



Animal Malnutrition as a welfare issue in Botswana

Madibela, O. R.

Department of Animal Sciences, Faculty of Animal & Veterinary Sciences

Botswana University of Agriculture & Natural Resources.

Along A1 Road, Sebele Content Farm.

P/Bag 0027, Gaborone, Botswana

Presentation made at 6TH AFRICA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE -Action 2022. 31 October - 02 November 2022

Gaborone, Botswana

Travelodge Hotel



+267 365 0 100



@BuanOfficial



BUANbw



BuanWorld



Buanlive



info@buan.ac.bw

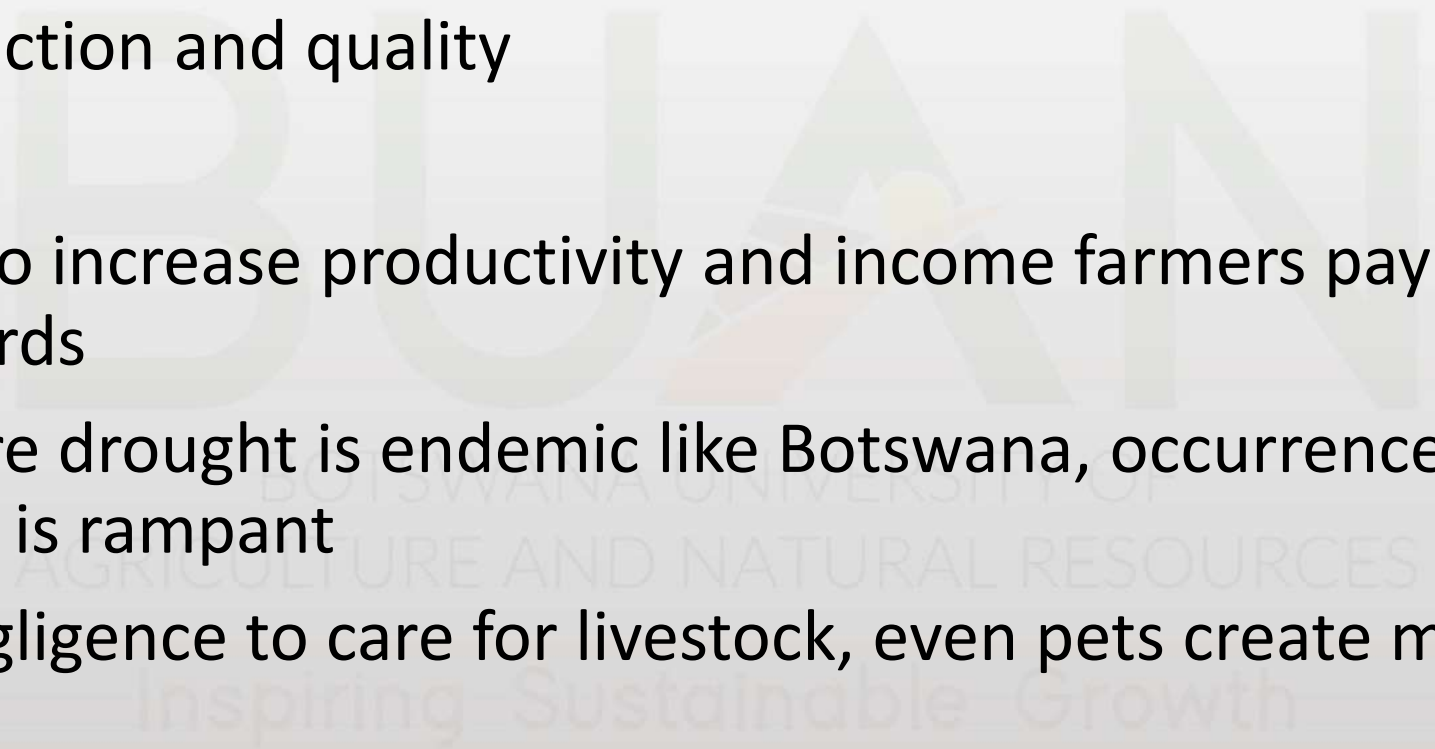


Introduction

- Nutrition and feeding is routinely regarded as management practice
- In order to promote optimal animal performance
- These include;
 - a) a cue to reproduction (ovulation, sperm quality, embryo survival)
 - b) fosters foetal growth
 - c) promote milk production
 - d) promote growth of offspring
 - e) maintenance of adult animals



- For poultry these include
 - a) Egg quality
 - b) Sperm production and quality
 - c) Growth
- Due to desire to increase productivity and income farmers pay attention to feeding standards
- However, where drought is endemic like Botswana, occurrence of undernutrition is rampant
- Sometimes negligence to care for livestock, even pets create malnutrition





Undernutrition

- Therefore limited nutrients impact all stages of reproductive cycle and growth parameters
- Further undernutrition result in stunted growth in;
 - a) The foetus (Severe maternal undernutrition)
 - b) Growing animal
- Could be so severe that would not be offset by compensatory growth

BUAN
BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES



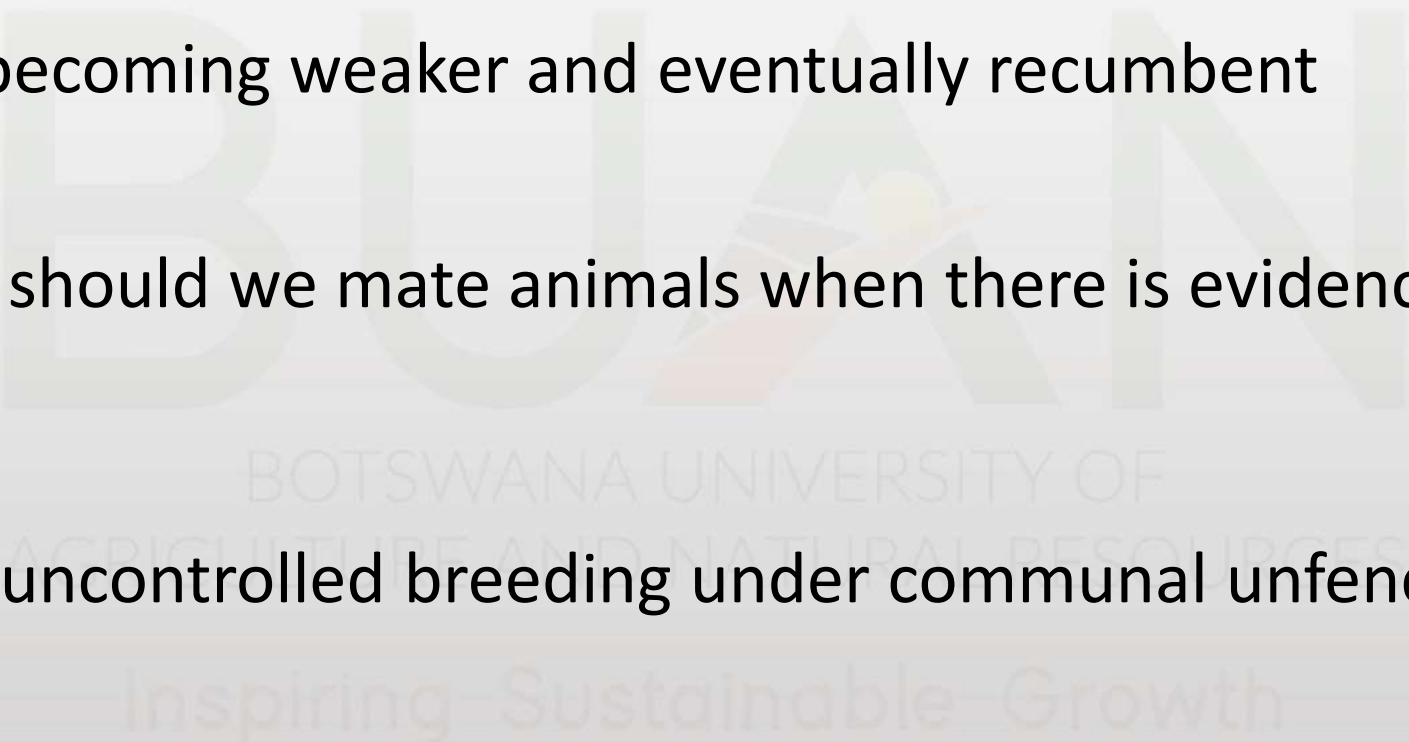


- For pregnant and nursing dams, undernutrition result in;
 - a) severe lose of body reserve
 - b) negative energy balance
- Could result in abortion in goats or recumbency in cattle
- Especially in animals during the last trimester of pregnancy
- Normally, pregnant cattle mobilize body reserve in midst of limited nutrition

BUAN
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES



- In an effort to support foetal growth (resource portioning to reproduction)
- In the process becoming weaker and eventually recumbent
- The question is should we mate animals when there is evidence of limited nutrition?
- The problem is uncontrolled breeding under communal unfenced grazing
- Nursing dams also mobilise body reserves and become weak





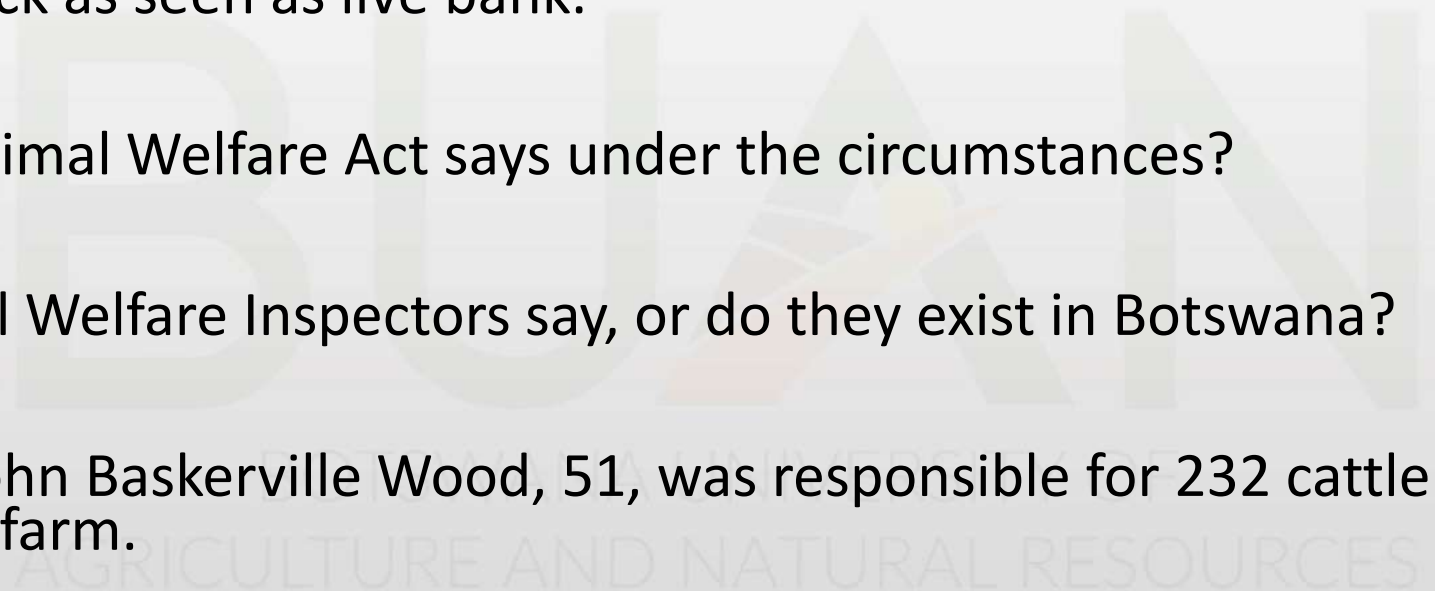
- Besides general lack of feed, specific nutrients like minerals, such as Copper (Cu) and Selenium (Se) can lead to recumbency
- Statistics in Botswana do not reveal causes of mortality
- But there is high likelihood for involvement of undernutrition
- When an animal become malnourished and become recumbent, do the farming community, civil society and animal professionals see it as a welfare issue?





The Law

- There is likelihood that the farmer may be reluctant to euthanise it, hoping that it will recover, as livestock as seen as live bank.
- What does the Animal Welfare Act says under the circumstances?
- What does Animal Welfare Inspectors say, or do they exist in Botswana?
- In New Zealand John Baskerville Wood, 51, was responsible for 232 cattle and 1400 sheep at his Rangiwahia farm.
- He was sentenced in Palmerston North District Court after pleading guilty to five serious charges under the Animal Welfare Act in 2020.





Crafar Farms in NZ pleaded to 56 charges of neglecting dozens of dead and dying cows at one of its Hawkes Bay farms in September 2006

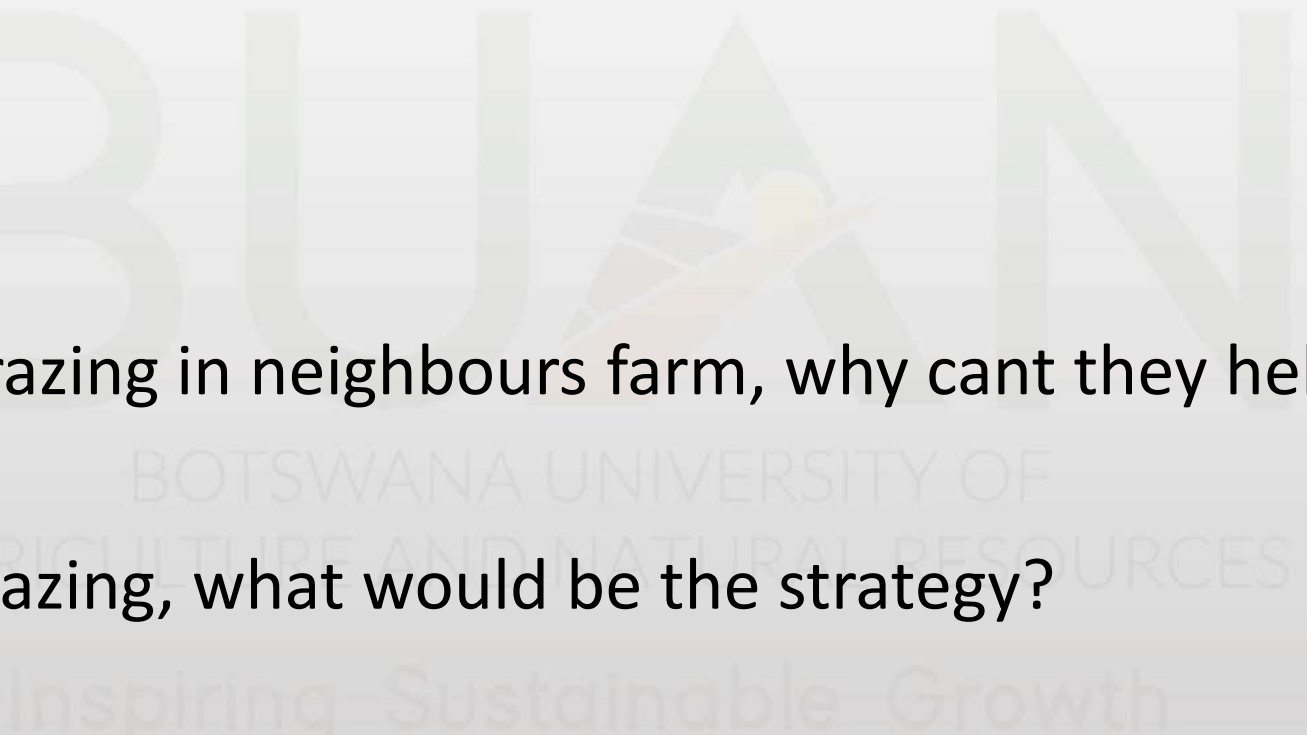


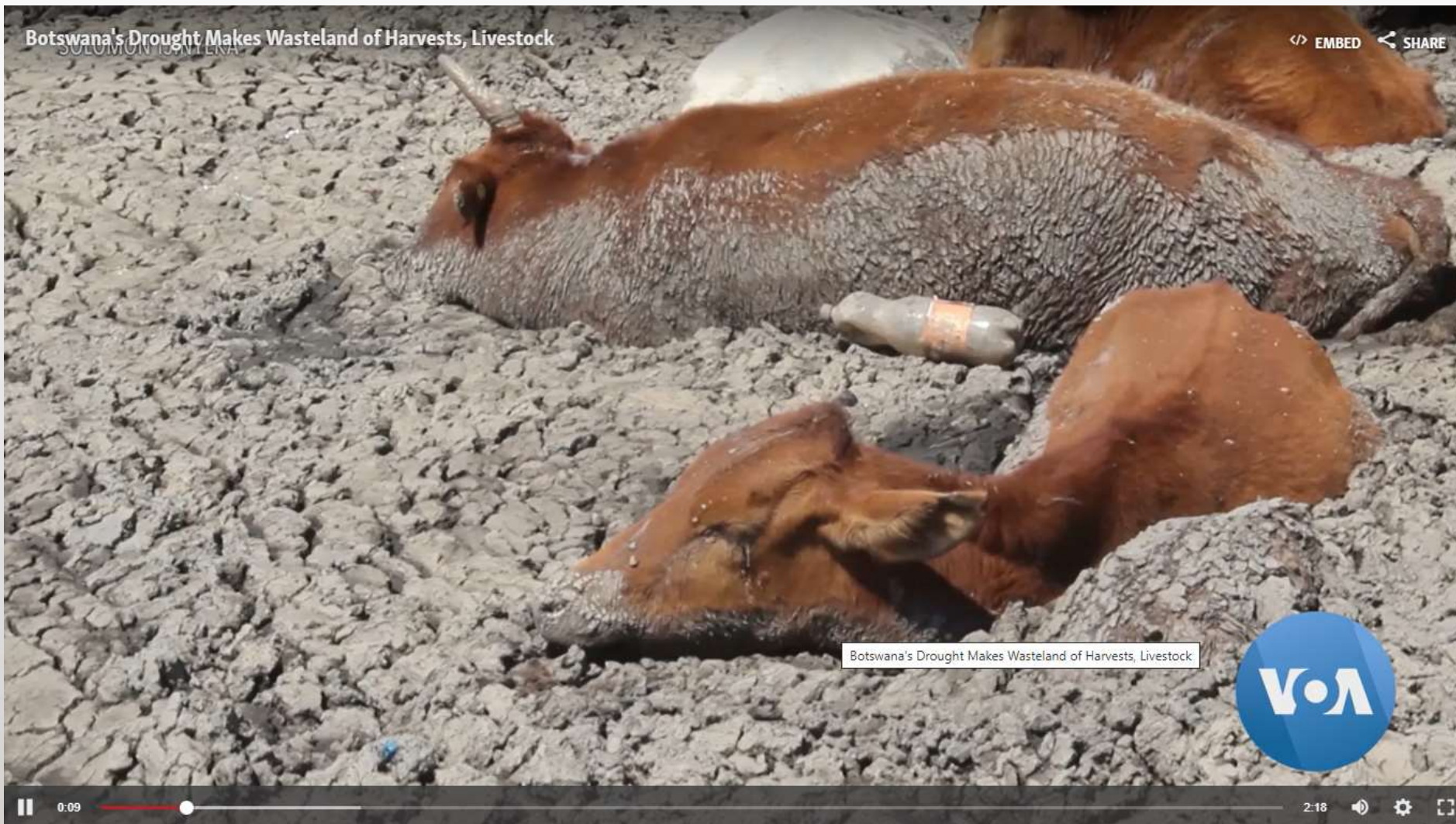
UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
Inspiring Sustainable
Growth



Drought and Water

- Water can also create undesirable welfare issues
- What can be done?
- If there is enough grazing in neighbours farm, why cant they help?
- Under communal grazing, what would be the strategy?
- Culling, can it be a strategy to be adapted by communal farmers?





+267 365 0 100



@BuanOfficial



BUANbw



BuanWorld



Buanlive



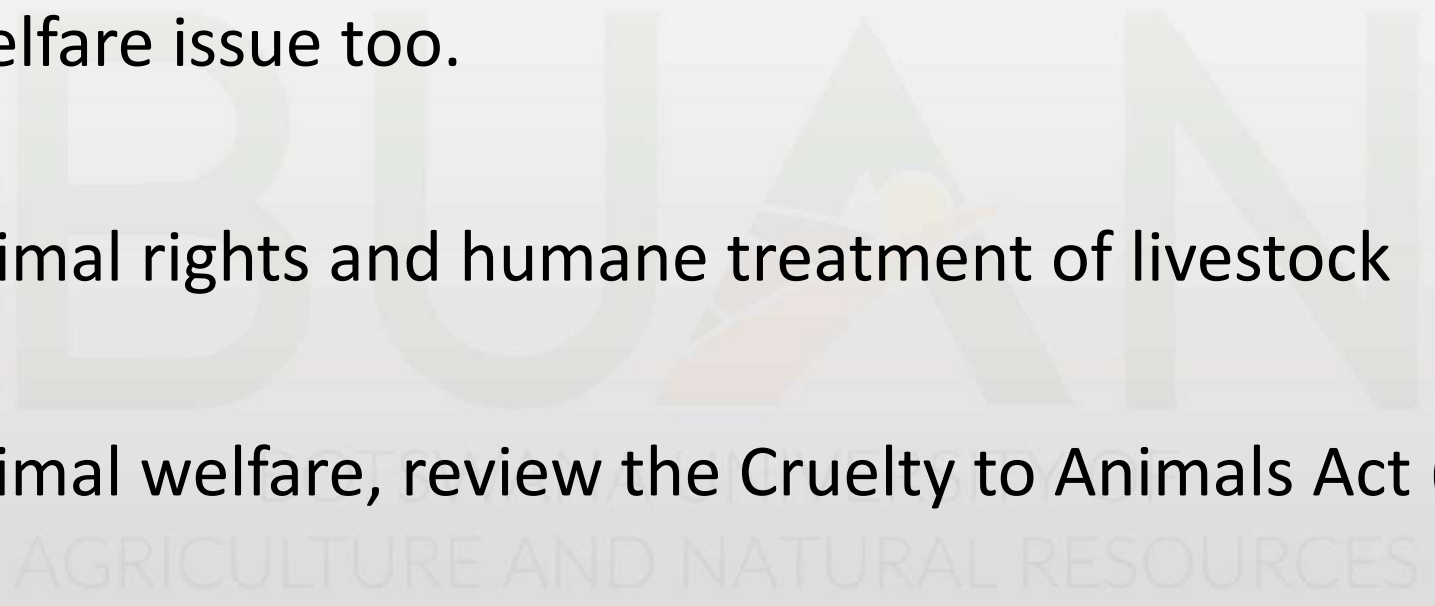
info@buan.ac.bw





Everyone's responsibility

- The loss of body condition, emaciation and eventual recumbency should be regarded as a welfare issue too.
- It touches on animal rights and humane treatment of livestock
- Education on animal welfare, review the Cruelty to Animals Act (8th May, 1936)
- Guidelines on avoiding starvation and malnutrition of livestock





BUAN

BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Inspiring Sustainable Growth

Thank you



Botswana's Drought Makes Wasteland of Harvests, Livestock

SOLUMON ISANTERA

Press **Esc** to exit full screen

EMBED SHARE

0:21 2:18

Botswana's Drought Makes Wasteland of Harvests, Livestock



+267 365 0 100



@BuanOfficial



BUANbw



BuanWorld



Buanlive



info@buan.ac.bw

