Observations on Property Management

The following describes the type of observations which should be made by students when working on various types of properties. These are intended to serve as a guide and can be modified to apply to individual properties. They indicate the information which students are expected to include in their practical books.

Students should include full reports of one property for each of the following species: horses, dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry.

It should be recognised that management practices differ between geographical locations and with type of enterprise, e.g. laying or broiler chickens, wool and prime lamb production, performance horse or breeding establishments, etc. Students should experience as broad a diversity of properties as possible.

It is important that you gain experience on properties of a significant size to ensure that you obtain experience representative of commercial practice. Hobby farms and minor secondary interests on larger properties are not suitable.

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<th>Recommended minimum number of animals of one species on a property</th>
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<td>Broiler chickens</td>
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HORSES

1. Name & Address of Proprietor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION of HORSE PROPERTY:
2. Location of property.
3. Area.
4. Topography, rainfall (average and last 12 months) and incidence.
5. Pastures:
   (a) areas of natural pastures - species;
   (b) areas of improved or introduced pastures - species;

6. Type of horse enterprise & numbers of animals (specify breed(s) of horse):
   (a) racing stables
   (b) recreation horse stables
   (c) stud/breeding enterprise
   (d) performance horses
   (e) other.

HORSE HUSBANDRY PRACTICES:
7. Horse handling facilities -
   (a) general design, type and suitability of buildings, shelters, paddocks, stocks and
       yards for each age group
   (b) ventilation, cleaning, manure disposal
8. Horse management practices and reasons where applicable:
   breeding program:
   (a) detection of oestrus, use of a teaser;
   (b) time (date) of mating;
   (c) preparation of stallion for mating, frequency of stallion use;
   (d) preparation of mares for mating, frequency of mating;
   (e) pregnancy diagnosis, approach to twinning;
   (f) housing & management of mare until foaling.

   foaling, weaning & rearing:
   (a) time of foaling and its usual distribution;
   (b) supervision of foaling and care of neonate;
   (c) housing & management of mare and foal
   (d) vaccines, drenches and trace element treatments;
   (e) branding;
   (f) age at and technique for weaning;

   culling & sale:
   (a) selection of foals for retention or sale
   (b) culling of brood mares, aged working horses - age of casting, fate

   nutrition:
   (a) pasture based, pasture and supplement or total mixed ration
     - type of pasture;
     - growth of pasture and how managed;
     - supplemental concentrates, when, how much, according to age and for
       racing, working, pregnancy or lactation
     - problems with feed storage, costs, reliability of supply
   (b) feeders and feeding routine
   (c) access to water
   (d) nutritional disorders

9. Racing/recreation/performance horse management:
   (a) breaking in and education of horses;
   (b) exercise/working/fitness program

HORSE HEALTH & VETERINARY INTERVENTION:
10. Parasite control measures:
    (a) internal parasites - drenches used, frequency of drenching
    (b) external parasites - prevention and cure
11. Disease control measures:
   (a) vaccinations, diagnostic tests according to age;
   (b) identify any herd diseases (i.e. diseases other than lameness that have affected more than one horse on the property) over the last 10 years

12. Lameness: prevalence and treatment

13. Veterinary intervention - reasons for veterinary intervention and frequency
   e.g. disease diagnosis & control, surgical intervention, breeding

14. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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PRODUCTION

15. Current, past and planned stocking rates on the property.

16. Reproduction
   (a) number of foals produced annually/number brood mares
   (b) average foaling interval
   (c) average value of young stock at sale
   (d) number of services performed by stallion at stud: $ value

CRITIQUE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:

17. Scope for veterinary intervention (e.g. areas (nutrition, reproduction, welfare, animal health) where veterinary intervention and/or consultancy, etc, may improve flock health and production; costs & benefits).

18. YOUR DAILY DIARY
DAIRY CATTLE

1. Name & Address of Proprietor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION of DAIRY FARM:

2. Location of property.

3. Area.

4. Topography, rainfall (average and last 12 months) and incidence.

5. Identify the predominant soil types (maximum of three).

6. Pastures:
   (a) areas of natural pastures - species;
   (b) areas of improved or introduced pastures - species;
   (c) area cultivated - crops grown.
   (d) fodder crops for feed supplementation or conservation

7. Subdivision of property.

8. Watering points - frequency, distribution and type (bores, drains, dams, tanks, etc) & effluent disposal.

9. Type of dairy enterprise:
   (a) numbers and breed/strain of cows
   (b) quota; market milk vs manufacturing milk

10. Other secondary enterprises, e.g.
    (a) wheat - area, yield;
    (b) sheep, beef - number, breeding, fattening, wool;
    (c) other agricultural, e.g. fruit, cotton, cereals other than wheat, etc;
    (d) other livestock, e.g. pigs, poultry.

DAIRY HUSBANDRY PRACTICES:

11. Cattle handling facilities - general design, type and suitability.

12. Dairy management practices and reasons where applicable -
   breeding program:
   (a) bull or artificial insemination
   (b) time of mating
   (c) breed and age of bull(s) or type of semen
   (d) replacement breeding program vs calves for sale
   (e) heifer breeding program (age at mating, breed of sire, etc)
   (f) management of cows for mating, detection of oestrus, etc
   (g) pregnancy diagnosis

calving:
   (a) time of calving and its usual distribution (in relation to pasture availability?)
   (b) fertility of herd, e.g. calving interval
   (c) supervision of calving
   (d) management of neonate

weaning:
   (a) nutrition of calves
   (b) management of weaners
   (c) vaccination and health treatments
   (d) dehorning of calves

culling & sale:
   (a) disposal of calves - management and age of sale of culls
   (b) selection procedure of replacements, rearing management
   (c) culling of cows - reasons

nutrition:
   (a) pasture based, pasture and supplement or total mixed ration
      - type of pasture;
      - growth of pasture and how managed;
- time available;
- fodder conservation and utilisation;
- supplemental concentrates, when, how much, how fed;
- problems with feed storage, costs, reliability of supply

(b) nutritional disorders
- milk fever
- ketosis
- acidosis
- bloat
- poisonings, e.g. staggers, bracken, fern, paspalum and phalaris, Paterson's curse

13. The dairy -
(a) time and frequency of milking;
(b) number of bails in dairy;
(c) type of parlour - herringbone, rotary, etc;
(d) labour;
(e) rate of milking;
(f) feeding practice;
(g) health and sanitation;
(h) handling, storage and disposal of milk;
(i) herd recording

14. Parasite control measures:
   (a) internal parasites - drenches used, frequency of drenching, owner's or manager's impressions of efficacy, reasons for their choice,
   (b) external parasites

15. Disease control measures:
   (a) vaccinations;
   (b) diagnostic tests
      - foot problems
      - mastitis diagnosis and control measures
   (c) are the following diseases present or have they been:
      - bovine Johne's disease
      - enzootic bovine leucosis
      - leptospirosis?
   (d) diseases of young calves, e.g. neonatal calf diarrhoea, prevention & treatment

16. Veterinary intervention - reasons for veterinary intervention and frequency
   e.g. disease diagnosis & control, surgical intervention, breeding, calving, dystocia, retained placenta, left displaced abomasum, etc

17. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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18. Current, past and planned stocking rates on the property.

19. Milk production
   - litres/cow/lactation;
   - litres/hectare
- mean milk protein and butterfat;
- mean bulk milk somatic cell count p.a.

20. Stock production (e.g. in number of calves, heifers and steers sold per annum).

**CRITIQUE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:**

21. Scope for veterinary intervention (e.g. areas (nutrition, reproduction, welfare, animal health) where veterinary intervention and/or consultancy, etc, may improve flock health and production; costs & benefits).

22. YOUR DAILY DIARY
**BEEF**

1. Name & Address of Proprietor.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION of BEEF PROPERTY:**

2. Location of property.

3. Area.

4. Topography, rainfall (average and last 12 months) and incidence.

5. Identify the predominant soil types (maximum of three).

6. Pastures:
   (a) areas of natural pastures - species;
   (b) areas of improved or introduced pastures - species;
   (c) area cultivated - crops grown;
   (d) fodder crops for feed supplementation or conservation.

7. Subdivision of property.

8. Watering points - frequency, distribution and type (bores, drains, dams, tanks, etc).

9. Type of beef enterprise & numbers of animals (specify breed/strain of cattle):
   (a) breeding
   (b) stud
   (c) finishing
   (d) vealer production
   (e) feedlot
   (f) combination or other.

10. Other secondary enterprises, e.g.:
    (a) wheat - area, yield;
    (b) sheep - number, breeding, wool and/or meat;
    (c) other agricultural, e.g. fruit, cereals other than wheat, cotton, etc;
    (d) other livestock, e.g. pigs, poultry.

**BEEF CATTLE HUSBANDRY PRACTICES:**

11. Cattle handling facilities - general design, type and suitability.

12. Cattle management practices and reasons where applicable:

    **breeding program:**
    (a) paddock joining (percent of bulls joined, duration of joining), hand mating or artificial insemination;
    (b) time of joining;
    (c) features of bull and cow management prior to and during joining, e.g. weaning, flushing of cows, pre-joining nutrition of bulls, fertility testing of bulls, replacement of bulls, health care measures
    (d) age of joining heifers
    (e) pregnancy diagnosis

    **calving & marking:**
    (a) time of calving and its usual distribution;
    (b) percentage of calves dropped/marked;
    (c) twinning/cross suckling;
    (d) age of marking;
    (e) method of calf marking and reasons for its preference;
    (f) vaccines, drenches and trace element treatments at calf marking.

    **weaning:**
    (a) age of weaning;
    (b) nutrition and any special management provided for weaners;
    (c) segregation of heifers and steers.

    **culling, sale & purchase:**
    (a) disposal of surplus calves/ purchase of additional calves
    (b) culling of heifers- methods used, e.g. pedigree, growth rates, age of culling, number kept as herd replacements, disposal of culls;
(c) culling of breeding cows - age of casting; reasons
(d) sale of stock for beef/veal - age, finished or unfinished, selection criteria, method of sale (open market or contract)

**nutrition:**
(a) pasture based, pasture and supplement or total mixed ration
   - type of pasture;
   - growth of pasture and how managed;
   - fodder conservation and utilisation;
   - supplemental concentrates, when, how much, how fed;
   - problems with feed storage, costs, reliability of supply
(b) nutritional disorders

**HERD HEALTH & VETERINARY INTERVENTION:**
14. Parasite control measures:
   (a) internal parasites - drenches used, frequency of drenching, owner's or manager's impressions of efficacy, reasons for their choice
   (b) external parasites
15. Disease control measures:
   (a) vaccinations, diagnostic tests;
   (b) are the following diseases present or have they been:
      - brucellosis
      - trichomoniasis
      - vibriosis
      - tuberculosis
16. Veterinary intervention - reasons for veterinary intervention and frequency
e.g. disease diagnosis & control, surgical intervention, breeding, calving
17. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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**PRODUCTION**
18. Current, past and planned stocking rates on the property.
   (a) number of calves branded per cow bred & annual variation
   (b) estimated losses before branding
   (c) losses between branding and weaning;
   (d) age and weight of sale of steers;
   (e) estimated productivity in kg carcass per hectare per 100 mm rainfall).
20. Other stock production (e.g. numbers of surplus heifers, age, etc).

**CRITIQUE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:**
21. Scope for veterinary intervention (e.g. areas (nutrition, reproduction, welfare, animal health) where veterinary intervention and/or consultancy, etc, may improve flock health and production; costs & benefits).

22. **YOUR DAILY DIARY**
SHEEP

1. Name & Address of Proprietor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION of SHEEP PROPERTY:

2. Location of property.

3. Area.

4. Topography, rainfall (average and last 12 months) and incidence.

5. Identify the predominant soil types (maximum of three).

6. Pastures:
   (a) areas of natural pastures - species;
   (b) areas of improved or introduced pastures - species;
   (c) area cultivated - crops grown;
   (d) fodder crops for feed supplementation or conservation.

7. Subdivision of property & stocking practice.

8. Watering points - frequency, distribution and type (bores, drains, dams, tanks, etc).

9. Type of sheep enterprise & numbers of animals (specify breed/strain of sheep and type of wool):
   (a) Merino woolgrowing (wethers) only;
   (b) Merino woolgrowing and breeding;
   (c) Cross-bred woolgrowing and breeding;
   (d) Prime lamb;
   (e) Merino stud;
   (f) British breed stud;
   (g) Other.

10. Other secondary enterprises, e.g.:
    (a) wheat - area, yield;
    (b) cattle - number, breeding and/or fattening;
    (c) other agricultural, e.g. fruit, cereals other than wheat, cotton, etc;
    (d) other livestock, e.g. pigs, poultry.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY PRACTICES:

11. Sheep handling facilities - general design, type and suitability.

12. Sheep management practices and reasons where applicable:
    
    breeding program:
    (a) paddock joining (percent of rams joined, duration of joining), hand mating or artificial insemination;
    (b) time of joining;
    (c) features of ram and ewe management prior to and during joining, e.g. shearing or crutching of ewes and rams, flushing of ewes, pre-joining nutrition of rams, jetting, other fly-strike preventative measures prior to joining;
    (d) pregnancy diagnosis (if used)
        - raddled rams
        - ultrasound, diagnosis of twinning
        - use for ewe management during pregnancy

    lambing & marking:
    (a) time of lambing and its usual distribution;
    (b) percentage of lambs marked;
    (c) attitude to twinning;
    (d) control of predators.
    (e) age of lamb marking;
    (f) age of mulesing;
    (g) method of lamb marking and reasons for its preference;
    (h) vaccines, drenches and trace element treatments at lamb marking;

    weaning:
    (a) age of weaning;
    (b) nutrition and any special management provided for weaners;
culling & sale:
(a) disposal of wethers - sold or proportion maintained as woolgrowers; age of culling;
(b) culling of maiden ewes - methods used, e.g. classing, fleece weight, age of culling, number kept as flock replacements, disposal of culls;
(c) culling of flock ewes - age of casting; wet & drying;

13. Shearing:
(a) time of shearing and reasons for selection of this time;
(b) number of stands in shed;
(c) duration of shearing;
(d) order of shearing, e.g. weaners, maiden ewes, and so on up to aged ewes or vice versa; reasons for such order;
(e) type of shearing labour, e.g. contract;
(f) source of other labour if not contract shearing, e.g. casual station labour, owner or manager;
(g) number of men engaged for shearing; shearers, rouse-abouts, piece-pickers, presser, cook, etc.;
(h) classing of wool, i.e. classed on station or bulk classes and re-classed at store;
(i) classification of wool;
(j) type of wool - strong, medium or fine, mean fibre diameter, predominant type of fault if any;
(k) disposal of wool - auction, forward-selling, use of futures, etc., reason for choice.

SHEEP HEALTH & VETERINARY INTERVENTION:

14. Parasite control measures:
(a) internal parasites - drenches used, frequency of drenching, owner’s or manager’s impressions of efficacy, reasons for their choice, use of faecal egg counts.
(b) external parasites
  - blowfly strike prevention (e.g. crutching, ringing, wigging) & treatment (e.g. jetting);
  - lice prevention and treatment (e.g. routine dipping and application for 'pour-on' medications).

15. Disease control measures:
(a) vaccinations, diagnostic tests;
(b) are the following diseases present or have they been:
   - footrot?
   - ovine Johne’s disease?
   - brucellosis?

16. Veterinary intervention - reasons for veterinary intervention and frequency e.g. disease diagnosis & control, surgical intervention, breeding

17. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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PRODUCTION

18. Current, past and planned stocking rates on the property.

19. Wool production (e.g. in kg per hectare per 100 mm rainfall).

20. Lamb production (e.g. in kg carcass weight per hectare per 100 mm rainfall).
CRITIQUE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:

21. Scope for veterinary intervention (e.g. areas (nutrition, reproduction, welfare, animal health) where veterinary intervention and/or consultancy, etc., may improve flock health and production; costs & benefits).

22. YOUR DAILY DIARY
PIGS

1. Name & Address of Proprietor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION of PIG FARM:

2. Location of property.

3. Water source - (bores, dams, tanks, etc) & effluent disposal

4. Type of pig enterprise & numbers of animals (specify breed/strain of pigs):
   (a) Breeding and sale of young pigs
   (b) Breeding and growing for pork or bacon.
   (c) Growing only.

5. Other secondary enterprises, e.g.:
   (a) wheat - area, yield;
   (b) sheep, cattle - number, breeding and/or fattening;
   (c) other agricultural, e.g. fruit, cereals other than wheat, cotton, etc;
   (d) other livestock, e.g. poultry.

PIG HUSBANDRY PRACTICES:

6. Facilities:
   (a) intensive, extensive or mixture
   (b) continuous occupation or `all-in-all-out' system
   (c) general design, type, layout and suitability of buildings for each age group, e.g.
       group housing or stalls
   (d) ventilation, thermoregulation, cleaning, effluent disposal

7. Pig management practices and reasons where applicable:

   breeding program:
   (a) natural mating (frequency of mating) or artificial insemination - detection of oestrus
   (b) selection and replacement of boars/semen, boar:sow ratio
   (c) features of boar and sow management prior to and during joining, e.g. weaning of sows, nutrition of sows through mating period, nutrition and health of boars, frequency of use
   (d) mating of gilts, age, housing, feeding and management prior to mating
   (e) pregnancy diagnosis
   (f) vaccination program for sows and boars

   farrowing:
   (a) housing of farrowing sows - description of crates, thermoregulation, water supply;
   (b) supervision of farrowing; induction of farrowing
   (c) cross-fostering
   (c) use of creep feeders
   (e) routine treatments for piglets (e.g. vaccines, trace elements)
   (f) feeding practices: sows and piglets

   weaning:
   (a) weaning frequency; age or weight basis, back-fostering
   (b) nutrition and any special management provided for weaners

   culling, sale & purchase:
   (a) selection of breeding gilts, criteria used, numbers
   (b) sale of stock for meat - age, size, open market or contract, pork, bacon or processing
   (c) culling of herd sows - age of casting, sale
   (d) culling and sale of boars
   (e) purchase of breeding stock - source, reasons

   nutrition:
   (a) - source of feed(s) - pre-mixed or mixed on farm, purchased or grown
       - feed quality assessment
       - supplements;
   (b) rations, feeding frequency and method (mechanics)
       - breeding sows (according to reproductive status)
- weaners
- growers
- finishers
- boars;
(c) watering method.

HERD HEALTH & VETERINARY INTERVENTION:
8. Parasite control measures:
   (a) internal parasites
   (b) external parasites

9. Disease control measures:
   (a) vaccinations
   (b) are the following diseases present or have they been:
       mycoplasma pneumonia
       pleuro-pneumonia
       proliferative enteritis
       colitis
       sarcoptic mange

10. Veterinary intervention - reasons for veterinary intervention and frequency
    e.g. disease diagnosis & control, surgical intervention, breeding, farrowing

PRODUCTION
11. Current, past and planned level of production

12. Reproduction
   (a) litters per sow per year
   (b) piglets per litter born (sow and gilt) and reared to weaning
   (c) birth weights
   (d) seasonal infertility

13. Growth
   (a) age and weight at weaning
   (b) age and weight at sale
   (c) carcass grades
   (d) feed conversion efficiency (whole herd basis)

CRITIQUE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:
14. Scope for veterinary intervention (e.g. areas (nutrition, reproduction, welfare, animal health) where veterinary intervention and/or consultancy, etc, may improve flock health and production; costs & benefits).

15. YOUR DAILY DIARY
POULTRY

1. Name & Address of Proprietor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION of POULTRY PROPERTY:

2. Location of property.

3. Water source - (bores, dams, tanks, etc) & manure disposal

4. Type of poultry enterprise & numbers of animals (specify species, breed/strain of birds):
   (a) Broilers;
   (b) Growing pullets
   (c) Layers;
   (d) Broiler breeders.

5. Other secondary enterprises, e.g.:
   (a) wheat - area, yield;
   (b) sheep, cattle - number, breeding and/or fattening;
   (c) other agricultural, e.g. fruit, cereals other than wheat, cotton, etc;
   (d) other livestock, e.g. pigs.

POULTRY HUSBANDRY PRACTICES:

6. Facilities:
   (a) litter, free range or caged;
   (b) number of units on property;
   (c) general design, type, construction, layout and suitability of buildings for each group, e.g. growers or layers;
   (d) ventilation, insulation, thermoregulation;
   (e) cleaning, manure removal;
   (f) type of feeders and feeding system;
   (g) watering system;
   (h) lighting system.
   (i) grading and storage of eggs

7. Poultry management practices and reasons where applicable:
   brooding:
   (a) type of equipment
   (b) source of heat, temperatures used
   (c) draught exclusion
   (d) supplementary feeders, waterers

   lighting:
   (a) use of supplementary lighting, seasonality of use, etc

   nutrition:
   (a) - source of feed(s) - pre-mixed or mixed on farm, purchased or grown
     - pellets or mash
     - feed quality assessment
     - supplements;
   (b) rations, feeding frequency and method
     - brooding
     - layers
     - broilers
   (c) watering method.

FLOCK HEALTH & VETERINARY INTERVENTION:

8. Parasite control measures; cleaning & disinfection

9. Prevention of cannibalism

10. Disease control measures:
     (a) vaccinations, diagnostic tests;
     (b) are the following diseases present or have they been:
         coccidiosis
         respiratory diseases

11. Veterinary intervention - reasons for veterinary intervention and frequency
13. **broilers:**
   (a) age sold
   (b) average weight when sold
   (c) feed conversion when sold
   (d) overall mortality
   (e) stocking density
   (f) number of crops per year
   (g) current, past and planned stocking rates on the property;
   (h) marketing of birds/carcasses

14. **layers:**
   (a) age at point of lay
   (b) period kept in lay
   (c) overall egg production per hen housed
   (d) feed consumption per hen per day
   (e) egg shell quality
   (f) overall mortality
      - in rearing
      - in laying
   (g) current, past and planned stocking rates on the property;
   (h) marketing of eggs.

**CRITIQUE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:**

15. Scope for veterinary intervention (e.g. areas (nutrition, reproduction, welfare, animal health) where veterinary intervention and/or consultancy, etc, may improve flock health and production; costs & benefits).

16. **YOUR DAILY DIARY**