

## ABSTRACT

In this thesis, an attempt was made to determine the effect on returns to nomadic producers, of a change in the production and marketing strategy for the Southern Somali Beef Cattle Industry.

The existing production and marketing systems consist of sale of cattle under the uncontrolled communal pasture of nomadic producers' herds, whilst the proposed alternative production and marketing arrangements consist of sale of conditioned cattle passed through state grazing ranches.

The study involved an examination of the existing production and marketing aspects of the beef cattle in Southern Somalia. The technical, financial, and economic aspects of the establishment of two state grazing ranches by the Livestock Development Agency were evaluated and returns from sale of the beef cattle under the existing production and marketing systems were compared with returns from sale of the beef cattle under the proposed alternative.

The indications were that the establishment of two state grazing ranches in the central and coastal region of Southern Somalia was quite a viable project and that the returns from sale of the beef cattle under the proposed alternative exceed returns from sale of the beef cattle under the existing production and marketing arrangements.

The conclusion was that the proposed change in both production and marketing practices would result in increased returns to the beef cattle nomadic producers and the L.D.A. and to the economy as a whole, and hence, the change has been recommended.