

Investigation and analysis on reasons for engaging in agriculture, financial status and risk self-assessment of poultry industry farmers ⁽¹⁾

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Received: May 4, 2020; Accepted: Nov. 13, 2020

Abstract

The study investigated the agricultural background, reasons for engaging in agriculture, financial status, and risk self-assessment to explore the composition, characteristic and investment behavior of poultry farmers in Taiwan, in addition to analyzing the composition structure of poultry industries and the property traits and investment behaviors of those engaged, as the references of management strategy and self-risk checking for poultry industry. Among the 107 valid questionnaires, 81.3% respondents were male, 81.7% were full-time poultry farmers and 82.2% was the breadwinner of a family. The main source of operational funds consists of 35.5% loan from farmers' association and 46.7% using own funds. The cross-analysis shows a significant correlation between the sources of funding in poultry farmers and the availability of full-time, amount of working capital, emergency money and reasons for engaging in agriculture. In particular, 84.2% were part-timers, 60 ~ 70% have working capital under NTD 5 million and 50 ~ 80% of non-business operators use own funds to invest in poultry industry. About 80% of working capital exceeds NTD 5 million and 60.3% of developing professional career farmers have borrowed loans. The results indicated that full-timers with professional poultry farmers as their career goal might have higher working capital, ability and motivation to repay loans than part-timers. Thus the results suggest that there could be a significant correlation between the difference in occupancy, working capital and reasons for engaging in agriculture with the sources of fund. The investigation revealed that most poultry farmers did not have a relevant academic background but held actual experiences. In particular, 57.0% of respondents were second generation of farmer and only 9.3% of them graduated with an agriculture related diploma. About 74.0% had more than 5-year farming experiences, while 84.9% had at least one agriculture-related job before. With regards to the investigation on the risk self-assessment of the respondents, score 1 to 10 represents the level of self-assessment risk tolerance level. The average of poultry farmers were 6.3 ± 2.0 while the high risk tolerance group (age 36 ~ 45) received a score 7.1 ± 2.1 , distinguished by the age risk tolerance, indicating a higher trend than other groups.

Key words: Poultry industry, Reasons for engaging in agriculture, Financial status, Risk self-assessment.

(1) Contribution No. 2654 from Livestock Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan.

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