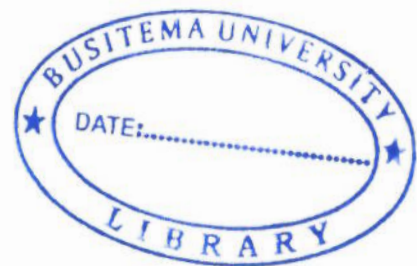


**A SURVEY OF THE PERFORMANCE OF FRIESIAN CROSSES SUPPLIED  
UNDER NAADS IN SOROTI DISTRICT**

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ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF BUSITEMA  
UNIVERSITY**

**MAY, 2013**

# DECLARATION

I, ADAKU JOHN ROBERT, declare that this is my own work and has never been submitted to any university or institution of higher learning for the award of any kind by any person.

Signature.....  
Date.....

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*23/09/2013*

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AI:	Artificial Insemination.
CBFs:	Community Based Facilitators.
CI:	Calving Interval
F1:	first filial generation.
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product.
NAADS:	National Agricultural Advisory Services.
NGOs:	Non Governmental Organizations.
NSPC:	Number of Services per Conception.
NUSAF:	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund.
PPCs:	Parish procurement committees.
SFF:	Sub county farmer Forum.
SMS:	Subject Matter Specialist
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
UBOS:	Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

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## ABSTRACT

Livestock contributes tremendously to the livelihood of the poor small holder peasant farmers in soroti district. The livestock production system in Teso are characteristic of breeds with poor productive and reproductive performance-the zebu, high vector and disease incidence, poor grazing and feeding systems, poor housing and hostile environmental temperatures .As a result, poverty is still pronounced and it is a challenge among these livestock keeping rural communities. The government has put a lot of interventions to eradicate poverty through the introduction of improved technologies like the Friesian crosses with high milk yield potential aimed at increasing the household income. This study there assesses the performance of the Friesian crosses supplied to the farmers in the selected sub counties in Soroti district. The performance traits under study were; daily milk yield, the calving interval and the number of services per conception. The sample frame was the beneficiary groups and the sample size of 97 respondents was determined by Thrusfield (1995) equation at a 95% confidence level. The primary data was obtained by use of structured questionnaires, focus group discussions, personal observation and NAADS records at the subcounty and farmer groups provided the secondary data. Statistical tool (SPSS) was used to analyze the data. The results were presented in graphs, charts and tables of frequencies and percentages and descriptive statistics was used to interpret the data. The results showed that the mean daily lactation yield of was 10 litres, the average number of SPC was observed at 3.0 and the population mean calving interval of 15 months. The results on the key performance traits showed that; the milk yield of Friesian crosses under local environmental and management conditions is low, with a high calving interval and a low conception rate. Generally the performance is of the Friesian crosses is low and thus, Proper management of the animals through various phases of animals' life from birth to maturity ensures its outstanding performance:- early age of service and maturity, better conceivability, a lower calving interval and high milk production

# CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Background

Globally, Cattle and other livestock keeping contribute to the livelihood sustainability and social security of more than 800 million poor small holder farmers. It is estimated that 900 million of the world's 1.3 billion people living rural areas live in abject poverty relying on agriculture for their food and income (IFAD, 2010) yet it is believed that livestock plays a very important role in changing the livelihoods of the rural farmers especially through ensuring proper selection, proper feeding/ feed availability, vector and disease management, and agro- ecological zoning (Ellis *et al.*, 2001).

According to the researches conducted by (Rahman *et al.*, 2008) and (Valentine, 1998), in sub-Saharan Africa, the performance of livestock for the past decades has been disappointing. By 2004, the total cow milk production in Africa accounted for only a fifth of the world's average milk production. (Ndambi, 2007). This low milk production is due to the low productivity of the indigenous breeds which accounts for over 90% of the sub Saharan cow herd population coupled with poor traditional production systems. (Olaloku *et al.*, 1992).

In East Africa, traditional systems together with their indigenous breeds dominate milk production and in Uganda, Agricultural sector contributes 48% of GDP supporting 85% of the rural population. Livestock keeping is majorly concentrated in the 29 districts in the cattle corridor. The cattle corridor which runs southwest to northeast across Uganda and this contributes 7.5% of GDP and 17% of agricultural GDP.

In Uganda, 92.7% of the house hold own indigenous cattle and 10% exotic dairy or cross breeds. The cattle population in soroti for the past years has been consisting of local breeds which are characterized by the local Zebu and to a lesser extent the Boran breed (IFAD, 2010). The government and other development partners have therefore intervened in the poverty recovery programs through provision of improved livestock dairy technologies especially the Friesian breeds with outstanding milk yielding traits (Opondo, 2002., MAAIF and MFPED. 2000) to boost milk production and household income as a whole

The purpose of this study is to evaluate performance of Friesians supplied under NAADS in the selected three sub counties of Gweri, in Soroti district. The performance parameters under the

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