

Determination of the Updated Definition and Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal of Livestock and Poultry Animals

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Abstract

Various conversion rates are currently being used by government agencies, private sector, and academe in the determination of meat supply in the country due to differences in the concepts used and the absence of updated conversion rates that are reflective of the current situation of the livestock and poultry industry. The objective of the study is to generate standardized definitions and conversion rates of carcass and offal by animal type, based on local slaughtering and eating practices in the country. The Technical Working Group on Livestock and Poultry Statistics conducted deskwork research, survey of key informants, actual observation of slaughter operations, and series of consultative meetings to confirm the definitions and conversion rates by animal type. Given the updated definitions, the current conversion rates indicated in the 1992 Supply and Utilization Accounts (SUA) handbook were validated. Results show retention of carcass conversion rates for carabao and cattle at 50.0 percent and chicken at 77.0 percent, while conversion rates for goat and hog increased to 46.0 percent and 83.0 percent, respectively. Furthermore, all commodities had higher offal conversion rates except for hog, which declined to 10.5 percent. These conversion rates are used as input in the computation of SUA of livestock and poultry.

Keywords: livestock and poultry, carcass, offal, carcass conversion rate, offal conversion rate

I. Introduction

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has been proactive in updating key agricultural parameters in recent years. Notable updates include conversion rate of dry rubber contents of cup lumps in 2021, conversion rate of coffee dried berries to green coffee beans in 2022, and milling recovery rate of palay to rice in 2024. These updates reflect the PSA's ongoing commitment to ensuring that agricultural statistics remain relevant, accurate, and reflective of current industry practices.

For the livestock and poultry industry, various parameters are currently being used by the stakeholders for the determination of meat supply in the country due to the differences in the concepts used and due to the absence of updated parameters that are reflective to the current situation. Hence, stakeholders from the government, academic institutions, and private sector requested to update the said parameters as they are no longer reflective of the current situation of the industry.

Another concern is that there are limited available literatures/resources to confirm the current parameters used particularly in the computation of supply for other edible parts of the slaughtered/dressed animals.

Given these needs to measure and come up with unified conversion rates, it is vital that the concepts used are defined properly and clearly based on the breed of animals being raised, technological interventions, and local practices in the country.

Accurate and standardized measurement of meat production is critical for assessing the country's meat supply levels, which in turn affects decisions related to meat importation and exportation. Reliable data on meat supply enables evidence-based policymaking that balances domestic production with trade needs, ultimately supporting national food security objectives.

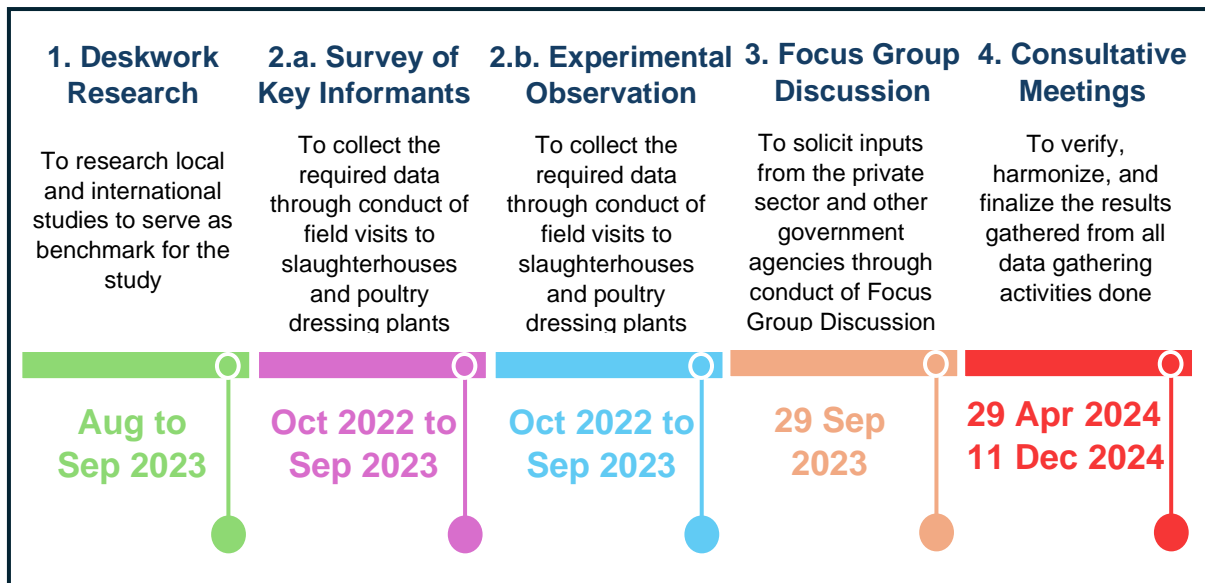
II. Objectives

The objective of the research study is to come up with standard definitions and conversion rates of carcass and offal by animal type based on local slaughtering and eating practices. The standardized definitions are used for the determination of updated conversion rates of carcass and offal by animal type. The conversion rates are used as input to the computation of Supply and Utilization Accounts (SUA) of livestock and poultry commodities.

III. Methodology

The study was undertaken by the Technical Working Group on Livestock and Poultry Statistics (TWG-LPS), which is composed of key government agencies to ensure the study's technical soundness and policy relevance. The TWG-LPS is chaired by the Department of Agriculture – Office of the Undersecretary for Livestock (DA-OUSL), with members from the Department of Agriculture – National Livestock Program (DA-NLP), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), National Dairy Authority (NDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government, and PSA. The TWG-LPS conducted deskwork research, field visits, focus group discussion, and series of consultative meetings from 2022 to 2024 to generate and firm up the required definitions and conversion rates.

Figure 1. Activities Conducted for the Generation of Updated Definitions and Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal



1. Deskwork Research

Personnel from the PSA conducted deskwork research from August to September 2023 to benchmark the parameters based on research studies published locally and internationally. Studies considered in the analysis are those published starting in 2012.

2. Field Visits

Field visits in various Licensed to Operate Meat Establishments (LTOMEs)¹ and Locally Registered Meat Establishments (LRMEs)² was conducted by PSA in coordination with NMIS. Provinces covered in the study were selected based on the volume of production and presence of slaughterhouses and poultry dressing plants. Meanwhile, sample establishments were selected based on their classification whether LTOME or LRME, slaughtering/dressing capacity, and type of animals being slaughtered/dressed to ensure sufficient representation of all covered animal types.

Collection of data through field visits was done in two approaches: Survey of Key Informants (SKI) and Experimental Observation. A face-to-face interview was conducted with the concerned personnel of LTOMEs, LRMEs particularly the Meat Inspectors, and any other personnel of LGU who is knowledgeable in the operations of the LRME. A structured collection form was used for both approaches and the information gathered are the liveweight, carcass weight, conversion rate of other parts, and definition of carcass weight.

Data collected through SKI approach are based on administrative records of slaughterhouses/poultry dressing plants, recollection of respondents from the previous slaughtering/dressing operations, and expert's knowledge.

¹ Premises/facilities where food animals are slaughtered for human consumption. These are NMIS accredited slaughterhouses and poultry dressing plants.

² Slaughterhouses, meat processing plants, poultry dressing plants, meat cutting plants and cold storages that are allowed to operate by the city/municipal government but are not accredited by NMIS. The slaughtered meats in LRMEs are suitable for sale within the city/municipality.

A total of 38 LTOMEs and 28 LRMEs were covered by the PSA using the SKI approach. In 2022, six provinces from four regions were covered, while data gathering was expanded to another 11 provinces in 10 regions in 2023.

Experimental observation, on the other hand, involves actual observation of slaughtering procedures and weighing of carcass and other parts of slaughtered/dressed animals. The slaughter facility staff were asked to weigh specific parts of the slaughtered animals such as carcass, liver and heart, intestines, blood, and other relevant by-products to gather data on actual yield.

Experimental observation was conducted in six LTOMEs and five LRMEs in five provinces from 2022 to 2023. The coverage is limited due to the operations schedule of slaughterhouses/poultry dressing plants, which is during midnight to dawn.

3. Focus Group Discussion

A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with selected government agencies and private sector was organized and facilitated by the TWG-LPS on 29 September 2023 to validate the definitions and conversion rates gathered from the deskwork research and field visits done by PSA. Participants during the FGD were meat inspectors from various slaughter establishments, meat dealer, representative/s of concerned government agencies, and TWG-LPS members.

The participants were divided into three small groups to discuss and come up with recommended definitions and parameters for their assigned animal type/s. The results are presented in plenary to solicit inputs and/or concurrence from the whole group.

4. Consultative Meetings

Series of consultative meetings with the livestock agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and key federations and associations from the private sector were also conducted to verify and firm up the results from the previous data gathering activities conducted by the TWG-LPS.

The DA-OUSL consulted the livestock government agencies and selected industry players on 29 to 30 April 2024. The results of the consultation were indicated in the DA Resolution on Carcass Weight and Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal of Livestock and Poultry Animals dated 03 May 2024.

The TWG-LPS conducted a consultative meeting with the private sector on 11 December 2024 to finalize the definitions and conversion rates of carcass and offal that are acceptable to all concerned entities. Participants from the private sector such as San Miguel Food Inc, Vitarich Corporation, United Broiler Raisers Association, and several rabbit associations provided inputs based on their actual slaughtering. The conversion rate for each part of the slaughtered animal, including by-products and wastage/losses, was listed down to ensure accuracy in the computation of conversion rates.

IV. Results and Findings

1. Deskwork Research

A total of 15 related literatures published from 1991 to 2020 were cited in the study; however, considering the most relevant year of publication, only seven of those were considered in the analysis. Of the seven studies, three are international literatures while the other four are sourced from local publications.

From the results of the deskwork research done by PSA, the conversion rates of carcass for cattle at 55.0 percent, goat at 56.9 percent, and hog at 74.7 percent were higher than their respective current parameters, while conversion rates for carabao at 48.0 percent and chicken at 72.0 percent were lower than the current conversion rates.

Table 1. Conversion Rates of Carcass based on the Results of Deskwork Research

Animal Type	Conversion Rate (in percent)			Sources
	Current Parameter ³	Local	International	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Carabao	50.0	48.0		1. Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, 2012 2. University of the Philippines – Los Baños, 2015 3. Isabela State University, 2016 4. IntechOpen, 2017 5. IOP Conference Series, 2018 6. Philippine Carabao Center, 2019 7. University of Maine, 2020
Cattle	50.0		55.0	
Goat	44.0	56.9		
Hog	70.0		74.7	
Chicken	77.0		72.0	

2. Field Visits

2.a. Definitions

From the results of field visits in selected slaughtering facilities, various definitions of carcass were gathered from the respondents. Cattle have three definitions, hog have four definitions, and goat have two definitions.

For cattle, majority of the responses uses the weight of the carcass excluding head, feet, skin, offal, and blood as definition of carcass. For hog, weight of the carcass including head and feet but excluding blood and offal is the definition that most respondents adhere to. For goat, carcass is defined by majority as weight of the carcass excluding head, feet, skin, offal, and blood. Meanwhile, definitions captured for carabao and chicken are the same for all interviewed respondents.

Table 2. Definition of Carcass based on the Results of Field Visit in Various Slaughterhouses and Poultry Dressing Plants^{4,5}

Animal Type	Definition of Carcass
Carabao	Weight of the carcass excluding head, feet, skin, offal, and blood
Cattle	1. Weight of the carcass excluding offal and blood 2. Weight of the carcass excluding offal, blood, and feet 3. Weight of the carcass excluding head, feet, skin, offal, and blood
Goat	1. Weight of the carcass excluding head, feet, skin, offal, and blood

³ 2003 Livestock and Poultry Statistics Handbook and 1992 and 1995 SUA Handbook

⁴ based on results of field visits in the National Capital Region, Bulacan, Batangas, Pampanga, Cebu, Misamis Oriental, Zamboanga del Norte, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, Pangasinan, Siquijor, Palawan, Albay, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, and Davao del Sur

⁵ based on results of field visits in Bulacan, Batangas, Rizal, Southern Leyte, and Davao del Sur

Table 2. Definition of Carcass based on the Results of Field Visit in Various Slaughterhouses and Poultry Dressing Plants^{4,5}

Animal Type	Definition of Carcass
	2. Weight of the carcass including skin excluding head, feet, offal, and blood
Hog	1. Weight of the carcass including head and feet but excluding blood, offal, and hair/fur/balahibo 2. Weight of the carcass including head and feet but excluding blood and offal 3. Weight of the carcass including feet but excluding head, blood, and offal 3. Weight of the carcass excluding head, feet, blood, and offal
Chicken	Weight of carcass excluding head, feet, offals, blood, and feathers

2.b. Conversion Rates

2.b.1. Carcass

From the results of SKI, the conversion rates of carcass for carabao at 53.9 percent, cattle at 56.6 percent, goat at 53.7 percent, and hog at 79.8 percent were higher compared with their respective current conversion rates. Gathered conversion rate for chicken at 76.1 percent was lower than the current parameter of 77.0 percent. In terms of number of responses, highest number of cases was captured for hog at 81 responses.

From the results of the experimental observation, higher carcass conversion rates were registered for carabao at 51.1 percent and hog at 72.0 percent, while lower parameters were recorded for cattle at 49.0 percent and chicken at 76.4 percent. No data was captured for goat. The highest number of observed cases was for chicken at 22 responses.

Table 3. Conversion Rates of Carcass by Animal Type based on the Results of Field Visit in Various Slaughterhouses and Poultry Dressing Plants

Animal Type	Current Parameter³	Survey of Key Informants⁴		Experimental Observation⁵	
		Conversion Rate (in percent)	Number of Responses	Conversion Rate (in percent)	Number of Responses
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Carabao	50.0	53.9	15	51.1	3
Cattle	50.0	56.6	35	49.0	3
Goat	44.0	53.7	12		
Hog	70.0	79.8	81	72.0	7
Chicken	77.0	76.1	46	76.4	22

2.b.2. Offal

From the results of SKI, conversion rates of offal for cattle at 15.6 percent and goat at 26.5 percent were higher than their respective current conversion rates. Meanwhile, conversion rate for carabao remained at 8.6 percent and hog was lower at 10.1 percent. Conversion rate of chicken offal was set at 10.3 percent.

From the results of experimental observation, higher conversion rates were generated from actual weighing of offal of carabao at 17.3 percent and cattle at 24.8 percent. For hog, lower parameter was generated at 6.7 percent. Chicken parameter for offal was set at 8.8 percent, and no data was captured for goat.

Of the two data collection approaches, higher number of responses were gathered from SKI, with hog recording the highest response among the animal at 73 responses.

Table 4. Conversion Rates of Offal by Animal Type based on the Results of Field Visit in Various Slaughterhouses and Poultry Dressing Plants

Animal Type	Current Parameter ³	Survey of Key Informants ⁴		Experimental Observation ⁵	
		Conversion Rate (in percent)	Number of Responses	Conversion Rate (in percent)	Number of Responses
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Carabao	8.6	8.6	12	17.3	3
Cattle	8.6	15.6	33	24.8	3
Goat	14.0	26.5	11		
Hog	14.0	10.1	73	6.7	7
Chicken		10.3	44	8.8	22

3. Focus Group Discussion

3.a. Definition

Taking off from the results of the deskwork research and field visits, definition of carcass by animal type were firm up during the FGD. Discussions during the small group and plenary presentation focused on the local slaughtering and eating practices in the country.

Definitions of carabao and chicken captured in field visits were validated during the FGD. For cattle, goat, and hog, definitions were firm up based on the various definitions captured in the field visits.

Table 5. Definition of Carcass based on the Results of Focus Group Discussion⁶

Animal Type	Definition of Carcass
Carabao	Weight of carcass after the removal of offal, head, feet, hide, blood, and tail
Cattle	Weight of carcass after the removal of offal, head, feet, hide, blood, and tail

⁶ Based on the results of Focus Group Discussion in September 2023

Table 5. Definition of Carcass based on the Results of Focus Group Discussion⁶

Animal Type	Definition of Carcass
Goat	Weight of carcass including skin but excluding head, feet, offal and blood
Hog	Weight of carcass including head and feet but excluding offals and blood
Chicken	Weight of carcass after the removal of head, feet, offal, blood, and feathers

3.b. Conversion Rates

From the results of FGD, the carcass conversion rates for carabao and cattle were retained at 50.0 percent. Lower parameter was suggested for chicken at 76.0 percent, while significant increases in the carcass conversion rates of goat and hog were recommended at 55.0 percent and 82.2 percent, respectively.

Results for offal showed higher conversion rates for carabao at 9.0 percent and cattle at 19.1 percent. Lower conversion rate was presented for hog at 10.0 percent, while chicken's parameter was set at 12.6 percent.

Participants during the FGD suggested that the results be further verified from the private sector and other concerned entities.

Table 6. Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal based on the Results of Focus Group Discussion

Animal Type	Conversion Rate (in percent)			
	Carcass		Offal	
	Current Parameter³	FGD⁶	Current Parameter³	FGD⁶
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Carabao	50.0	50.0	8.6	9.0
Cattle	50.0	50.0	8.6	19.1
Goat	44.0	55.0	14.0	11.0
Hog	70.0	82.2	14.0	10.0
Chicken	77.0	76.0		12.6

4. Consultation of DA with the Private Sector

4.a. Definition

From the results of the consultation of DA-OUSL with selected industry players, the proposed definitions during the FGD were affirmed to by the private sector.

4.b. Conversion Rates

Conversion rates based on the consultation of DA were higher for carabao at 55.0 percent, cattle at 55.0 percent, goat at 50.0 percent, and hog at 86.0 percent. On the other hand, chicken conversion rate was proposed to remain at 77.0 percent.

For the conversion rate of offal, only hog had a proposed conversion rate at 8.5 percent.

Table 7. Definitions and Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal based on the Results of the Consultation of DA with the Private Sector⁷

Animal Type	Definition	Conversion Rate (in percent)	
		Carcass	Offal
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Carabao	Weight of carcass excluding offal, head, feet, hide, blood, and tail	55.0	
Cattle	Weight of carcass excluding offal, head, feet, hide, blood, and tail	55.0	
Goat	Weight of carcass including skin but excluding head, feet, offal, and blood	50.0	
Hog	Weight of carcass including head and feet but excluding offal and blood	86.0	8.5
Chicken	Weight of carcass excluding head, feet, offal, blood, and feathers	77.0	

5. Consultative Meeting of TWG-LPS with the Private Sector

5.a. Definition

Based on the consultative meeting conducted by the TWG-LPS, the definition of carcass and offal for each animal type were firmed up. Definition of carcass suggested during the FGD and affirmed during the initial consultation of DA with the private sector were validated and confirmed. In addition, specific parts of animals considered as offal were determined.

Table 8. Definition of Carcass and Offal based on the Results of Consultative Meeting of TWG-LPS with the Private Sector⁸

Animal Type	Carcass	Offal
(1)	(2)	(3)
Carabao	Weight of carcass excluding offal, head, feet, hide, blood and tail	Includes diaphragm, kidney, heart, heart fat, intestine fat, kidney fats, large intestine, liver, lungs, abomasum, omasum, reticulum, pancreas, rumen, small intestine, spleen, tongue, genitals for male and genito-urinary organs for female. Also includes residual (head, tail, feet, hide).
Cattle	Weight of carcass excluding offal, head, feet, hide, blood, and tail	Includes diaphragm, kidney, heart, heart fat, intestine fat, kidney fats, large intestine, liver, lungs, omasum, pancreas, rumen, small intestine, spleen, tongue, genitals for male and genito-urinary organs for female. Also includes residual (head, tail, feet, hide).

⁷ DA Resolution on Carcass Weight and Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal of Livestock and Poultry Animals

⁸ Based on the results of consultative meeting with private sector on 11 December 2024

Table 8. Definition of Carcass and Offal based on the Results of Consultative Meeting of TWG-LPS with the Private Sector⁸

Animal Type	Carcass	Offal
(1)	(2)	(3)
Goat	Weight of carcass including skin but excluding head, feet, offal, and blood	Includes diaphragm, kidney, heart, heart fat, intestine fat, kidney fats, large intestine, liver, lungs, omasum, pancreas, rumen, small intestine, spleen, tongue, and reproductive organs. Also includes residual (head, and feet).
Hog	Weight of carcass including head and feet but excluding offals and blood	Includes white and red offals: A. White Offals (Mesenteric Fat, Small Intestines, Large Intestine, Stomach, Anus/Rectum/Urinary Bladder/Genitals) B. Red Offals (Heart, Lungs with Trachea, Liver, Kidneys, Spleen, Pancreas, Diaphragm)
Chicken	Weight of carcass excluding head, feet, offal, blood, and feathers	Includes heart, liver, kidney, intestine, gizzard, proventriculus, crop, and spleen

5.b. Conversion Rates

From the results of the consultative meeting, retention of carcass conversion rates of carabao and cattle was at 50.0 percent and chicken at 77.0 percent was suggested. Conversion rates of goat and hog were set at a higher level at 46.0 percent and 83.0 percent, respectively.

Higher offal conversion rates for carabao at 26.8 percent, cattle at 19.8 percent, and goat at 15.0 percent were suggested. Hog parameter for offal was lower at 10.5 percent, while conversion rate of chicken offal was set at 8.0 percent.

Table 9. Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal based on the Results of Consultative Meeting with the Private Sector

Animal Type	Conversion Rate (in percent)			
	Carcass		Offal	
	Current Parameter³	Consultative Meeting⁸	Current Parameter³	Consultative Meeting⁸
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Carabao	50.0	50.0	8.6	26.8
Cattle	50.0	50.0	8.6	19.8
Goat	44.0	46.0	14.0	15.0
Hog	70.0	83.0	14.0	10.5
Chicken	77.0	77.0		8.0

V. Conclusions

The definitions and conversion rates of carcass and offal varies by animal type. Given the updated definitions, the current conversion rates indicated in the 1992 Supply and Utilization Accounts (SUA) handbook were validated. Results show retention of carcass conversion rates for carabao and cattle at 50.0 percent and chicken at 77.0 percent, while conversion rates for goat and hog increased to 46.0 percent and 83.0 percent, respectively. Furthermore, all commodities had higher offal conversion rates except for hog, which declined to 10.5 percent. These conversion rates are used as input in the computation of SUA of livestock and poultry.

VI. Recommendations

After rigorous review and scrutiny, the TWG-LPS recommends the following definition and conversion rates of carcass and offal⁹ by animal type:

1. Carabao

- a. Carcass of carabao is defined as the weight of carcass excluding offal and blood. The conversion rate is retained at **50.0 percent** since most of the raisers are smallhold farms that do not have specialized feeding intervention yet.
- b. Offal of carabao is composed of diaphragm, kidney, heart, heart fat, intestine fat, kidney fats, large intestine, liver, lungs, abomasum, omasum, reticulum, pancreas, rumen, small intestine, spleen, tongue, genitals for male and genito-urinary organs for female. Also includes residual (head, tail, feet, hide). The proposed conversion rate of offal increased from 8.6 percent to **26.8 percent**.

2. Cattle

- a. Carcass of cattle is defined as the weight of carcass excluding offal and blood. The conversion rate is retained at **50.0 percent** since most of the raisers are smallhold farms that do not have specialized feeding intervention yet.
- b. Offal of cattle includes diaphragm, kidney, heart, heart fat, intestine fat, kidney fats, large intestine, liver, lungs, abomasum, omasum, reticulum, pancreas, rumen, small intestine, spleen, tongue, genitals for male and genito-urinary organs for female. Also includes residual (head, tail, feet, hide). The suggested conversion rate of offal increased from 8.6 percent to **19.8 percent**.

3. Goat

- a. Carcass of goat is defined as the weight of carcass including skin but excluding offal and blood. The increase in the conversion rate from 44.0 percent to **46.0 percent** is attributed to the accounting of skin in carcass based on local slaughtering and eating practice in the country.
- b. Offal of goat consists of diaphragm, kidney, heart, heart fat, intestine fat, kidney fats, large intestine, liver, lungs, abomasum, omasum, reticulum, pancreas, rumen, small intestine, spleen, tongue, and reproductive organs. Also includes residual (head, and feet). The conversion rate of offal increased from 14.0 percent to **15.0 percent**.

⁹ The conversion rates of offal by animal type were computed based on the itemized conversion rates of individual organ parts, in accordance with the proposed definition of offal.

4. Hog

- a. Carcass is defined as the weight of carcass including head and feet but excluding offals and blood. The conversion rate for hog increased from 70.0 percent to **83.0 percent** due to the genetic improvement in hogs which resulted in higher liveweight and correspondingly, in carcass conversion rate.
- b. Offal of hog includes mesenteric fat, small intestines, large intestine, stomach, anus/rectum/urinary bladder/genitals, heart, lungs with trachea, liver, kidneys, spleen, pancreas, and diaphragm. The conversion rate of offal declined from 14.0 percent to **10.5 percent**.

5. Chicken

- a. Carcass of chicken is defined as the weight of carcass excluding offal, blood, head, feet, and feathers. The current parameter for chicken is retained at **77.0 percent** since all activities conducted for this study generated the same recovery rate based on the actual mechanized dressing of chicken.
- b. Offal of chicken is composed of heart, liver, kidney, intestine, gizzard, proventriculus, crop, spleen, and trachea. The conversion rate of offal was estimated at **8.0 percent**.

The recommended definitions and conversion rates underwent a rigorous review process to ensure statistical soundness and policy relevance. The TWG-LPS approved to recommend the firmed up definitions and conversion rates to the Interagency Committee on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics (IACAFS). The IACAFS serves as a technical vetting and approving body that reviews and endorses statistical developments related to agriculture and fisheries. The final approval rests with the PSA Board, the highest policymaking body on statistical matters, which ensures that all official statistics adhere to the established quality standards and support national development goals.

The results of the study were presented to the PSA Board on 15 May 2025, where recommendations were approved for adoption through PSA Board Resolution No. 07, series of 2025 entitled “Approving and Adopting the Revised Definitions and Conversion Rates of Carcass and Offal of Livestock and Poultry Animals”.

VII. Ways Forward

The revised definitions and conversion rates will be implemented by the PSA in the computation of SUA. Other government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector may now use the revised definitions and conversion rates starting May 2025 for their own purposes.