



Veterinary News & Views

Faisalabad

Editor in Chief: Dr. Khalid Mahmood Shouq
Editor: Dr. Tan Zaheer
Executive Editor: Zeeshan Khalid

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LIVESTOCK MINISTER SARDAR HUSNAIN BAHADUR DARESHAK INAUGURATES OSTRICH MEAT SALE AT UVAS MEAT OUTLET



Lahore: The Minister for Livestock & Dairy Development Department Punjab Sardar Husnain Bahadur Dareshak along with UVAS Vice-Chancellor Meritorious Prof Dr Talat Nasser Pasha, President Ostrich Association of Pakistan Raja Tahir Latif and Associate Prof Department Meat Science and Technology Dr Muhammad Hayat Jaspal inaugurates ostrich meat sale on regular basis to people for during weekly meat sale off days (Tuesday & Wednesday) at UVAS Meat Outlet. The University of Veterin

ary and Animal Sciences Lahore in collaboration with Livestock and Dairy Development Department Punjab and Ostrich Association of Pakistan organised ostrich meat sale ceremony at UVAS meat outlet on Abdul Qadir Jilani (Outfall) Road Lahore on Tuesday. Talking to media on the occasion, Livestock Minister said that for the profitability of ostrich farming community and also for the development of ostrich farming in Punjab the sale of Ostrich meat allow by Government of the Punjab in during

meat-off days (Tuesday & Wednesday) on regular basis for providing safe and high quality meat to people. He said for the facilitation of peoples on Tuesday & Wednesday the ostrich meat will be available for sale in private butcher shops and other departmental stores in all over the Punjab. He also said that the benefits of ostrich meat for the health of human body. He said enhancing of milk and meat production is on priority of Punjab Government. He said Punjab Government also focused to control dis

ease related issues like Foot & mouth deadly diseases which is the bottlenecks in development of livestock sector. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Talat Nasser Pasha said that the aim of this project was to connect the consumer with farmer and help farmers to have easy access to market for improving their economic status. A large number of peoples from civil society, livestock department officials and UVAS faculty members were attended on the occasion.

NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ASHIMIYU A.OLANIYI CALLS ON UAF VICE CHANCELLOR DR ZAFAR IQBAL RANDHAWA

Faisalabad: Nigerian High Commissioner Ashimiyu A.Olaniyi has stressed upon the need to further strengthening agricultural, academia, and research ties between both countries in order to ensure food security and rural development. He visited the University of Agriculture Faisalabad on Friday and called on UAF Vice Chancellor Dr Zafar Iqbal Randhawa along with deans and directors at Syndicate Room, UAF. He said Pakistan and Nigeria were enjoying good relations. The contribution of agriculture in Pakistan Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is around 21 percent whereas in the agriculture of Nigerian GDP, it is 23 percent. He said his country was having several agricultural universities and research institutes in which collaborations will help address common agricultural



challenges and to learn from each others. Our country is a natural oil and gas producing country whereas it is blessed with the good agricultural produces. He said that collaboration especially in cotton, and textile need to be further cemented to get benefit from each other experiences. He said that UAF is very famous university and center of excellence in agriculture and played a role in the food security.

Dr Zafar Iqbal Randhawa said that UAF and Nigerian institutions collaborated work in the field of the agriculture would help bring tangible results. He said that agriculture was the backbone of our economy, and the UAF was enjoying good relations with the educational and agricultural institutions worldwide. He said that in 1960s and 1980s, several agricultural experts from Pakistan including the scientists from UAF had

worked in Nigeria to boost up the sector there. He said that Pakistan was producing the surplus production in the all major crops. He said that collaborative work would bring the tangible result to increase the production and get benefit from each other experiences. The Nigerian HC also visited different labs of Horticultural Sciences, Soil Sciences and Center for Agricultural Biochemistry and Biotechnology (CABB).

US-BASED CARGILL TO INVEST \$200 MILLION IN PAKISTAN

Islamabad: In a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan, an executive team of US-based Cargill the provider of food, agriculture and industrial products announced plans to invest over \$200 million in Pakistan over the next three to five years.

The company's future investment strategy includes expansion across its agricultural trading and supply chain, edible oil, dairy, meat and animal feed businesses. The prime minister told the delegation that Pakistan was following a liberal investment regime and was offering diverse and business-friendly incentives. "Pakistan is endowed with a wealth of resources, has demographic potential and an educated workforce," he pointed out. "Concerted



efforts are under way to further improve the ease of doing business in the country." Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production Abdul Razak Dawood, who was also present in the meeting, apprised the delegation of the recent initiatives to improve the investment and business environment. "Business-friendly vision of the government is ex-

pected to make Pakistan an irresistible destination for investors," he remarked. Cargill executives offered support to steer growth in Pakistan by applying the company's global expertise and bringing investments into the country. To meet the goal, they said, Cargill would introduce innovations in Pakistan's dairy industry, which was already on the path of modernisation.

They pointed out that rising demand for edible oil, backed by evolving consumption patterns and a growing market for animal feed, provided opportunities for the company. "Having been in Pakistan for more than 30 years, Cargill is happy to demonstrate its commitment to the country's future through investment," said Cargill Pakistan Country Head Imran Nasrullah. "We have received a positive response from Pakistani government as we expand our presence while helping industries, farmers and communities." He added that the company would work to enhance food security by contributing to social development in the country. Published in The Express Tribune

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE ON 30TH

Lahore: The Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, is organising a two-day International Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference with the theme "Emerging Trends for Sustainable Exploitation of Aquatic Resources" on January 30-31, 2019.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Talat Nasser Pasha chaired a meeting of conveners of different committees and reviewed progress on the preparations for the conference.

Chairman Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Dr Noor Khan briefed the meeting on the arrangements and expected national and international speakers coming from across the world. He said that scientists from different countries including Mexico, the USA, the UK, Croatia, Turkey, Thailand, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Columbia, Nepal, India and New Zealand have confirmed their participation in this event.

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Head Office
P-42/1 Opp. Municipal Degree College, Jaranwala Road, Faisalabad.
Ph: 041-8726639, 8727639 E-mail: info@faisalchick.com

Karachi Office
Marriam Heights Plot No. C11, Suit No. 201, 2nd Floor KCHS, Block 7-8,
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CALF FATTENING FARMS MYTH OR REALITY?

By: Dr. Kamran Khan Vice President

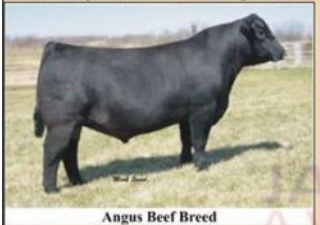
Livestock Farmers Association, KP 0333-9153616 khandairiespk@gmail.com

Calf fattening seems easy, profitable business. The government had launched many schemes to promote it but ultimately all failed. The success rate is low. No one has worked on the real issue to find out the failure cause. Number one reason is the government control over meat prices. Second reason, we don't have a Beef Breed in Pakistan.



Bhagnari Breed

Our Dajal and Bhagnari has potential which yet to be explored otherwise we don't have a proper beef breed. Our meat sold in markets is from the retired or sick animals from Dairy farms.



Angus Beef Breed

A farmer has to buy the animal from open mandis, then the cost of feed, fodder, medicines, labor, land etc where he has to pay many direct and in direct taxes. Once the animal is ready, he has to go back to open mandis or traditional butchers for selling where his heart sinks when he gets the prices for his hard worked flock. Next is the so called 'factories' or slaughter houses who buy the animals on weight basis. Their requirements are so different and hard that farmer can't accept. Nor

means we are getting 1000 gm by spending Rs.400. Market price is controlled by government and around the world the country its around Rs 350/kg. So in real terms farmer is making a loss of Rs 50/kg. That's the reason this business has not become successful. There are rare cases where farmer is getting rate for his animals. One of the best time is on Eid. In reality animals gain less than 700 gm/day even if they are fed concentrates and farmer is making loss of 50-100/day/animal. The government schemes focus on rearing of calves. But the schemes are non practical. Every month thousands of calves are slaughtered in commercial dairy farms as the main focus of

Top five beef exporters globally

| Rank | Country | 2016 (tonnes) | % of the World |
|------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Brazil | 1,850,000 | 19.60% |
| 2 | India (Buffalo) | 1,850,000 | 19.60% |
| 3 | Australia | 1,385,000 | 14.67% |
| 4 | United States | 1,120,000 | 11.87% |
| 5 | New Zealand | 580,000 | 6.14% |

Source: <http://beef2live.com/story-world-beef-exports-ranking-countries-0106903>

the farmers is on milk. The calves are considered liability and they are even sold at 1500 to 2000 Rs. In past government schemes were on helping farmers to keep calves for three months and paying Rs 1000 month or giving feed bags. The most important factor is to have the pay back agreements with slaughter houses on good rates. Every success dairy industry (although it has yet to be properly defined) industry has made in Pakistan has been by private sector. Once a farmer can get a good price for his 'harvest' or raised calves, new businessmen will enter the arena from private sector. There are about 1.8 billion Muslims around the world, most of whom only consume halal meat. The halal-certified food and beverage industry is valued at \$415bn. The global halal food market is expected to reach USD 739.59 billion by 2025, according to a new report by Grand View Research, Inc. The global halal food industry is expected to witness significant growth over the forecast period owing to increasing Muslim population and their substantially increasing expenditure on food & non-beverages, which is considered as the main driving force of this market. The total Islamic population is expected to increase from 23% in the present situation to around 30% of the total world population by 2030. Pakistan has not been even in the 10 largest meat exporters of the world. Brazil is on the top and India on the second place. Could you imagine meat sold near the Holy Kabba in Mecca is from Brazil and Australia! Eight of the 10 largest halal meat are non-Muslim majority countries, with Brazil, Australia and India at the top. Pakistan is ranked at 19th place in Global Meat Industry. Per capita meat consumption in Pakistan is at 20-22 kg while in this region is around 40-45kg. Pakistan has one of the world's best meat in taste in world. In Gulf states, Pakistan meat price is higher than Brazilian, Australian and Sudanese meat. The demand is there. We only need proper government policies, soft loans on long terms for setup of Beef farms to increase our exports. Most of the Banks and financial institutes are giving loans to establish modern slaughter houses but not to make a simple beef farm. If we don't have beef farms, how will these slaughter houses run? Calf fattening is not a myth, it's a reality. But to make this dream come true and make Pakistan stand among the top 10 meat exporters, some brain storming and drastic farmer friendly policies has to be made. No Policy is workable if its made in neat and tidy offices by men who don't know the difference between a Cow and a Buffalo. Best policy can be made on ground and in our case in a dirty, filthy full of dung farm. The practical policy will be by real stakeholders, that is by farmers

FOOD FOR THOUGHT! STATE OLIGARCHY & TAX BREAKS

HUZAIMA BUKHARI AND DR IKRAMUL HAQ

The last paragraph was censored by Business Recorder

In a country where development outlay is cut drastically every year and an indomitable State Oligarchy enjoys unprecedented tax-free perquisites and perks at the expense of taxpayers, what can one expect other than fiscal chaos and doleful talk about loyalty to state. The self-styled defenders of 'national cause' and 'ideological frontiers' have done little to eliminate naked and brutal forms of exploitation prevalent in society, although it is the command of Article 3 of the Constitution that the State would ensure: 'from each according to his ability to each according to his work'. However, they require complete and unquestionable submission from everybody of their 'authority' and actions, even if these fall outside their jurisdiction and/or patently unlawful. The elites and pressure groups flout the rule of law with impunity for them, vulgar ostentation of power and/or money is essential to prove their might and importance. In this scenario, the victims and sufferers are the poor and helpless masses. Nobody is ready to expose the role of predatory elites in the economic complex, businessmen-turned-politicians, absentee landowners and unscrupulous traders on politico-economic decay. The unholy alliance between politicians, state functionaries and unscrupulous businessmen is the root cause of our many ills including politically-motivated loan write-offs and illegal flight of capital from the country leaving the masses in miserable conditions. Billions have been lost, mostly due to this unholy alliance. Since the rich and mighty do not pay due taxes, regressive taxes are imposed hurting the poor and middle class. On the one hand, Pakistan is a country with one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratio, and on the other, bulk of collection is wasted needlessly for non-productive expenses funding monstrous state machinery and luxuries of the elites. Those in power grab state rewards and awards (free or at throw-away prices) and pay no tax on it. The taxes ruthlessly collected from the masses are brazenly spent on their luxurious palatial bungalows, fleets of cars, army of servants, foreign tours and what not. Due to meagre or non-taxation of luxury and commercial properties e.g. clubs and golf courses, unprecedented exemptions given to generals, judges and high-ranking civil officials, the national kitty suffers huge losses. The narrative that 'Pakistanis do not pay taxes, popular with analysts, TV anchors, academicians, policymakers and foreign investors', is abhorrent to reality is of the poor, whereas the elites are thriving on labour of the down-trodden. Tragically, citizens whose income falls below taxable limit are also being taxed. Law is criminally twisted through the cleverly-woven web of withholding tax regime. Funds, extorted from their hard earned money, are plundered and wasted by the Minister, Asad Umar, and State Minister for Revenue, Hamid Azhar, would take action on the letter which has been lying unattended for last many years. All the previous heads of FBR also remained silent on this issue. Track record of the present Chairman of FBR shows that he would be least interested to nab the rich and mighty. Occupying key posts in Punjab under self-proclaimed *Khaim-e-Aala*, exclaiming as 'Chief Secretary, he never bothered to ask the concerned secretary to collect agricultural income tax from the rich absentee landowners or mighty urban property holders. On the contrary, through an illegal executive order, the collection of agricultural income tax from the rich mighty absentee landowners of Punjab was suspended when he was serving Shehbaz Sharif as Chief Secretary. Now as Chairman FBR, it remains to be seen whether he would be able to nab about 3.5 million ultra-rich (these include his colleagues in bureaucracy, judges and generals). Till today, he has even failed to force those who live lavishly, to file their income tax returns to speak of taxing the ultra-rich and mighty members of State Oligarchy. The people voted for Pakistan Tahreek-i-Insaf (PTI) so that they would take the pow-

DELIVERING HEALTH CARE IN CRISES; CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN EMERGENCIES

MAHNOOR AKBAR, DR. MUHAMMAD SOHAIL SAJID Department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

Health emergencies are defined as events occurring suddenly or man-made hazards that steadily increase the risk to public health by eventually deteriorating the situation over time. Across borders and within country, the number of displaced people is increasing rapidly because of violent, disastrous situations and conflicts occurring in recent years. UNHCR reported 60 million international migrants and internally-displaced persons with average time of displacement reaching 20 years in 2014 and more than half of these people are from Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan. Both in sudden and slow-onset emergencies, girls and women are the ones most affected and facing numerous sexual and reproductive health challenges. Miser abilities of women, children and adolescents Refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers in all over the world not only lost their homes and loved ones in conflicts

and humanitarian emergencies but are also deprived of comfort and protection. Women, children and adolescents being vulnerable are 14 times more likely to be impacted than men in disastrous or haphazard situation. Instead of losing homes, beloved ones and even with disability life does not stop. Even in worst situations women have to feed their babies, children need to be vaccinated and adolescents require education as well as health services, including contraception. But, life is different now and they have to do years of struggle in order to get things settle down. In 50 fragile states (Pakistan being one) under these unfortunate circumstances, deaths of 53% children under-five and 45% newborn had been reported in 2012 while the maternal deaths were more than 60%. Out of 2.6 million stillbirths and 2.9 million newborn deaths, 99% takes place in low and middle income countries, most of which are suffering from complex humanitarian

emergencies. More than 250 million under-five children live in countries influenced by armed conflicts. Sexual violence Almost 26 million girls and women of reproductive age are living in emergency situations and lacking access to basic health services including prenatal care and family planning. Even in availability of these services, most of time, they deprived of them because of ethnicity, lacking legal migration status documentation, to name a few discriminations. Apart from this, they have to face sexual or gender-based violence in form of rape, forced pregnancies, child marriages and female genital mutilation in emergencies further increase their problems and subject them to ill-health, desert and deprivation. 4% of disaster affected women are pregnant and 15% of which will suffer from obstetric complications. Girls' lives are further threatened owing to early pregnancies because of exposed or transactional sex and exploitation. In such fragile or hostile situations, minimum access to emergency obstetric services put lives of women and adolescents in danger and they will die during pregnancy or childbirth. Women with disabilities or HIV and older women need special care and are at heightened risk. Mental disorders IDPs, refugees, terrorism, war, or genocide-exposed populations and disaster survivors not only endure physical injuries or discomfort but also have to go through mental disorders. In such sudden and unexpected situations, their mental health is compromised as they are in continuous state of stress, shock and trauma. Mental rehabilitation takes years, more care and provision of services help in betterment of mental state. Communicable diseases In disastrous conditions and complex emergency situations, loss of infrastructure and haphazard situation makes it nearly impossible to maintain hygienic and sanitary practices. Contamination of food and water elevated risk of diarrheal diseases and food poisoning. This situation is even worse in developing countries than developed ones. In 2005 earthquake, Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea occurred in a camp of 1800 persons due to unplanned, poor management of health services and inadequate water and sanitation facilities. Lack of access to safe food and water also raises the risk of diseases transmitted by fecal-oral route, hepatitis A and E being the significant one. Displaced persons have to live in congested and overcrowded camps with compromised hygienic conditions resulting in more person to person contact, raising an ideal situation for infectious situations such as measles and meningitis to spread. The risk of transmission among disaster-affected population depends on the baseline vaccination coverage rates, particularly in case of children and



through funding mechanisms that are flexible and able to respond to different and changing contexts. This includes investing in and maintaining health infrastructure, reliable and timely funding is also needed to support the tailored intervention packages recommended for humanitarian settings.

Highly trained health workers An adequate number of trained and resourced frontline health workers are needed to provide services. Available local health staff may need up-to-date competence based training in order to be able to deliver the full range of healthcare service. For example, many newborn deaths are preventable with appropriate, good quality care. Consequently, health providers competent in emergency neonatal care are particularly critical because referral to hospital may not always be feasible. Where limited numbers of staff are available, task-shifting has been suggested as a potential solution. This involves re-distributing tasks among staff whereby appropriate specific tasks are moved from highly qualified health workers to less qualified health workers. Attack on Healthcare workers Attacks on health care do not occur only as a result of direct violence. Threats to health workers, patients and health facilities also take place through intentional withholding of medicines and treatment to besieged populations, and through deliberate interruptions to water and power supplies, reducing the functionality of health facilities. More than ever we need to strengthen the health interventions and cooperation between stakeholders for bridging gaps and maximizing the opportunities for sustained impact on the wellbeing and health of child, women and adolescents. Improved surveillance systems and survey methods are needed to address the questions that aimed at enhancing the affected population health.



OSTRICH FARMING ALLOWED IN SINDH PARILOD

Karachi: The Sindh Assembly was informed during Question Hour on Monday that ostrich was not defined as a protected bird under the provincial wildlife laws and its farming was allowed under relevant laws. Furnishing a statement on the floor, Forest and Wildlife Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that a special permission for ostrich farming was required to be obtained from the provincial authorities as for poultry farming. He said that a private farm had been established in Thatta for ostrich farming. In reply to a question, he said that the Rs150.97 million project of rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife sanctuaries at the Haleji Lake, Langh Lake, Thatta and Qambar could not be completed owing to paucity of funds, and added that it would be completed in June 2019. He said that different jobs including liner plantation along the inspection path, development of floating mounts, development of a pelican island, restoration of historical information centres, development of the fun area



for children, restoration and repair of lavatories, restoration of the crocodile enclosure, installation of a wireless system, and construction of floating rooms, had been carried out. In reply to another question asked by opposition member Nusrat Sehar Abbasi, the minister said that a Rs50m project for habitat restoration and development of water harvesting facilities at the KNP, Karachi, and Jamshoro was expected to be completed by June 2019. However, he added, the project's date of completion had been extended by two years because of paucity of funds. Answering a question by opposition member Arif Mustafa Jatoi, the minister said the Pai Forest in Sha-

since 2014 when the issuance of fishing licenses by the SFD was finally stopped with efforts of the Sindh wildlife department. The minister also told the house on a question by opposition member Arsalan Taj Hussain that 12 different species were declared endangered in the province. They were: Sindh ibex, Afghan urial, Indian wolf, honey badger, mugger, or marsh crocodile, gharial, or gaurial, smooth-coated Indian otter, Indus blind dolphin, greater flamingo, freshwater turtles, hog deer (axis deer) and chinkara deer. He said that several steps had been taken to conserve the endangered species. The steps, he said, included the establishment of a series of protected areas such as National Park, 34 wildlife sanctuaries and 13 game reserves for protection, conservation and management of endangered wildlife species. Besides, the minister said, the Sindh Turtles and Tortoise Protection, Conservation and Compensation Rules 2014 had been enacted to ensure the conservation and protection of turtles in the province. www.facebook.com/VetNewsViews

AGRI SECTOR BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN MINI-BUDGET: PKI

Lahore: The farming community has demanded that the Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf government should give priority to the agriculture sector in the mini-budget to be announced later this month, saying that the allocations for the sector in dollar terms have become negligible because of the rupee devaluation. In a communication sent to the federal finance authorities on Thursday, it was regretted that the delay in announcement of agriculture policy and decisions by the government tantamount to display of apathy towards the farmers. Issued on behalf of the (PKI) president Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, it however admitted that continuation of reduction in electricity tariff for agricultural use, removal of fixed power tariff on tube-well motors, restricting illegal import of cotton from Turkmen border etc are some of the steps which indicated that the government was now being heard by the policy makers. It suggests the federal government and finance minister should consider incorporating their proposals in the finance bill. It also proposes enhancing research allocations to 1.0pc from the current 0.2pc instantly and taking

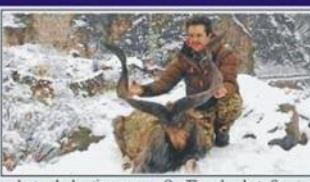
ing it to 2.0pc in three years for enabling the sector to deal with emerging issues and developing new production and protection technologies. The farmers want immediate withdrawal of GST on sale of tractors or the government increase the interest rate on bank loans extended for the purchase of tractors and reverse engineering of other imported farm implements for making these affordable for small growers, as well as provision of land levellers at 60pc subsidised rates at least in water-scarce districts. The letter suggests the government should commit a minimum price for oil seeds and pulses and impose duty on their import so that the growers sow the two crops confidently and help the government save the huge foreign exchange spent on their import. Calling for increase in the agriculture allocations, it points out that prior to devaluation (2008-09), the developmental budget of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock was around Rs30 billion in addition to provincial spending by agriculture and live-stock departments, whereas after devaluation (2013-14), the consolidated

developmental budget of all four provinces is less than Rs15 billion and of MNFSR is less than Rs1 billion. This shows an overall investment on agriculture curtailed by 50pc. Considering the devaluation of rupee, these figures would be the worst. In 2008, the dollar exchange rate stood at around Rs60 against Rs138 today. It regretted that the local growers are experiencing the world highest farm input cost. It said though the PTI government recently re-introduced reduced electricity tariff rate for agricultural use and removed the power surcharge on tube-well motors, the benefit was nullified due to 2pc GST on fertilizers and increase in pesticides prices by 50pc because of closure of some production facilities in China. The farmers proposed discontinuation of 2pc GST on fertilizers and announcement of 30pc flat subsidy on import of pesticide. This, they said, would cost the government a revenue loss of less than Rs2 billion but increase the agriculture productivity manifold. They also suggested reduction in tariff on diesel, the main fuel for agriculture, for bringing down the input cost and making farm yield

more competitive in the world market. The letter also recommends giving special priority to fertilizer units in gas allocation for manufacturing high-value specialised fertilizers like Nitrophos and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN). It says that keeping in view the government's target to produce 150 million bales of cotton in 2019, it is naive to expect farmers to deliver without consistent and affordable availability of this crucial input. It urges the government to strictly monitor and regulate disbursement of farm loans as commercial banks lack infrastructure and manpower to extend loans to agriculture sector and prefer giving the credit facility to agro-based industries. Loans to small growers must be interest free, it suggests adding that 'pre-approved' loans worth Rs500,000 should be issued through 'Insaf Kissan Card' readily available to small growers for six months. In the livestock sector, it suggests that instead of relying on import of dry milk, the government needs to incentivise the local industry in order to enhance production and promises full support to the government if these demands are met.

ANOTHER US CITIZEN HUNTS HIGHEST RATED ASTORE MARKHOR

Gilgit: Another American citizen hunted the highest rated Astore Markhor in Jutial conservancy near Gilgit on Sunday. According to officials of GB wildlife department, the American citizen, Dianda Christopher Anthony, had paid 105,000 US dollars to the department for obtaining hunting licence of the rare species. The horn size of the animal was 48 inches and the hunter fired it from a distance of 360 meters. Last Sunday, another American citizen, John Amistoso, had hunted the Astore Markhor in the community-controlled Bunji area of Gilgit. The permit for Astore Markhor had been obtained for 100,000 US dollars. The wildlife department had auctioned hunting permits for over 100 rare species



under trophy hunting programme of 2018-19. The licences for trophy hunting included four Astore Markhors, 14 blue sheep and 95 ibex. So far 55 ibex, 12 blue sheep and two Astore Markhors have been hunted across the region in the current season. Hunters from Denmark, Turkey, America and Spain hunted various species. Top officials, judges and their guests also hunted rare species in various areas after getting permits.

They demanded review of the trophy hunting programme for conservation and protection of wildlife in GB. The trophy hunting quota is specified on the basis of annual surveys conducted by the wildlife experts. Hunting of only overage and over-size animals is allowed. Eighty per cent of the amount received from the trophy hunting programme goes to local communities to be spent on education, health and other development projects. This was the second successful hunt of the four markhor permits issued by the GB government for the current hunting season and 5th trophy hunt in Jutial conservancy since the start of the community-based markhor conservation programme 15 years ago. Correspondent

AGRICULTURE NEEDS NO POLITICAL HEAT

BY MOHIUDDIN AAZIM
 AGRICULTURE cannot perform up to its potential unless there is a smooth working relationship between federal and provincial governments. This is not the case right now: the federal government wants the removal of the current chief minister of Sindh and treats the opposition parties the PPP and the PML-N with utter contempt while grievances of the PTI's coalition partners in Balochistan refuse to go. The opposition parties as well as independent analysts have expressed serious reservations about the manner in which the anti-corruption drive is moving on. Some people call it selective and one-sided. Under these circumstances, the PTI needs to make sincere efforts to improve the relationship with Sindh and coalition partners in Balochistan. Without this, a strategy to promote agriculture can hardly yield the desired results,' opines a former secretary of the Sindh Agriculture Department. 'And apart from making inimical policies of national importance, Senior officials of the Sindh Agriculture Department complain that the federal government has so far not taken them on board in the formulation of 'any 19-point strategy for agricultural revival and growth'. Regardless of whether the federal government has formulated the strategy without seeking input from all provinces, the key question is: will agriculture grow this year at 3.6pc, the yearly average that the five-year economic growth plan of the PTI has envisaged? Officials of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research are optimistic about it. But they are unwilling to share the projected growth in each sub-sector of agriculture: let major and

minor crops, livestock and fisheries and forestry. Federal ministers, including Finance Minister Asad Umar, take pride in the fact that during the six months of the PTI government, agricultural lending increased, as did the overall credit disbursement to the private sector. But higher agricultural lending alone does not indicate higher productivity. Government officials conveniently forget the fact that a massive rupee depreciation and uptick in headline inflation have not only increased the cost of living for all Pakistanis but also made agricultural inputs costlier, requiring farmers to obtain more bank loans. The PTI promised in its election manifesto that it would optimise the existing subsidy programmes for agriculture and introduce new ones. That has not happened so far - not at a scale to make any impact on agricultural growth in the current fiscal year, farmers' groups point out. The PTI had also promised to share the cost of investment required to boost agricultural productivity. That, too, has not happened. Agriculturalists across Pakistan are still waiting for Chinese investment to trickle in the agriculture sector. Minister for Planning and Development Makhdoom Khuram Bakhtiar says that the much-awaited meeting of the Pak-China joint working group on agriculture will be held in mid-February. Until the outcome of that meeting is shared with all provinces and the details of the memorandum of understanding signed earlier on agricultural cooperation between the two countries made public, speculating on the direction and pace of agricultural growth is just too difficult, officials of the Sindh Agriculture Department say.

In the last fiscal year when the overall economy grew 5.8pc, growth of the agriculture sector was 3.8pc. But that had come in the wake of a weaker growth of 2.1pc a year earlier. Now the government has projected 4.2pc growth for the overall economy and 3.6pc for agriculture for the current fiscal year. Whether agriculture can actually grow this much with the base growth rate of the last year, and with three out of four major crops cotton, rice and sugarcane showing signs of weakness, is a million-dollar question. Naturally, the reliance for agricultural growth in 2018-19 will be on livestock that also had recorded 3.8pc sub-sectoral growth in 2017-18 against 2.9pc in the preceding fiscal year. If the agriculture sector as a whole is going to grow at 3.6pc this year then this can happen only if the livestock sector posts a higher growth. But that's not too easy due to the base effect and also because we haven't seen any breakthrough in livestock productivity. Two of the several points of the PTI's agricultural growth strategy are about setting up livestock productivity promotion zones and investment in supply chain of this sector. Both need to be implemented with sufficient transfer of federal funds for this purpose and financial and technical preparedness of the provinces. In Sindh and Balochistan, nothing of the sort has happened thus far, though some progress has been made in Punjab, officials of agricultural departments of the smaller provinces say. Fisheries, too, continue to suffer. The governments of the coastal provinces of Sindh and Balochistan could have easily taken the lead in this area, but that has not been the case.

CDA, MCI TOLD TO TAKE STEPS TO OPEN SLAUGHTERHOUSE, FOOD AUTHORITY IN CAPITAL

Islamabad: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior has directed the capital's civic organisations to take steps to set up slaughterhouses and a food authority. The committee, chaired by Senator Rehman Malik, discussed issues facing both the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) during its meeting on Monday. The senators said that in the absence of a slaughterhouse citizens are not being provided hygienic meat. The committee was informed that a site has already been allotted for a slaughterhouse but the PC-I for the project has not yet been approved. In response, Senator Malik said no further delays would be tolerated in this project, which has already been delayed for years. He constituted a committee led by Senator Ateeq Shaikh that will meet with the CDA and MCI to begin construction

work for a slaughterhouse. The committee initially gave the organisations two months to build a slaughterhouse. Before the local government was formed, the slaughterhouse project was a priority for the CDA. In 2014, officials promised residents that construction would start soon on a state-of-the-art slaughterhouse, and in 2015 a CDA board meeting approved a site for the facility in I-11. The PC-I for the project has not been approved so far, and sources in the CDA said that high-ups believe that with the formation of the local government it now falls to the MCI to bear the cost of the project, while the MCI does not have the money to do so. Mayor Sheikh Anser Aziz confirmed in the committee meeting that there is no slaughterhouse in the capital. He said local butchers used to use the Sihala slaughterhouse, which has now been closed, and now

slaughter animals in their homes or at other private locations. The committee also discussed the proposed Islamabad Food Authority, administrative, financial and legal issues, facing the MCI. Senators recommended transferring the organisation all due funding. Funds should also be allocated to the MCI and CDA separately in the new budget, they said. Since the local government was formed, 9,523 of the CDA's 18,774 employees have been transferred to the MCI along with their directorates while 5,544 are working in directorates that have been partially devolved. The CDA has retained 3,227 employees so far. The CDA is providing the MCI funding on a loan basis to pay employees and make other necessary development expenditure, as both the PML-N and PTI governments have not released funding for the MCI. www.facebook.com/VetNewsViews

THE SURPRISING ORIGIN OF CHICKEN AS A DIETARY STAPLE

Before 1948, chicken wasn't a mainstay of the dinner table. A contest to breed a bigger, better bird changed that.

In this excerpt of *Big Chicken: The Incredible Story of How Antibiotics Created Modern Agriculture and Changed the Way the World Eats*, author Maryn McKenna chronicles the rise of the backyard chicken to dietary staple.



In 1925 there were more than six million farms in the United States, compared with two million now. They were mostly small properties, growing a mix of crops and animals, and they almost all raised chickens. Which type of chicken was a complicated question, because there were so many to choose from.

allowed chickens to grow. The chicks were allowed to grow for 12 weeks and two days and then were killed, defeathered, weighed, and chilled, as if they were going to be sold. Out of each breeder's batch, 50 were picked for judging. That meant the judges were looking at 2,000 birds, and evaluating each of them on 18 criteria, from body structure and skin color to how early they had developed feathers and how efficiently they converted feed to muscle.

that today is owned by only two companies in the world. I find it troubling that the same thing has happened abroad. But to ensure they could reliably reproduce the characteristics on which they were building businesses, breeders turned to creating complex crosses.

The intricacy of the family trees they constructed ensured that the birds could not be reproduced outside the companies that bred them. If a farmer who bought the new hybrids tried to mate them on his own property, the birds would not breed true. Previously, broiler farmers had bought chicks from hatcheries mostly for efficiency, but now they had no option.

On June 24, 1948, the judges announced their results, on a stage adorned with boxes of chicken carcasses from each of the contestants's batches, and frozen cross-sections of (yet.) It began with state contests in 1946, progressed to regional judging in 1947, and ended with a national competition, held at the University of Delaware's Agricultural Experiment Station, in 1948.

Raising hybrid birds became like growing hybrid soybeans or corn: It required returning to the company to start each new crop. In a remarkably short span of time, the open-source birds that had populated millions of farm yards and back gardens for thousands of years became an ingredient in proprietary intellectual property.

They are most likely in pain. The meat also isn't as good as it was before. There is now what's called woody breast syndrome, where the muscles in the breast become hardened, and also white striping in breast meat, a muscle disorder. All of these are expressions of how fast and pushed them beyond their genetic abilities. So now producers are pushing

The January 1921 issue of the *American Poultry Journal* carried six pages of small-type classified ads featuring dozens of varieties from hundreds of breeders nationwide: Single-Comb Anconas, Silver Wyandottes, Brown Leghorns, Black Langshans, Light Brahmans, Sicilian Buttercups, Golden Campines, White-Laced Red Cornish, Silver-Gray Dorkings, Silver-Spangled Hamburgs, Mottled Frontals, Malagasy, Orpingtons, White Minorcas, Speckled Sussex. Most farms kept small flocks, from a few birds up to about 200, and for most of them, the point of chickens was eggs; birds were sold for meat only when hens were spent when chicks hatched out male. Farmers chose the variety they raised based on what other farmers in their area preferred, and that had adapted well to whatever wet or dry, windy or humid conditions prevailed where they lived because they were persuaded by boastful ads that talked up the egg production of breeds that won medals at state and national poultry exhibitions.

the top-scoring birds. The first runner-up was Henry Saglio, the teenage son of Italian immigrant farmers in Connecticut, who had bred his family's pure line of White Plymouth Rocks into a muscular, meaty bird. The winner was Charles Vantress from California, who had crafted a red-feathered hybrid out of the New Hampshire, the most popular meat bird among East Coast growers, and a California strain of Cornish.

How did you dig up the Chicken of Tomorrow contest, and what was its role in telling the story of "big chicken"? McKenna: What started me on the odyssey to produce this book was learning about the amount of antibiotics used in livestock around the world. I eventually concluded that the routine use of antibiotics created modern livestock agriculture. But use of antibiotics alone couldn't account for the drastic changes in the bodies of

Chickens produced at a conventional battery-cage facility in Lancaster County, Penn., an agricultural region where poultry farming has been on the uptick to meet growing demand from what they aimed to achieve in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1947, after the contest was two-thirds through: "one bird chunky enough for the whole family a chicken with breast meat so thick you can carve it into steaks, with drumsticks that contain a minimum of bone buried in layers of juicy dark meat, all costing less instead of more." Anyone who wanted to compete and they ranged from small farmers to large, established companies was granted one year to devise and breed a bird that possessed the sturdy, meaty qualities the contest was hoping for. If they reached that goal, they then had to prove their bird was reproducible, by breeding enough birds in enough generations to last through a three-year beauty pageant.

That evening, the contest celebrated the breeders' achievements with a parade through Georgetown, Delaware, with floats depicting the phases of Delmarva's poultry industry and a smiling, waving Festival Broiler Queen perched on top of a car. It celebrated not just the new birds but the new economy their developers hoped to create: a time when the Chicken of Tomorrow would be the dominant meat on farms and in markets, cheaper than beef, more docile than hogs, desired on its own behalf and not as a cast-off carcass after egg laying.

What's helping drive that change? The Global Animal Partnership certifies ways in which meat is produced for retailers and wholesalers. In 2016 they proposed a "higher welfare chicken" initiative that moves toward replacing current chickens with slower-growing ones by 2024, adding a couple of weeks onto a chicken's life. That doesn't seem like much, but it is when you consider that we only allow chickens to live to about 42 days. The initiative also requires more space, natural light, and opportunities to exercise a more humane system for birds to be raised in industrial settings. Large-scale sellers, such as Whole Foods Market and major food service companies, have agreed to these principles.

On a question regarding placement and follow-up of internships, the Dean FVS promptly said that he and his internship working group is already working on this subject. He aims to well acquaint and train the FVS students with the ability to choose a right career pathway based on their own aptitude and interests. He told that the students must feel free to provide suggestions or lodge complaints about any issue faced as he would be quite open and welcoming to them.

Left: A southern staple, fried chicken is surging on menus nationwide. Three of the five fastest-growing U.S. restaurant chains are chicken concepts. Right: It's a favorite for backyard grills too: Per capita chicken consumption in the U.S.

A major theme of your book is the peril of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. It's a positively terrifying problem seemingly overwhelming. Is there anything individuals can do? Consumers have more power than they realize. Chicken production changed because consumers showed the industry that if it changed its practices, there was a market waiting on the other side. The story of the emergence of the chicken we eat every day really brackets the use of antibiotics in industrial farming. The first use of antibiotics in livestock agriculture was on chickens. And now chicken producers are going antibiotic free. Perdue announced it in 2014. I reported that story for this book, and Perdue sold me 3,000 people getting 3,000 customer comments a month asking why they weren't antibiotic free. That was a strong enough signal of consumers wanting something different. And it's important to note, it's not as if 3,000 people were arranged to do that together. But the collective power of the actions of individuals gives me hope, and that's one of the reasons I wanted to write this book. This was a story in which solutions are expressing themselves. This was a moment of achievement, of changing part of the food system.

Choosing birds for how many eggs they could lay was a smart strategy, through the privations of the Great Depression and the restrictions of World War II: It maximized the protein you could get from a bird without sacrificing the bird herself. But after the war, when beef and pork emerged from rationing, eggs seemed dull by comparison, and laying hens' lack of tasty muscle made them an insufficient alternative. People had willingly cut their meat eating for a long time, to support the war. Now they wanted to indulge.

One smart retailer saw the problem coming. Howard C. Pierce, the poultry research director for the A&P Food Stores supermarket chain, told a November 1944 poultry meeting in Canada that someone needed to develop a sumptuous chicken, a bird with a breast like a turkey's. With the next summer, his wish ignited an extraordinary undertaking: the Chicken of Tomorrow contest, organized by the USDA, with the backing of A&P and the support of every major poultry and egg organization in the country, all aimed at breeding a better chicken.

Are there any lessons from the contest we can learn from today? As we start to talk about lab-grown meat, there's a valuable lesson here. Chicken breeds became intellectual property a genetic cocktail

The effort was massive. The contest had 55 national organizations, producer organizations, and land-grant colleges and hundreds of volunteers in 44 states. (That was out of 48; Alaska and Hawaii had not been added

of Tomorrow contests did more than create new birds; when they transformed chickens, they recreated the chicken industry too. The

about 80 percent of antibiotics sold in the U.S. are used in livestock. The practice dates back to the 1950s, when it was discovered that feed laced with antibiotics

INTERVIEW WITH PROF. DR. ZAFAR IQBAL QURESHI (DEAN, FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, FAISALABAD)

Report By: Tean Zaheer
 Editor, The Veterinary News and Views



Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qureshi, the Dean Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad is an accomplished theriogenologist of International fame. He has published several quality publications in National and International Journals. He has supervised number of postgraduate students for successful completion of their masters and Doctoral degrees. Apart from academic job role, Dr. Zafar Iqbal has been efficiently performing administrative duties as Director of Student Affairs (DSA), Chief Hall Warden, and Chairman Department of Theriogenology for many years at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The Editor Veterinary News and Views (Dr. Tean Zaheer) along with editorial members (Dr. Fizza Laeeq and Dr. Zarreen Sajjad) conducted an interview of Dean FVS, UAF to discuss his vision as a Dean and prospective areas of focus in coming days. Worthy Dean shared his valuable thoughts concerning different aspects of his focus as under:



He stated, "My vision as a Dean is to work for the overall betterment of FVS, UAF". Keeping in view the ever-growing increase in the number of Veterinary graduates being produced from several Veterinary institutions countrywide, Dean FVS said that "The improvement in the quality of education and hands on trainings for the FVS graduates is my primary focus". He further said that as Dean of FVS, aims for the betterment of Faculty's infrastructure to adequately accommodate students considering their comfort and satisfy their educational needs as per the new professional developments of international standards". Replying to the question regarding department wise agenda for the improvement of infrastructure, the dean was of the view

CHOLISTAN VETERINARY UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS WITHIN TWO MONTHS

Bahawalpur: Arrangements for students' admissions and start of academic activities at the newly established Cholistan University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences (CUVAS) is under way. This was disclosed by Vice Chancellor of University of Veterinary & Animal Science (UVAS), Lahore, Prof. Dr. Talat Nasser Pasha, who is also holding additional charge of the post of VC of new university. Talking to Dawn by phone on Thursday, Prof. Pasha said that Punjab Higher Education Department (HED) had been moved in this matter. Presently, according to him, the HED was reviewing the entire programme, including admissions and beginning of classes. He expected admissions within next two months, February-end/ March. He said the academic block of the varsity constructed on the varsity road was already complete. The university administration is presently planning to run advertisements for inviting admissions. Meanwhile, varsity Deputy Registrar Slaman Mirza told

Dawn that a good news would soon be out for the launch of the Cholistan university as necessary work in this connection was going on rapidly. The Punjab Livestock and Dairy Development (LDD) department has already invited applications for the appointment of vice-chancellor. Sources said the process to select the VC might be completed within a period of two months by the search committee approved by the Punjab cabinet at its first-ever meeting held here on Dec 29 last.