

The Study of Camel Herd Composition and Milk Yield in Central Libya

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ABSTRACT

The survey was conducted through a questionnaire and guided interviews with camel owners in selected regions around the four main towns of the Elgufra (Waddan, Hun, Soukana, Zalla and Fougaha) in central Libya. In this study, a questionnaire was designed to investigate camel herd composition and estimation of milk yield of she-camels in different age groups and in different seasons under traditional production system. The collected data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics for simple percentages and means. The result of the study showed that, the percentages of the herd structure decreased as the camels age group increased, they were 13.1%, 13.4%, 11.6%, 10.2%, 9.6%, 8.5%, 7.2%, 7.2%, 6.3%, 6.3% and 6.7 % for age groups less than year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, 6 years, 7 years, 8 years, 9 years, 10 years and more than 11 years respectively. The study showed that Waddan area was recorded higher percentages than the other areas in herd structure for first age and second group. In the third group (3 years) there were variation in the herd structures, Soukana has the least percentage in herd structure and Hun has the highest percentage. In the age groups between 7 to 11 years, there were variations in the structure in Algufra. Also the study showed that, the male camel was very important to the quantity of milk yield of the she-camel. She-camel not produce milk in the third year and it called Huga, the milk yield increased after the third year till it reached the peak in 18 years in other words she-camel began to produce more milk after the fifth parity. The type of she-camel also affect to the quantity and quality of milk yield, Khoura type in Algufra produce more milk yield than Harsh, also the type of the feed play important role in milk yield of she-camel.

Keywords: *camel, herd structure, milk yield, Libya.*