

Exploration and Practice of Grassland Ecological

An Lihong, Luo Zenghai

Qinghai Province Livestock Station Xining, Qinghai 810001, China

ABSTRACT. *Ander the background of ecological civilization construction, how to realize the sustainable development of animal protection, and realizing the win-win situation of ecology, production and life is an urgent task in front of us. Based on the analysis of the current situation and existing problems of grassland ecological animal husbandry in Qinghai Pastoral Areas, and combined with the ongoing construction work on Test Areas of National Grassland Ecological Animal Husbandry, this paper puts forward the practice and construction experience of Qinghai Pastoral Areas ecological animal husbandry development.*

KEYWORDS: *Qinghai pastoral areas, Grassland, Ecological animal husbandry*

1. Introduction

Qinghai is one of the five major pastoral Areas in China, with a total grassland Areas of 547 million mu, which 474 million mu can be used. For a long time, due to the backward production mode of traditional animal husbandry, the grassland was seriously overloaded and the contradictions between grass and livestock was prominent. Before 2008, more than 90% of the grassland in Qinghai was degraded inordinately, compared with the 1980s, the grass yield of per unit Areas grassland decreased by 10% ~ 40%, the per capita Areas of grassland owned by the pastoral Areas decreased sharply from 2,158 mu to 635 mu. Before 2000, the income of herdsmen in Qinghai province was higher than that of farmers. Since 2001, the income of herdsmen began to be lower than that of farmers. In 2010, the per capita net income of herdsmen in Qinghai province was 3,478 yuan, 385 yuan lower than that of farmers in Qinghai and 2,441 yuan lower than that of farmers nationwide [1]. The living pressure of herdsmen and the ecological pressure of grassland existed at the same time, and the traditional animal husbandry was no longer sustainable. It is an urgent task for us to realize the win-win of ecological protection, production development and income increase of herdsmen by reducing the pressure of grassland and improving the economic benefits of animal husbandry.

2. Current Situation and Existing Problems of Grassland Ecological Animal Husbandry in Qinghai Pastoral Areas

2.1 Current situation of grassland ecological animal husbandry

In order to resolve the contradictions between grassland ecological protection and economic development of animal husbandry, promoting the sustainable development of grassland animal husbandry. In 2008, Qinghai provincial government made a major decision to develop ecological animal husbandry. After six years' active exploration, in 2014 Qinghai pastoral Areas formed 883 ecological animal husbandry cooperatives, realizing a complete coverage of the pure animal husbandry villages, also exploring the construction modes of ecological animal husbandry suitable for pastoral Areas, such as "Stock", "Partnerships" and "Generation of grazing system" and so on, Qinghai preliminary rushed out a new path in line with Qinghai reality of grassland animal husbandry.

In June 2014, The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs confirmed Qinghai province as the "Test Areas of National Grassland Ecological Animal Husbandry", clearly put forward the construction requirements "emancipating the mind, deepening reform, innovating mechanisms, promoting the effective path of transformation and upgrading on traditional grassland animal husbandry", according to the three-step development strategy like pilot first, demonstration expansion, comprehensive promotion, putting forward the innovation of six mechanisms, construction of the three patterns and eight systems, building more than 100 ecological animal husbandry stock cooperatives in Qinghai pastoral Areas, finally forming a number of copied and promoted experience templates[2].

2.2 The existing problems of grassland ecological animal husbandry

It is the key point that the local leaders attach importance to the construction of ecological animal husbandry. However, some local governments haven't paid enough attention to the construction of ecological animal husbandry, and the main role of counties and townships governments has not been fully played. The unbalanced and inadequate development problems between states and counties is prominent.

Second, the promotion capacity of new business entities is weak. Of the 961 ecological animal husbandry cooperatives, one-third is in good operation, one-third is in normal operation and one-third is "shell". Outstanding person is another important factor of cooperative development. However, the quality of herdsmen is low, and most cooperatives are short of talents on management, marketing and finance.

Third, the quality of development remains low. Most cooperatives sell primary products and lack intensive processing. The whole industrial chain of production, processing and sales is not closely connected, so it is urgent to further improve the development level of the grassland ecological animal husbandry.

3. The Development Practice of Grassland Ecological Animal Husbandry in Qinghai Pastoral Areas

After ten years' exploration and practice, Qinghai Tibetan grassland ecological animal husbandry has accumulated rich production, ecology, industry, technology, masses and experience basis for the transformation and development of animal husbandry.

(1) Improving the organization and effectively integrating the production factors. At present, there are 961 ecological animal husbandry cooperatives in Qinghai, covering all pastoral Areas and semi-agricultural and semi-pastoral Areas. Grassland, livestock and other production factors should be intensively managed, improving production efficiency and effectively resolving the contradictions between productivity and production relations. According to investigation, a few typical cooperatives have already realized resource intensification, asset demutualization and production specialization.

(2)Fostering advanced models and transforming the ways of production and management. Since the Test Areas of National Grassland Ecological Animal Husbandry has been confirmed in 2014, Qinghai province selected the pilot cooperatives with strong power and well management to support construction, through 5 years of development, the pilot cooperatives stock reform makes substantive progress, cultivating a lot of typical cooperatives, such as Mei long, La Geri, Gang long, Ha Xiwa and so on, which have become the benchmark leading the construction of grassland ecological animal husbandry in pastoral Areas. For example, after 10 years' development and exploration, Ha Xiwa cooperative's per capita income achieved more than 40,000 yuan from less than 2,000 yuan, also established a new herdsman village in Qinghai pastoral.

(3)Optimizing the industrial structures and strengthening the integrated development of the first, second and third industries. The traditional animal husbandry needs to be extended to the second and third industries, so the ecological animal husbandry cooperatives should establish processing enterprises on animal products, handicrafts and ethnic costumes, organizing labor exporting service, finally effectively adjusting the dual income structure that is dominated by animal husbandry and supplemented by other industries. The development experience of Ha Xiwa and Mei long cooperative proves that the integration of the first, second and third industries is necessary for the development of ecological animal husbandry and also the source of vitality.

(4) Improving the grasslands ecological environment and achieving win-win outcomes. Through the reforming and construction of ecological animal husbandry, the stock cooperatives should insist on the principle of balancing the livestock and the grasslands, and effectively solving the contradictions between overgrazing and ecological environment, therefore realizing the win-win outcomes of production, life and ecology based on the balance of grassland ecosystem and the ecological animal husbandry development.

4. Experience of the Grassland Ecological Animal Husbandry Construction in Qinghai Pastoral Areas

After ten years' exploration and practice, the construction of ecological animal husbandry in Qinghai has achieved remarkable results and also gained some valuable experience.

(1)Insisting on cooperative management is the direction of the ecological animal husbandry. Qinghai province has always taken safeguarding and realizing the interests of the majority herdsmen as the final goals of ecological animal husbandry construction, guided herdsmen to take stock cooperative system as the main direction, only cooperative management can solve the contradictions between protecting environment and large-scale management, and can enable herdsmen to live a good and prosperous life.

(2) Insisting on intensive management is the precondition for achieving the balance between grass and livestock and achieving the protection between ecology and environment. Qinghai province has always firmly implemented the strategy of ecological balance, realizing the grass on livestock and vigorously promoting the green development, solving the problem of the long breeding balance system, through resource investment measures, namely cooperative supervise each other, it is the suitable mechanism for the pastoral Areas in Qinghai.

(3) Insisting on the activation elements is the foundation to achieve the transformation and upgrading of traditional grassland animal husbandry. Qinghai province has always optimized restructuring of animal husbandry resources as a core construction, introducing modern enterprises to manage the livestock production, promoting cooperatives unified management, advancing the new mode of grassland animal husbandry development like livestock group breeding, pasture group grazing, labors skills division, profits sharing which will realize the integration of production factors such as grasslands, livestock, human resources with the modern agricultural factors such as management, technology and capital.

Acknowledgments

Support Project: Key Research and Transformation Projects of Qinghai Province in 2019(2019-SF-148). Research and Demonstration on the Follow-up Production Technology Integration Model of Ecological Animal Husbandry Stock Reform.

References

- [1] Zhou Yuanjun (2005). Research on the Development of Ecological Animal Husbandry in China [J]. *Anhui Agriculture*, no.4, pp.78-79.
- [2] Deng Bentai (2010). Thoughts on Accelerating the Development of Ecological Animal Husbandry in Qinghai [A], pp.2-3.