V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province has some highlands that are suitable for developing dairy cattle farm since dairy cattle needs low temperature areas as their best living place. The Bener Meriah district is chosen to be the research area because this area is a highland. Located in the central of Aceh province, Bener Meriah still has wide area of bare land and some parts are not located in a conservation area or protected forest.

To find the best location for dairy cattle farm, there are several factors to be considered such as, physical factors, carrying capacity, technical factors and economic factors. Physical factors are to find the best location for dairy cattle farm and pasture based on availability of roads, settlements, rainfall, temperature, and cover, altitude, and water supply. The result of overlying those factors above the candidate areas of dairy cattle farm and pasture. Carrying capacity is used to see if those candidate areas are able to carry at least 100 cattle. There are two areas, one in Reje Guru village and the other one in Kute Lintang village that are suitable for pasture. Overlying process also indicates 3 good locations for dairy cattle farm.

The result of overlying physical factors and carrying capacity are 3 candidates location. First area is located in Kute Lintang village. The second and third areas are located in Reje Guru village. Both area is located in south of Bener Meriah district.

Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) is used to find the best area for dairy cattle farm from those candidates. AHP calculates the score of technical and economic factors made by the experts. Technical factors such as road condition and distance to town, and economic factor such as marketing and cooperation availability is considered in AHP calculation. AHP states that marketing is the most important factor to be considered. Next factors are cooperation availability, road condition and distance to town. Based on the result above, AHP calculates priorities of the candidate areas as the best location for dairy cattle farm.

AHP decides area A, located in Kute Lintang village as the most suitable
place to develop dairy cattle farm. Second best is area C and the third one is area B, both located in Reje Guru village.

5.2 Recommendations

NAD province has a dark past related with armed conflict and security problem. In the past, villagers were displaced to other province in order to save their lives. Since, at the moment the situation is back to normal, they are returning to their village to start over.

Livestock development is an option for local people to improve their economy. Especially in Aceh Tengah and Bener Meriah highlands, dairy cattle could be one of the best options to be considered. Based on this study there are good places that can be developed as dairy cattle farms. Support from local government is absolutely needed to help farmers to start over with their livelihood through dairy cattle farming. Local government support could be in developing facilities, loan for farmers and provide livestock experts to help farmers to improve their knowledge of dairy cattle and pasture.