QUAIL EGG FARMING PRACTICES FROM SELECTED FARMS IN PAMPANGA AND BULACAN

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

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This study determined the quail farming practices in Pampanga and Bulacan in terms of demographic profile, characteristics of farms, farming practices and assessed the relationship of demographic profile and farming practices with profitability of quail farmers.

A total of six farms were selected through non-probability quota sampling technique. An interview schedule with a structured questionnaire was constructed and was used as guide in gathering information from the participants. Data regarding the demographic profile, farm characteristics, and farming practices were taken and were analyzed.

Results revealed that a typical quail farmer from six provinces were male with an average age of 47 years old. One hundred percent of the participants graduated college and had an average of 5 years experience earning an average annual net income per head of P 22.98.

Two breeds of quail were found existing in these provinces. Eighty three percent of the participants raised Japanese Taiwan and the rest were crosses between Japanese Taiwan and Japanese Seattle. All of the quail farmers obtained their foundation stocks at about 30 to35 days old at breeder farms locally. All the participants used quail shed type of houses to house their quails made mostly from concrete, wood and wire combination. The most common number of quail houses ranged from two to five. Farmers used quail

starter, booster and laying feeds to their quails and fed ad *libitum* (67%), and twice daily (33%) with water given ad *libitum*.

Population of layer animals ranged from 5,000 to 20,000 heads, while one farm in Bulacan has 500,000 population of quail. There is a variation in length of laying season but the average is 12 months having one cycle per year and production cycle for 300 to 332 days.

Infectious coryza and ulcerative enteritis (49%) were among the most common diseases encountered by farmers followed by salmonellosis, mycoplasma and coccidiosis with 17 percent But the most common cause of mortality were non-infectious diseases like stress (4/6), prolapse (1/6) and mycotoxicosis (1/6). Regarding to health management, 60 percent practiced in water method of drug administration like antibiotics, vitamins (17%) and probiotic (17%). All farms sampled do not vaccinate their quails. Biosecurity measures were adopted by farmers like of practicing partition but only one strictly implement visitor policy.

The results revealed that farm practices like choice of breeds, frequency of feeding and frequency of egg collection and health management have a significant effect with the profitability of quail farms in Bulacan and Pampanga. Moreover, the educational attainment of the participants were significantly related to farming practices in terms of farmer's preference in the number of cages, housing and stocks.

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INTRODUCTION

Quail industry has been developed in recent years in many countries for both meat and egg production (Kayang, et al., 2004). Egg production is important in Japan and Southeast Asia, while meat is the main product in Europe (Minvielle, 1998). It is considered a good economical source animal protein.

Nowadays, quail become widely distributed as a source of meat since their meat and eggs have become highly popular to the consumers. It has also assumed worldwide importance as production animal with distinct characteristics such as rapid growth-enabling quail to be marketed for human consumption at 5 to 6 weeks of age, early sexual maturity- resulting in a short generation interval, high rate of lay and much lower feed and space requirements than the domestic fowl (Singh et al., 1981).

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) as cited by Calleja (2010), quail raising has become one of the most promising livelihoods in the country as the demand for cheap eggs and meat is high, with no compromise to health