

Summary

A survey was conducted among 44 livestock owners in the Orotina, San Mateo, Esparza, and Miramar regions of the central Pacific area of Costa Rica during 14-22

October, 1966. The farms were classified as small (4 to 20 ha), medium (21 to 60 ha), large (61 to 100 ha), and very large (more than 100 ha). Half of the farms had dual-purpose animal production systems. Other common production systems included animal production combined with cropping, fattening, breeding, and specialized milk production. A major problem was the lack of an adequate and satisfactory source of feed for livestock during the dry season. Strategies to confront this problem include the use of pastures under lease and the supply of sugarcane and farm refuse as supplements. The facts that almost two-thirds of the farmers had established improved pastures, mainly *Cynodon nlemfuensis* or *Digitaria decumbens*, and that a similar proportion of livestock owners had recently planted pastures of *Brachiaria* spp. are valid arguments for continuing work with feed systems based on improved pastures. The problems associated with *Brachiaria* include the high price of seed, its low germination rate, and high establishment costs. Livestock owners in these areas rarely use herbaceous and shrub forage legumes, suggesting that research should be conducted with farmer participation.