



Cattle Picture by Angelyn Givens Purdue University

HONDURAS

Honduras has a population of 7 million in an extension of 43,422 squared miles. Their monetary unit is the Lempira with a value 18.84 Lempiras to one USD. Their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita (USD) is 2,900 (2005). Their inflation rate is 9.2%. Their main Agriculture products are bananas, sugar, coffee, oranges, pineapples and melons. Its main cities are Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, La Ceiba and Choluteca.

PRONAGRO SECRETARIA DE AGRICULTURA Y GANADERIA

Juan Carlos Ordóñez
Gerente Tecnico

Mr. Ordonez is in charge of the technical area of the National Development Agricultural Food Program carried out by the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of Honduras. He reported that they are trying to reconstruct the Agriculture and livestock production sectors after being devastated by Hurricane Mitch in October of 1998. This is an awesome task since more than 50 % of the financial losses occurred to the cattle sector according to various reports. Mr. Ordonez according to his report “Cadena Agroalimentaria de Carne Bovina” (Agriculture-Food Chain of Bovine Meat); Honduras

started to improve their cattle genetics by bringing in Cattle of the Cebu type in the 50's through an American banana company that introduced them. This was reinforced in the 70's and 80's through imports of Brahman cattle from the United States and Mexico.

According to this report Cattle Production is being rebuilt at a slow pace with pure breeders implementing modern techniques. It's considered that a large part of these cattle producers feed their animals on pasture without a good management and in rare occasions they would feed silage and hay. According to the Census of 2000-2001 Honduras has 86, 829 cattle farms with 1,859,737 cattle. This was after hurricane Mitch of 1998. From the total of farms 91% have less than 50 heads per farm. The type of production is dual-purpose 76%, specialized dairy production 15% and specialized in beef 9%. The range of milk production on average for these animals is between 6 lbs and 30 lbs of milk per day. For 2003, their latest report, Honduras had over 2 million cattle with a similar distribution and a tendency mainly to the beef specialized sector and more modern feeding techniques. Reports from the Pan-American College of Agriculture (Zamorano) also mentioned that the national average daily production is 7 to 9 lbs per cow with 80% of the farms being in a combination of partial confinement and pasture systems with soybean meal used mainly in the Poultry industry.

Mr. Ordonez was very interested in the use of Cottonseed Products in their program and asked considerable questions on cottonseed meal use in dairy and beef cattle rations. It's also important to point out that according to NCPA data, Honduras imported a total of 3,827 metric tons of U.S. cottonseed meal distributed during the months of April, June, August and September of 2005

FONDO GANADERO

Ivan Madrid

The Fondo Ganadero functions similarly to a cattle association that was originally established by the government to help out cattleman and farmers of low income. It has become an association type institution mainly of cattlemen that have their own cattle and assist in conjunction with the government to improve Honduras's cattle management techniques. Their genetics of their cattle has progressed through government sponsored breeding programs, like selling pure genetically improved proven bulls of different breeds in public government sponsored events.

According to Mr. Ivan Madrid who is located in the Northern part of Honduras, through a telephone conference, there is no availability of cottonseed products at the moment in Honduras and he represents through the Fondo Ganadero 12,000 bovines. Their feed plant produces close to 368 metric ton of concentrate feed per month of which 138 met tons are produced for their cooperative own use and 230 met tons commercially for dual purpose cattle that are on pasture and confined facilities. Mr. Madrid reports feeding levels for some of these cattle under pasture and confined facilities range from 8 lbs (3.6 kg) to 10 lbs (4.5 kg) of milk per day with a proportion forage to concentrate of 70% to

30% in their rations. He also reports productions of up to 53 lbs (24 kgs) of milk per day in one of their dairy herds of 200 Brown Swiss cows, under this system, It is considered hat they could use up to 1kg of cottonseed meal per animal under these conditions. Mr. Ivan considered that there is a significant market for cottonseed meal use with their cattle and the cattle in Honduras.

Summary:

As it was mentioned this country did import US cottonseed meal in 2005 over 3,000 metric tons but consistency would be the objective. Due to their production system US cottonseed meal could be used as a high quality protein supplement probably in levels of 1 kg of US cottonseed meal/animal. Their real market potential is estimated at 5000 metric tons per year. Although they have imported it previously, it is suggested a need for reinforcing the promotion program of cottonseed products in this country through technical seminars in conjunction with PRONAGRO and FONDO GANADERO.

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