



**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES OF HIDES AND SKINS GRADING IN
ARAPAI SUB COUNTY SOROTI DISTRICT**



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DECLARATION

I ASIIMWE RICHARD declare that this dissertation is my original work and has not been submitted to any university or any other institution of higher learning for any academic honor.

Signature  date 27/08/2018

APPROVAL

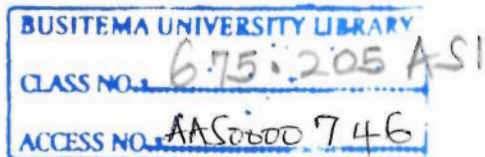
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved mother and my wife.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to assess knowledge, attitude and practices on hides and skins grading in Arapai Sub County. This was done by assessing respondent's knowledge, attitude and practices on hides and skins. 99 respondents were randomly selected from three parishes and villages. Respondents were assessed on their knowledge about diseases and parasites and preservation techniques. Attitude on pricing techniques and grading and their practices related to cause of pre and slaughter defects that include branding, slaughtering methods, characteristics of animals kept (sex and age), spraying (external parasites). 23.2% and 76.8% of respondents had knowledge about disease and parasites and lacked knowledge respectively. 75% of the trades had an attitude of pricing by weighting system while 25% by quality, external parasites accounted for 57.6%, 11.1% of pre-slaughter defects were caused by poor branding, Sex/age attributed 3% to the defects, 11.1% accounted for gource marks, dirt's (blood and dung stains) were responsible for about 73.3% damage on hides and skins. According to the findings there is need to assess the knowledge, practices and attitudes on hides and skin grading since grading information affects the knowledge, practices, attitude towards the sector.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Livestock production is a major component of the agriculture industry in Uganda contributing 9% of Gross Domestic Product and 17% of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product(UBOS, 2009).The quantity of hides and skins produced is determined by the number of animals that Uganda is carrying factored against the off-take rates. For cattle, the off-take rate is currently estimated at 17% while for goats and sheep it is put at 30% which translates to approximately 1.9 million cattle hides and 4.8 million goat/sheep skins(UBOS, 2014). Between 2008 and 2009, the growth in the hides and skins production has been about 59% per annum and this positive trend is expected to continue given the good policies that the government of Uganda has put in place(Temsch,2002.).Uganda currently exports close to 90% of its hides and skins unprocessed(UBOS,2014). It is widely realized that improvement of hides and skins quality can be achieved only if quality grading norms are applied(Lesuisse, 2002). About 40 % of hides and skins still go to waste or their quality is substantially reduced due to factors that could be avoided(Anthony, 2016). Some of these casual factors are embedded in the production structure and animal husbandry practices used(Anthony, 2016). The selling price of hides & skin, and associated products depends on quality of grades of hides and skins(Naporos, 2012). However Information is not readily available on hides and skins grading. Therefore, the need for this study to increase awareness and building link amongst actors.

1.2 Problem statement

Hides and skins are one of the most valuable exports for many developing countries playing an integral role in the livelihoods of communities as a source of income and employments Churchill, (1970). However, stakeholders lack information pertaining hides and skin grading. Consequently, hides and skins are thought of as intrinsically unclean and end up being wasted Naporos, (2012). Grading information helps in obtaining people with knowledge, attitude and practices regarding the hides and skin industry Keitumetse, (2016). Hence the need to assess knowledge, attitude and practice on hides and skins grading at Arapai sub county-Soroti district in order to equip the stakeholders with the necessary information for the development of the sector

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