

HoA – ME Livestock Trade

Chip Stem

History of HoA Livestock Export

- ◉ Trade to Arabia dates back hundreds of years, possibly millennia
- ◉ Livestock has been a Key Component
- ◉ Cultural roots
 - Inter-marriage has been (and remains) common
 - Family ties across the Red Sea lasting hundreds of years
 - Similar traditions, same religion



20th Century Trade —exponential growth

- Arabian Oil Boom - early part of the 1900s → Wealth, population growth, inward work force migration
- ↑ demand for meat
- ↑ live animal export from HoA
 - Similar livestock phenotypes
 - Preferred taste
 - Built on existing trade and family ties
- Hajj Pilgrimage sacrificial slaughter grew

By 1970s & 1980s

- HoA exported 2 – 3 million head annually
- Important to Economies of HoA countries — critical to some
 - Somalia 80+% of export economy livestock based
- Livestock Trade Sustained pastoralists throughout the region with livestock exported from Somalia originating as far away as Isiolo, Kenya

Impossible to Stop this Trade

- Cultural, economic ties on both sides are just too strong
- No real livelihood alternative
- Societies and cultures organized around families and trade & are more important than nation states and rule of law

Effect of Trade Bans

- Initial sharp reduction in exports
- Closure of organized export quarantines since the ban is official between states
- Forces trade “underground”
- Export numbers rebound slowly for first 1-3 years, but then returns to large numbers (1 – 2 million head).
- Organized, larger, more transparent traders forced out
- Black market flourishes

1983 Ban due to Rinderpest Threat

- Didn't remove demand for livestock in import side (though did shift it towards Australia)
- Didn't remove dependence on livestock of HoA people
- Precipitated Black Market
 - Unregulated
 - Expensive (↓ producer prices 2000 - \$28 2012 - \$55)
 - Risky
 - Animal Welfare Issues increase



Ban Period cont...

- 1986 / 87 Collapse of Somalia ⇒ failed state
- Somaliland & Puntland (late '90s early '00s)
 - NGO / UN Assistance
 - Organized Brucella testing for export animals
- UAE +/- imports – Vet Certificate
 - Pushed for Brucella testing and more vet input
 - Counterfeit Vet Certificates ⇒ **Romanian Camels**
- “Quarantines” – variable / ineffective
- Frequently animals direct ship boarding Berbera / Bosasso

Ban Period Continued –

- Somalia 1 – 2 million head → Berbera,
→ Bosasso
- Ethiopia → Berbera
→ (Massawa)
- Djibouti 16,000 head/ yr → Yemen
- (Kenya → Mauritius)
(15,000-20,000)/yr

Black Market Import Side

- Under the cover of darkness....Yemen
 - Unloaded on beaches and near shore (swim to shore)
 - Trekged / trucked across Yemen and into Saudi Arabia, occasionally entering Yemeni herds or consumption markets
- Saudi Arabia
 - Jeddah / Jizaan with false Certificates for Origin and import permits (Djibouti, Berbera)
- UAE – Direct imports → counterfeit documents

Saudi & Yemeni RVF Epizootic 2000

- Southwestern KSA
- Western Yemen
- Livestock morbidity / mortality
- Human mortality 300+ deaths
- Concurrent RVF epidemic in HoA
 - Was blamed for Arabian epizootic, but not likely cause
- Human Serum banks +ve **RVF** ⇨ 1980s...
(**after ban imposed & long before 2000 epidemic!**)

Yemen Import Quarantine

- 2001 Yemen Livestock Service Bold (practical) Decision – Quarantine incoming animals from Somalia
- 2 week quarantine
- This provided increased protection to both Yemen and Saudi Arabia

Djibouti Export Quarantine

- Initiative of AU/IBAR – Red Sea LTC 2000
- Djibouti selected by Saudi Arabia
- Donor Funded
- Opened 2006
- 2+ million animals by 2007
- Legalized export trade from HoA to Saudi Arabia for first time in 23 years
- Created standard for the region
- Precipitated Somalia Quarantines

Somalia Quarantines

- Berbera
 - 2 Quarantines
- Bosasso
 - 1 Quarantine
- Mogadishu
 - 1 Quarantine
- Export volume now 5.5 + million head
 - (Port data from Berbera and Bosasso, DVS Djibouti)

Present Status

- 5.5 + million head
- More than ever before
- Hundreds of millions of \$\$\$ into pastoralists hands
- Largely private sector with Government Supervision

Risks

- Most testing / inspection done by vets working for exporters (conflict of interest) [14 ships rejected 2 months]
- No traceability
- Livestock occasionally mix
- Abbreviated quarantine periods 7 – 10 days in practice
- Occasionally livestock board directly
- Trade bans Don's stop trade ↑ risk?

What Can Be Done?

◉ Exporting Countries

- Transparency
- Anticipate – Climate, Time since last outbreak
- Improve / modernize Suspensions, Sentinel herds, surveillance
- Vaccine banks
- Pro-active Ban / Zone Export Trade

◉ Importing Countries

- Maintain contacts
- Don't over-react
- Vaccine banks?