



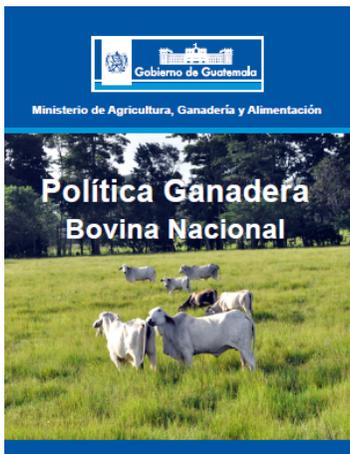
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GUATEMALA

SNAPSHOT

A BOVINE LIVESTOCK POLICY

Innovation with incentives



*National Policy for Bovine Livestock
Photo: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock
and Food (MAGA, Spanish acronym)*

Guatemala's bovine inventory could reach 2.9 million of heads, from which 49% are used for a double purpose (meat and milk); 35% are producers of meat; and 16% are for the specialized production of milk.

The livestock industry contributes approximately \$500 million a year in direct revenues from the production of milk (1.4 million liters a day) and half a million of cattle heads for meat.

Telling Our Story

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In 2003, reported bovine inventory in Guatemala totaled roughly 1.8 million heads of cattle. However, recent statistics show that since then, livestock inventory has increased to 2.9 million heads of cattle, 49 percent of which are used for both meat and milk production, 35 percent are used solely for meat, and 16 percent dedicated exclusively to milk. Currently, it is estimated that the livestock industry contributes with about \$500 million a year in direct revenue to the Guatemala economy, generated from the production of 1.4 million liters of milk produced a day, plus half a million heads of cattle sold for meat consumption. Livestock farms have less than 40 HA of extension in an 84 percent, and 98 percent of all milk produced comes from herds. Due to changes in land use and an increase in intensive farming on the southern coast, land traditionally used for cattle development, cattle have migrated into more fragile environments, such as the Central Highlands, the Atlantic flatland, and the Department of Petén. Not adapting production techniques to these new environments leads to negative environmental consequences, particularly on soil.

In response to these negative consequences, in February 2014 the Government of Guatemala approved the 2014-2018 National Policy for Bovine Livestock. This policy, developed with the support of the USAID's Policy Regulatory Support for Economic Growth (PRS) Project, proposed the introduction of silvopastoral models which would be adapted to each ecologic zones of the country and would cater to the needs of Guatemalan cattle farms. The new policy also prioritizes the care of water tributaries and the recovery of deteriorated soils which helps improve the seasonal management of food and correct cattle feeding problems.

The Policy proposes four strategic points of intervention:

1. Institutional building
2. Modernization of livestock and the national livestock agro-industry
3. Boost of the formation of livestock agricultural chains
4. Support of the commercialization of national dairy and meat products