

Guide to 7 proven livestock farming business you can start now



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So you want to know how you can start a livestock farming business in Nigeria? Then read on as I uncover what livestock farming is all about and the seven proven livestocks you can choose from that will never run out of demand.

Before then, let us take a close look at the meaning of livestock farming and why it is important to the Nigerian economy.

Livestocks are domestic animals raised in farm settings to produce meat, milk, eggs, wool and fur solely for human consumption.

In the stone age, man used to hunt for his meat but with the growth of civilization, animals were enclosed and raised by farmers to provide meat of various kinds.

Livestock farming is a component of modern day agriculture which is also known as animal husbandry is practiced in many cultures after the transition from the hunting lifestyle of the stone age man.

Talking about the Nigerian economy, agriculture which is one of the major necessity for human existence will contribute to the growth and development to the economy through the;

- Creation of jobs
- Diversification of the economy
- Source of foreign currency through export
- Food security
- Supply of raw materials to other industries.

Why is livestock farming so important to the economy?

Livestock farming or animal husbandry is a part of agriculture and is very important as it has not been fully utilized. [Although, varied and complex, livestock ruminant farming](#) provides food, employment, farm energy, manure, etc, thereby contributing to one third of Nigeria's agricultural GDP.

For you to do this business and fill in the gap to meet up the huge demand, you will need a livestock farming business plan that contains a detailed feasibility study and market research.

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a livestock farm for you.**

Meanwhile, in this guide, we will uncover seven proven livestocks you can start farming that is in high demand which you can pick from, make profit and build your business in the long run. Before we go into detail, below is a list of seven livestocks that are most profitable in the Nigerian marketplace;

1. Goat farming
2. Cattle farming
3. Poultry farming
4. Sheep farming
5. Pig farming
6. Snail farming
7. Fish farming

Livestock farming is not limited to the seven animals above as there are others, but these seven livestocks have been proved to be the most profitable as demand outweighs supply in most cities of Nigeria.

So let us dive in to meat of the matter, as I uncover each of this livestock in details. Also endeavour to do your feasibility studies and have a business plan.

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So let's check them out.

1. GOAT Farming

Goats are omnivorous animals with low mortality rate because they are resistant to harsh weather conditions and diseases. [Commercial goat farming](#) is common in the northern part of Nigeria while the demand is high in the southern part.

Apart from the meat, you can also get milk, skin, fibre and manure as the end product of your goats. This is why you want to research to know what you want to offer the marketplace at the end, so you can position yourself.

One of the secret to a successful commercial goat farming business is to buy quality breeds and ensure you keep them healthy.

Example of goat breeds you can keep are maradi, [Nigerian dwarf, pygmy, boer, saanen, nubian](#), etc.

For an healthy upkeep, you should endeavour to keep your goats in spacious pens with straws and toys to keep them busy as they may not thrive in air tight area.

If you are really [interested in goat farming](#), you will need to learn the basics and rudiment of goat keeping in Nigeria, their type of feed and even visit a goat farm for practical knowledge. This does not exclude hiring an experienced consultant to help with your farm set up and veterinary services.

2. Cattle farming

[Cattle farming is one of the most profitable livestock farming](#) business, although it is capital intensive but you are set to profit from the end product which is milk, meat, blood and bone meal for animal feeds and the dung used for manure.

The different breed of cattle are not limited to sokoto gudali, white fulani, azawal, wadara, kudama, kekeku, brown swiss, etc.

In considering cattle farming, you should study to know what you are bringing to the marketplace, this will further help you decide which of the cattle breed you have to go for. There are three major categories of cattle breeds which are as follow;

- Dual purpose cattle, which is capable of producing milk and meat.
- Beef cattle, which is farmed to produce meat.
- Dairy cattle, which is farmed to produce milk.

If you are [farming cattle to produce diary \(milk\)](#), then you should buy white fulani zebu cows, Adamawa and Sokoto gudali, bunaji and rahaji.

While to produce meat (beef), then go for keteku, kuri, muturu, and n'dama.

It takes cattle two years minimum for them to mature with a weight of 450 kilogram upward if you are rearing for meat, from which you can sell them.

There are three major methods you choose from to rear your cattle, which are;

- Internal Method: Under this method, the cattle are limited to grazing as they are kept within a building and supplied with grasses, water and medications on a daily basis. This can also be known as ranching.
- Semi internal Method: Here the cattle are taken out of their house to graze out in open fields and brought back.
- External Method: Under this method, the cattle practically live outside and taken to various field for open grazing as there is no particular housing provided for them.

And for safety purposes, it is expedient you remove the horns of your cattle so they don't hurt themselves or anyone. Also you will ensure to watch the environment for snakes if they are grazing on the open or take care of other pest such as tse tse flies if you are ranching them in your own field.

3. Poultry farming

One of the most profitable livestock farming you can embark on in Nigeria is poultry. This is what you can start with minimum of 100,000 naira from your backyard and scale up your business in no time.

Although, there is high risk in poultry farming business, [you will need to learn what it takes to run a poultry farm in Nigeria](#) so you don't get your fingers burnt.

The end product of poultry farming are meat and egg which the demand is higher in the Nigerian marketplace. Apart from other forms of livestocks in the poultry farming business such as the turkey, duck, goose and other pet birds, there are two major poultry niches such as;

- Broilers breeding: The end product of this breed is majorly the meat and feaces which is used for manure. A set of broilers can be reared and taken to the market in six to seven weeks meaning you can make profit within this time frame.
- Layers breeding: the end product of this breed is the egg, meat and feaces used for manure

Other niches in the poultry farming business are;

- Hatchery: where you hatch day old chicks
- Poultry feed production.

It is advisable you start with one to enable you focus on the outcome of your poultry farming business. Needless to say, poultry farming is highly lucrative because of the huge demand for chicken meat and eggs.

It also is risky too which is why you need to learn from existing poultry farmers or hire an experienced agricultural consultant to set this up for you.

4. Sheep farming

[Sheep farming is highly lucrative and easy to rear](#), what is more surprising is the fact that most people overlook this business. In fact, sheeps are mostly reared in the northern part of Nigeria. And you can start this business with 100,000 naira or less.

Sheeps do have a lifespan of seven years with a gestation of 148 days and reaches its heat period every 16-18 days. So you see there is a possibility of your sheeps to multiply in three months.

The end product of sheeps are the wool and the meats or mutton. A single sheep can weigh between 30 - 120 kilogram.

On the other hand, before you venture into sheep farming, you should know what you want to achieve at the end.

Are you interested in the wool or the meat?

This is because, some breed of sheeps are good for wool like the merino breed while others are good for meat production like the hampshire and suffolk. The breeds of sheeps you can find in Nigeria are bororo, yuankasa, ara-ara, uda, balami and west African dwarf.

Although sheep farming business is easy from the pen set up to the feeding, you still have to do your due diligence by first learning from a sheep farmer and hire an agricultural consultant with expertise to set up your business.

5. Pig farming

[Pig farming is another profitable livestock](#) business due to its huge demand in the Nigerian and international market. What is not right is the low supply of pork meat to the marketplace, which is why you can take advantage and go into pig farming to supply to the Nigerian and international market. For instance, China is the World largest consumers of pork meat.

For you to [start and run a pig farming business](#), you will need a space of land, which will depend on the number of pigs you are starting with. Fortunately, feeding pigs is not expensive as they can feed on anything from roughages, vegetables, rice, meats and corn.

Generally, the gestation period of pigs is not more than 115 days as a Sow can give birth to ten piglets or more in a year.

You will also need to do your due diligence in identifying the breed of pigs you want to rear. Study from other pig farmers, read books, and hire an experienced consultant to help you set up your pig farm.

6. Snail Farming

[Snail farming is another overlooked yet profitable livestock farming](#) business in Nigeria. The low cholesterol, fat and high protein content of snails make it to be one of the most sought after delicacies in hotels, restaurants and homes of healthy living Nigerians.

The giant African land snail also known as the achatina species can be gotten from the tropical region of West Africa, Nigeria inclusive. However, with the turning of bushes to cities and high rate of rural - urban immigration, snails as large as this are difficult to come by except for few smart entrepreneurs who rear them from their backyards to supply at a high price to restaurants, bars and hotels.

The end product of [snail farming are the meat](#) which contains amino acids needed by the human body and other bye product used for cosmetics and medicines.

Fortunately, you will not even think of exporting snail as there is a huge demand and low supply in the Nigerian market.

Snails are hermaphrodites (male and female) and is capable of producing 100 eggs at once which calls for any smart entrepreneur to go into snail farming from his backyard after doing your due diligence by learning this

business from other farmers, resources and hiring an experienced consultant to set up your snail farm.

7. Fish farming

Here emphasis will be laid on catfish farming. Five out of ten Nigerians consume catfish on a daily basis. Catfish farming is yet another profitable livestock farming business, you still need to learn from a catfish farmer and hire an experience consultant to help set it up and also put you through the nitty gritty of the business.

There are two [seperate ways you can operate or integrate](#) in catfish farming;

- Nursery fish farming which leads the female fish to lay eggs, these eggs are then fertilized, incubated and hatched into the little fishes known as fries. These fries are then reared for three to four weeks into fingerlings which is now suitable for grow out fish farming.
- Grow out fish farming is the rearing of the fingerlings, post fingerlings or juvenile between four to five months into table size catfish which is then suitable for consumption.

Apart from the knowledge from experienced consultant and catfish farmers, you also need the following to get started in your catfish farming business such as;

- Land where your pond, water system and farmhouse will be located.
- Pond planning, design and construction.
- Water supply source and well placed drainage system.

Finally when you harvest, you can either sell directly to consumers as smoked catfish or fresh or sell to catfish processors. Whichever way you are bound to make profit in this business.

With this guide to seven most profitable livestock farming business you can choose from and start in Nigeria, you are bound to make profit from anyone you choose.

But before you proceed, make sure you have a detailed business plan and feasibility study which will also include your market research.

Are you wondering where and how to get started on your preferred livestock farming business?

We can be with you all the way from start to finish using the following steps;

- ❖ We will design a well detailed business plan on your preferred livestock
- ❖ We will give you access to our farmlands which you can purchase to start your livestock farming business.
- ❖ We will link you to top professionals with proven records, i am talking of veterinary doctors and agricultural consultant to help you set up your livestock farm.
- ❖ We will market and distribute your end product using our channels.

So all you need now is your working capital and your determination to start and run your livestock farming business and we will practically be with you from start to finish.

Talk to us today, let us get to work on your livestock farming business. You can call us on +2347060456088 or +2348038457205

We look forward to work with you and make things happen.

To your success!

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