

On-anong Srisuwittanon 2007: Factors Affecting Buffalo Population in Thailand. Master of Science (Agricultural Economics), Major Field: Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Sarun Wattanuchariya, Ph.D. 65 pages.

The serious problem occurred with buffalo was the dramatically decrease of Buffalo population in Thailand caused by many factors such as the adoption of new modern agricultural technology, replacing buffaloes especially with 2-wheel tractor. Another factor was the increase changing in demand to buffalo meat and there was no solution to this problem.

The objectives of these study were to observe the feeding condition, production and marketing of buffalo in Thailand and to analyze the factors affecting buffalo population classifying by Northern, North-eastern, Central, and Southern regions. The data were collected from government sector, private sector and research documents during 1991 - 2002. Multiple regression was employed to estimate factors affecting buffalo population such as last year price, number of 2-wheel tractor, and cropping intensity.

The result of the analysis showed that the factors affecting buffalo population in the north were price of buffalo, buffalo population in previous year and the number of tractor in present year. The factors affecting buffalo population in northeast were price of buffalo, buffalo population in previous year and the number of tractor in present year. The factors affecting buffalo population in the central were the buffalo population in previous year and the number of tractor in present year. The factors affecting buffalo population in the south were the number of tractor in present year and crop intensity.

The result also revealed that buffalo population in Thailand varied among regions. By the way, number of tractors was the most important factor which was difficult to control because of the convince and less time consuming. However the rapid decline in buffalo population when demand increase. Therefore, there should be a policy in promote commercial buffalo raising in order to meet the future demand as well as generate farm income.

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