Original Research

Estimation of Carrying Capacity of Livestock and Poultry Based on RS and GIS: a Case in Minhou County, Fuzhou City

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Abstract

To reduce the environment pollution risk from livestock and poultry breeding (LPB), it was necessary to control regional carrying capacity of livestock and poultry (CCLP).

Landsat 8 images in March and July, 2016 was used to extract cultivated land area in Minhou County by using remote sensing (RS) technology. On this basis, CCLP of Minhou County in village scale was estimated by livestock and poultry density, livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) load of farmland, and the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load. The results showed that the total cultivated land area in Minhou County was 27665.11 ha and had a relative error of 3.08 % comparing to actual cultivated land area in Minhou County of 26838.00 ha. The results also indicated that the CCLP of Minhou County calculated by 4 index was different. Among them, the livestock and poultry density was the most stringent index, followed by the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load, livestock manure nitrogen load of farmland and livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland. Moreover, the result demonstrated that the maximum and minimum CCLP of Minhou County calculated by 4 indexes was all in Xitou village and Houcun village in Baisha Town. The results could provide a scientific basis for spatial layout of livestock and poultry breeding (LPB) and prevention of environmental pollution might be caused by LPB.

Keywords: remote sensing, cultivation land, livestock and poultry, carrying capacity

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Introduction

With rapid development of China's economy, the LPB has also been developed quickly and presented the phenomenon that the scale of LPB was not limited as long as the capacity of farmers was enough in some region [1-2]. The policy document of "12th Five-Year Plan for Pollution Prevention and Control in LPB" required that the total amount of livestock and poultry should be determined reasonably according to the actual situation of land conditions and environmental carrying capacity [3]. The scientific judgment of regional CCLP was the premise to reduce environmental pollution risk from LPB.

At present, the CCLP had been highly concerned by many scholars. The CCLP was mainly calculated by livestock and poultry density in national scale [4-5], livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) load of farmland in national scale [6], county scale [7] and town scale [8-9], the equivalent load of pig manure [10], alarm value of pig manure equivalent load [11], available forage for livestock [12-13]. In addition, Thapa [14] analyzed the carrying capacity of land resources based on total digestive nutrient demand and supply situation in Shyangja district and gained the amount of total digestive nutrient to 147,735 livestock standard units . According to the theory of nutrient balance in cultivation land, Wu et al. [15] determined the CCLP in Yucheng, Shandong Province and Peng and Bai [16] calculated the CCLP in Putian City, Fujian Province. Based on the theory of agricultural circular economy, Hao et al. [17] allocated quantity of livestock and poultry according to regional planting allocation and carried out the optimization of spatial allocation of LPB by using GIS technology.

In summary, different index was used to calculate CCLP in above studies. However, these studies mainly focused on calculating CCLP in different administrative scale such as national scale, province scale, city scale and county scale, while studies on town scale was weak, and studies on village scale was few. In addition, CCLP could not be calculated quickly by index such as livestock and poultry density, livestock manure nitrogen load of farmland, and alarm value of pig manure equivalent load at present due to cultivation land could not be obtained quickly. Many researchers had indicated that the RS technology could quickly extract cultivation land scientifically [18-20]. For example, Xu et al. [18] conducted cultivated land mapping along the Nile in Egypt from 1984 to 2015 and showed that the average overall classification accuracy of cultivated land was more than 90%.

This paper extracted cultivated land of Minhou County by using RS technology based on Landsat 8 images in March and July, 2016. Then, the CCLP of Minhou County in village scale was estimated by index including livestock and poultry density, livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) load of farmland, and the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load respectively. Finally, CCLP estimated by different index was compare.

Material and Methods

Study Area

Minhou County (25°47' to 26°37' N, 118°51' to 119°25'E) with a total area of 2136 km² and a population of 648,000 located in the southwest of Fuzhou City. The territory of Minhou County belonged to the central subtropical monsoon climate zone, with an average annual temperature of 14.8-19.5°C and annual precipitation of 1200-2100 mm. The statistic of livestock and poultry and planting area of main crops were gained from Yearbook of Minhou in 2017. In 2016, the planting area of main crops in Minhou County mainly included 6,640.53 ha rice, 486.8 ha maize,1,393.2 ha sweet potato, 1,152.8 ha soybean, 684.67 ha peanut, 15 ha rapeseed, 146.46 ha sugarcane, 29,098.6 ha vegetable, 920.1 ha melons and fruits. The basic situation of livestock and poultry breeding in Minhou County mainly included 356610 pigs, 5758 beef cattle, 1689 cows, 1653 draft cattle, 37914 goats, 132369 rabbits, 324677 layers, 968278 broilers and 1485308 ducks. Among them, the number of cow, beef cattle, draft cattle, goat and layer was counted in stock, while pig and rabbits, broilers and ducks was counted in slaughter.

Data Collecting and Processing

The digital administrative map of Minhou County in village scale was vectored based on the administrative map of Minhou County by using ArcGIS 10.2 software. The Landsat8 images of Minhou County in March and July, 2016 were gained from the geospatial data cloud website(http://www.gscloud.cn/). At first the Landsat8 images of Minhou County in March and July, 2016 were processed by radiation calibration, atmospheric correction and fusion in ENVI5.1 software. Then, the fused images were mosaicked and cut by using digital administrative map of Minhou County. Afterwards, the combination of 6, 5, 2 bands was adopted because the combination of 6, 5, 2 bands could better reflect the information of cultivated land. Finally, the combination results were processed by Photographic Stretch to prepare for establishing visual interpretation signs.

Extraction of Cultivated Land in Minhou County Based on Landsat8 Images

The Supervised Classification Method

Supervised classification method was used to extract cultivated land in Minhou County based on Landsat8 images in this paper. Firstly, the region of interest (ROI) was selected manually. Secondly, the discriminant function was established by the computer according to the selected ROI [21]. Thirdly, the discriminant function was used to classify other non-classified pixels, which was also called training site method [22-23]. Finally, the separability test of ROI should be made. If the ROI was not qualified, the ROI should be checked one by one or re-established. Supervised classification method included maximum likelihood, minimum distance method, mahalanobis distance, etc. [24-25]. The maximum likelihood was adopted in this paper.

Classification Precision Evaluation Method

Kappa coefficient, artificial interpretation and area relative error were used to evaluate the classification precision of cultivated land extraction in this paper.

Kappa coefficient

Kappa coefficient is often used to evaluate the classification precision of remote sensing images. The Kappa coefficient can be calculated as follows [26-27]:

$$K = \frac{P_A - P_B}{1 - P_B} \tag{1}$$

...where P_A is the sum of diagonal grids in a matrix, P_B is the sum of products for the sum of each row and the sum of corresponding columns.

Manual interpretation

The sample points of cultivated land with uniform distribution were randomly selected by manual interpretation based on Google image. Then the accuracy of the extracted cultivated land was tested by the proportion of the sample points to the extracted cultivated land.

Area relative error

Firstly, the grid data of cultivated land were gained by ENVI5.1 software and ArcGIS 10.2 software. Secondly, the total number of grid data of cultivated land in Minhou County was calculated by using statistical tools. Finally, the cultivated land area in Minhou County could be obtained by multiplying the grid data of all cultivated land by the actual size expressed by each grid. The size of each grid was 15 m \times 15 m.

Calculation of CCLP

The index including livestock and poultry density, livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) load of farmland, and the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load were selected to calculate CCLP in this paper.

 The CCLP estimated by livestock and poultry density can be calculated as follows [8-9]:

$$C_{density} = A_{pig} \times \sum_{i=0}^{n} \left(F_{density} \times S_i \right)$$
(2)

...where $C_{density}$ is CCLP estimated by livestock and poultry density; $F_{density}$ is limited value of livestock and poultry and determined as 2 AU/ha stipulated by EU, AU/ha [28]; S_i is cultivated land area, ha; A_{pig} is conversion coefficient of livestock and poultry and determined as 9.09 from previous studies [28-29], ha; *n* is number of cultivated land.

 The CCLP estimated by livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) load of farmland can be calculated as follows: [8, 9]

$$C_{load} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n} (F_{load} \times S_i)}{d \times f}$$
(3)

...where C_{load} is CCLP estimated by livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) load of farmland; F_{load} is limited value of applying livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) to farmland and determined as 170 kg/ha, 35 kg/ha stipulated by EU [28, 30-31], kg/ha; S_i is cultivated land area, ha; *d* is feeding period of pig; *f* is excretion of nitrogen (phosphorus), g/d; *n* is number of cultivated land.

 The CCLP estimated by the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load can be calculated as follows: [8, 9]

$$C_{alarm} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n} (F_{suitable} \times F_{alarm} \times S_i)}{d \times k}$$
(4)

...where C_{alarm} is CCLP estimated by the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load; F_{alarm} is the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load and determined as 0.4 from previous studies [29]; $F_{suitable}$ is maximum suitable application amount of organic fertilizer as pig manure equivalent and determined as 30t/ha from previous studies [2]; S_i is cultivated land area, ha; d is feeding period of pig; k is daily excretion of pig, g/d; n is number of cultivated land.

Results

Spatial Distribution Result of Cultivated Land in Minhou County

The cultivated land of Minhou County in March and July, 2016 was obtained based on Landsat 8 images by using supervised classification method respectively (Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b). Then, total cultivated land area of 27665.11 ha was obtained by combining the cultivated land of Minhou County in March and July, 2016 (Fig. 1c).

On this basis, the Compute ROI Separability in ENVI5.1 software was used to calculate the degree of sample separability to judge whether the sample was



Fig. 1. Spatial distribution results of cultivated land in Minhou County in 2016.

available or not. The test result of sample separability showed that the selected samples of the regions of interest (ROI) were available (Table 1). The results also showed that the kappa coefficient and the accuracy of sample points was more than 85%, which meet the accuracy requirements of the objects extraction (Table 2). According to the Yearbook of Minhou in 2017, the cultivated land area of the whole county in 2016 was 26838.00 ha. On this basis, the relative error of cultivated land area was gained as 3.08%.

Results of CCLP of Minhou County in Village Scale

Based on the cultivated land area gained by 2.1, the CCLP of Minhou County in village scale in 2016 was estimated by formula (2)-(4) and GIS spatial analysis method. The results of CCLP was graded taking equivalent pig as standardized unit according to the grading standards of I and II intensive livestock and poultry farms in GB18596-2001 [32]. The different livestock and poultry types could be converted to

	Residential area	Woodland	Hillshade	Cultivated land	Water body	Fallow land	Other (roads, beaches)
Residential area	/	1.99997984	1.99986801	1.99916641	1.99988646	1.99953139	1.85940551
Woodland	1.99997984	/	1.95645308	1.88285391	2.00000000	1.99999788	1.99999917
Hillshade	1.99986801	1.95645308	/	1.99972194	1.99996998	1.99999940	1.99999943
Cultivated land	1.99916641	1.88285391	1.99972194	/	1.99999163	1.999999997	1.99829511
Water body	1.99988646	2.00000000	1.99996998	1.99999163	/	2.00000000	1.99991536
Fallow land	1.99953139	1.99999788	1.999999940	1.999999997	2.00000000	/	1.99999549
Other (roads, beaches)	1.85940551	1.99999917	1.99999943	1.99829511	1.99991536	1.99999549	/

Table 1. Sample separability test results.

Table 2. Accuracy of cultivated land extraction in Minhou County.

Inspection method	Kappa coefficient	Sample points test	Relative error of area
Accuracy	92% (March), 95% (July)	88.66%	3.08%



c)Livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland d)Alarm value of pig manure equivalent load



Fig. 2. Spatial distribution results of CCLP of Minhou county in village scale by 4 index.

equivalent pig according to GB18596-2001 [32]. The result was showed in Fig. 2 and Table 2.

On the whole, the spatial distribution results of CCLP of Minhou County in village scale by 4 index was uneven. The maximum CCLP was calculated by livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland, followed by livestock manure nitrogen load of farmland, alarm value of pig manure equivalent load and livestock and poultry density. Table 3 indicated that the CCLP calculated by livestock and poultry density

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Index	Total number	Maximum number	Minimum number	Average number
Livestock and poultry density (AU/ha)	618415.862	6775.779	9.237	1569.583
Livestock manure nitrogen load of farmland(kg/ha)	1399765.346	15336.767	20.909	3552.704
Livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland(kg/ha)	2274814.360	24924.391	33.980	5773.641
Alarm value of pig manure equivalent load	690650.709	7567.232	10.317	1752.921

was close to the CCLP calculated by the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load. However, the CCLP calculated by livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland was about 3.678 times of the CCLP calculated by the livestock and poultry density. In addition, the largest number of villages with CCLP more than 3000 pigs was 211 by livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland, followed by 147 by livestock manure nitrogen load of farmland, and the smallest number of villages with CCLP more than 3000 pigs was 45 by livestock

and poultry density. The largest number of villages with CCLP between 500 and 3000 pigs was 213 by livestock and poultry density, followed was 210 by the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load, and the smallest number of villages with CCLP between 500 and 3000 pigs was 92 by livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland. Moreover, the largest number of villages with CCLP less than 500 pigs was 71 by livestock and poultry density, followed by 65 by the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load, and the smallest number of villages with CCLP less than 500 pigs was 26 by livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland. In summary, the CCLP calculated by 4 index was very different. However, the maximum and minimum value of CCLP calculated by 4 index was all in Xitou village and Houcun village in Baisha Town respectively.

In view of environmental pollution safety of LPB, the CCLP calculated by livestock and poultry density was the most stringent, followed by the CCLP calculated by alarm value of pig manure equivalent load. The CCLP calculated by livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland was least stringent. Therefore, to reduce environmental pollution risk from LPB and keep sustainable development of LPB, the livestock and poultry density should be selected to calculate CCLP. However, livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland might be selected to calculate livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland in view of developing local economy and increasing the income of farmers.

Discussion and Conclusions

The cultivated land of Minhou County was obtained by RS technology based on Landsat 8 images. On this basis, the CCLP in Minhou County in village scale was calculated by indexes including livestock and poultry density, livestock manure nitrogen (phosphorus) load of farmland, and the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load. At present, the cultivated land extracted based on Landsat TM data by using RS technology has been adopted by many researchers [19-21]. In addition, the status of cultivated land might change in different seasons leading to the differences in remote sensing images of the reflectivity of cultivated land. Therefore, the cultivated land was obtained based on multitemporal remote sensing image would be more accurate than the cultivated land obtained based on singletemporal remote sensing image [33-34]. According to main crops and its planting area in Minhou County, the time for planting crops was generally in March or April [35], and the peak period for growing crops was generally in July [36]. Therefore, the result of cultivated land of Minhou County was gained by merging cultivated land of Minhou County in March and July, 2016.

Comparing with previous studies estimating administrative scale such as national scale, province scale, city scale, county scale and town scale [4-9,12-14], this paper calculated CCLP in village scale and compared the CCLP calculated by 4 index. The results indicated that the most stringent index was livestock and poultry density, followed by the alarm value of pig manure equivalent load and least stringent index was livestock manure phosphorus load of farmland. In view of regional environmental pollution safety of LPB, this result was basically consistent with the results from Yan et al. [37]. The results in this paper was significant to control regional CCLP and arrange reasonable LPB in village scale. Thus, the environmental pollution risk from LPB might be reduced and LPB could kept sustainable development. Moreover, the result could provide scientific reference for determining forbidden region, restricted region and suitable region for LPB.

In addition, there were still some problems to be improved in the future. Firstly, the actual number of livestock and poultry in villages in Minhou County was not be analyzed due to the lack of statistical data of livestock and poultry in villages. Secondly, there inevitable errors in estimating cultivated land area because the maximum resolution of Landsat8 image was only 15m. In the future, higher resolution images and better classification methods should be used to estimate cultivated land area.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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