ABSTRACT


The increasing demand for livestock product recently needs proper development of livestock business, and included with cattle business, that has big contribution toward meat commodity. The research objectives were: (1) to analyze the potential natural resources and human resources in the business of beef cattle in the Regency of Lima Puluh Kota; (2) to evaluate the development program of beef cattle and utilization of resources at the farmers’ level, (3) to analyze the efficiency of livestock farming through the application of technology in utilizing agricultural waste for livestock feed, processing livestock waste into organic fertilizers, and (4) to formulate the strategies in the development of beef cattle businesses in the Regency of Lima Puluh Kota for the future.

The study was conducted in four stages: (1) identification and analysis of the potential development of beef cattle in the Regency of Lima Puluh Kota; (2) analysis of the development programs of beef cattle that have been or are being implemented, (3) increasing productivity and income of livestock businesses through improvements in livestock farming or technology, and (4), based on the obtained data, formulating applicable strategies for the development of beef cattle businesses in Regency of Lima Puluh Kota.

The results of study showed that the Regency of Lima Puluh Kota is potential for the development of beef cattle in the future, and is supported by the following aspects: (1) the high capacity for livestock (ruminants) development based on land resources and labor force of the family at 25,481 DT, (2) the existence of base beef production in the four districts (Lareh Sago Halaban, Situjuah Limo Nagari, Luhak, and Bukit Barisan), (3) the Artificial Insemination Center in Sakato Tuah has been functioning in the production of seeds, and (d) the government policies that support the development of beef cattle.

The resources available at the level of livestock farmers have not been used optimally, particularly in the farming pattern of land with the size of ≤ 1 Ha. By applying the technology in processing rice straw into feed and livestock waste into organic fertilizer, the farmer's income can be increased by Rp 544,236.69/head/months.

Some weaknesses and threats faced in the development of beef cattle are (a) raising as a sideline business, (b) inadequate marketing system of livestock, (c) problems in reproduction and health of livestock, and (d) high frequency in the slaughter of productive female livestock.

Alternative strategies recommended for the development of beef cattle in the Regency of Lima Puluh Kota are: (1) capital increase, (2) application of appropriate farmers-based technology, (3) development of the breeding centers, (4) improvement of business efficiency, and (5) optimization of the group functions.

Key words: Area potential, Development strategic of cattle business, Lima Puluh Kota, West Sumatera