact that will help to raise awareness and promote practice adjustment. Different environmental research initiatives have expressed concerns about manure management and methane emissions in those intensive systems.

Opportunity

The geographic clustering of beef production that has occurred as a result of the rapid growth of the Argentinian feedlot industry requires adjustment of policy and practice frameworks. The current political pressure to address the potential environmental and climate concerns of these production systems, academic interest in the sector, and the industries wish to optimize the economic returns from its investment in manure management systems, provide an excellent opportunity to inform policy and practice change to promote IMM in Argentinian feedlots.

Objectives

- Build a multi stakeholder network to create awareness, exchange experiences, and promote IMM in the feedlot industry;
- Provide access to relevant IMM information and evidence;
- Assess opportunities in policy and practice change through process-based participatory modelling to provide information for IMM discussion and promotion;
- Explore options to exchange knowledge and experiences at regional and global levels.

Implemented Activities

1. Individual meeting with stakeholders.
2. A kick-off meeting, with launching a multi stakeholder network on feedlot IMM.
3. Web-implemented, participatory designed feedlot survey.

Upcoming Activities

1. Processing the feedlot MM survey.
2. Review of manure legislation for feedlots, involving SENASA and feedlot chamber staff.
3. Participatory capture of feedlot MM model requirements and model selection /development.
4. Regional workshop about Feedlot IMM.

Impact assessment	Indicator	Value
Geographical Impact (effect of scale)	Affected farm enterprises	Regional
		▶ National
		Sub-national
Socioeconomic Impact (effectiveness of activities)	Improved food security (by more income or production)	High
		▶ Medium
		Small
Impact on Climate Change (effectiveness of activities)	Reduced SCLP (methane) emission	▶ High
		Medium
		Small
Environmental Impact (effectiveness of activities)	Reduced environmental pollution	▶ High
		Medium
		Small
Stakeholder awareness (effect of activities)	No. of addressed stakeholder entities	> 5
		▶ 3-4
		1-2
Capacity building (effect of activities)	No. of people addressed in the enabling environment	> 150
		▶ 50-150
		< 50
Policy development (effect of activities)	No. of new or changed laws, rules etc.	> 2
		▶ 1-2
		0
Levering Finance (effect of activities)	Size of leveraged external investments	Large
		Medium
		▶ Not applicable

Implementers: - National University of the Centre of Buenos Aires Province, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences
- Argentinian Feedlot Chamber
- University of Buenos Aires, Faculty of Agriculture & National Scientific and Technical Research Council

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