

## SUMMARY

Use of livestock feed has, and continues to be dominated by barley and wheat bran as a result of subsidization, and limited knowledge of the alternatives and their values. The use of the cheapest feeds available has restricted the development of balance and variety in animal diets, and limited the potential for specialized feeding regimes to different animals. Nevertheless significant proportions of producers use feeds like alfalfa, maize, straw and stubble, crop residues and concentrates when available from traders and the open market.

Differing experiences with feeds has resulted in many conflicting and confusing perceptions of their values and disadvantages. Contradictory opinions were expressed about alfalfa, maize, concentrates and vegetable by-products; the four main alternatives to barley and wheat bran. Misconceptions emanate from stories and hearsay, as well as improper use of feeds such as sudden and excessive dietary changes. However, the variety of products used as animal fodder is an encouraging sign of the receptiveness of producers to new ideas, and their willingness to experiment and diversify feeding regimes.

Producers tending to limit feed varieties used appear to do so because of price constraints, or because they have little knowledge of the options. Recent changes in the market's price structure will force many to reconsider their feed strategies, but there remains a lack of adequate information and advice available to Badia producers. There is no effective extension programme to advise farmers on animal nutrition and diet issues, or on the economic and fodder value of the various feeds available on the market. As the private sector takes over the supply of animal feeds, Jordan's livestock producers will continue to rely upon the government as they become increasingly dependent upon regulation and control of feed supplies and quality.

The removal of subsidy on imported barley and wheat will, in the coming months, transform the livestock feed industry. Badia producers will be faced with more decisions than ever over what to feed their stock, and for many those decisions could determine whether, as producers, they survive the next few years. If they are to make the right decisions, they will need effective support in the form of research, extension and information. Whilst Badia producers are clearly demonstrating their ability to innovate in their use of feeds, without information and advice, they cannot hope to keep pace with changes in either the feed industry or the livestock industry as a whole.