

Socio-economic Determinants of Flock Size in Small-scale Broiler Production in Capricorn District of Limpopo Province, South Africa

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ABSTRACT This study aimed at determining the impact of socio-economic variables on flock sizes and identifies production problems encountered by small-scale broiler production in Capricorn District, Limpopo province. The study hypothesised that, socio-economic variables are significant determinant of flock sizes. Disproportionate stratified random sampling was used to select 60 farmers out of 330. Collected data was analysed using SPSS. Findings from the analysis reveals age ($\beta_1=-0.741$), gender ($\beta_2=-0.807$), educational ($\beta_3=0.584$), experience ($\beta_4=0.326$), credit ($\beta_5=-0.515$) and transportation ($\beta_6=-0.854$) significantly affect the flock sizes of small scale farmers. However, hired labour and government support were found to be insignificant in influencing flock size. High feed and chick costs, unavailability and inconsistent supply of farm inputs, lack of capital and poor extension support were other constraints. In conclusion, if production constraints mentioned above are properly addressed broiler flock size amongst small-scale broiler producers in the study area will increase.