

Equine and Camel Production (LM – 404) – PART I [EVENING]

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Introduction to Camel

- Camels also called pseudo-ruminants.
- Genus is CAMELUS (old world camels).
- Found in the desert having big body size or may have one or two humps.
- Camels with two humps are found in cold mountainous areas of China and Mangolia.
- One humped called DROMADARY
- Two humped called BACTRIAN
- One humped camels are common in our region.

NEW WORLD CAMELS are found in genus LAMA. These are much smaller in size and body weight, found in areas located at high altitudes. These are humpless. Habitat is by and large restricted to South America so called South American camels.

Role of Camel in Economy

Camels play a big role in the economy of Pakistan by milk and meat production. But precise data is not available or is not properly assessed. People in the remote areas use the milk fresh or make the yogurt from it.

Importance of Camel Milk

- Nutritional value of the camel milk is same or better than cow milk.
- Vitamin C contents of the camel milk are three times more than that of cow milk (29-36 mg/L).
- Camel milk has about half times more vitamin C than human milk.
- Mobile camel diaries are there near bid cities that keep on moving their camels.
- Lactation period of Camel varies from 250-500 days.
- Milk yield is about 900-4000 liters in a lactation of 250 days.
- Per day yield is about 3-8 liters.
- Milking in camel is about 2-4 times in a day.
- Annual milk production is .24 MT (million tons).
- Price of this annual milk is 2.4 billion rupees.

Camel Meat

Camel meat is consumed in desert area and also in big cities like Karachi.

About 10 camels are slaughtered every day in Karachi.

Carcass weight is about 180-300 Kg.

Carcass means edible portion of animal without skin, hoofs, and visceral organs.

Dressing %age is about 46-50 %.

Dressing percentage = $\frac{\text{carcass weight}}{\text{live wt.}} \times 100$

Camels slaughtered at the age of 3-4 year have taste like beef.

People mix the camel meat with the beef and sell as minced meat.

Number of camels slaughtered at EID-UL-AZHA is increasing every year.

Uses of Camel

- Used for draught purposes
- Used for crushing of sugarcane
- Used for grinding of wheat
- Used for ploughing the land
- Cheaper source of power for most of the agricultural operations.
- Baggage camel can carry a load upto 300 kg and can walk 30 km.

Uses of Camel as recreation animal

- Used for racing
- Used for riding
- Used for dancing
- Used for racing

Camel Population

Camel population in the world is about 18.58 million.

Out of this 13.62 million are in Africa (highest) and 4.76 million in Asia and .2 million in Australia.

Camel population in Pakistan is about 1.2 million.

Out of this;

36.43% are in Balochistan (highest)

33.51% are in Punjab

22.76 %are in Sindh

7.3% are in NWFP

Camel as Draught Animal

Draught Ability of Camel

- It means working ability.
- Camel is very versatile animal so called all purpose animal.
- Good for milk, meat and draught.
- Wonderful in adaptation (camel can survive or perform best in an environment in which the other animals can not even survive.
- Various functions are performed by camel in rural or in urban areas irrespective of topography of the area.
- Structure of the camel is very unique and it plays a role in the adaptation of this animal.

Major activities performed by Camel

- ❖ Used for ploughing
- ❖ Used to run the Persian wheel
- ❖ Used for crushing the sugarcane
- ❖ Used for chaff cutter
- ❖ Used for haulage of agricultural commodities from production to marketing.
- ❖ Used as sports animal
- ❖ In rural areas male or female both used but in urban area mostly the male camels are used may be for transporting the goods and for riding purposes.
- ❖ May be used single or may be used with another camel.

Draught power depends upon the

- Age of camel
- Topography of area
- Condition of harness (bruises can result due to bad harness)
- Fitness of harness
- Effect of season
- Health of animal
- Size of animal

Camel may be used as packing or pulling animal.

1:3 is the ratio between packing and pulling means camel can carry 3 times more load in pulling.

Camel as Dairy Animal

Camel is the animal that can produce maximum milk for maximum time.

Quantity of milk production is effected by

Genetics of camel

Season

(This animal is mostly have to face different weather because it found in the desert and desert has hostile environment means unpredictable environment less water and feed is there and these things effect the performance of this animal but camel has certain adoptive mechanisms for such type of environment).

Nutrition

Management

Lactation

Camel can produce 40-50 kg milk in a day.

Lactation period is 12 month to 18 month.

Milking frequency ranges frequency ranges from 2-6 times in a day means if the camel is low producer then milk 2 times or if high producer the 6 times.

Desert people use camel milk as staple food because they have no excess to fruits so from camel milk they have a complete diet because it has 3 times more vit. C than cattle milk.

Milk composition

Camel milk has low fat than the buffalo milk but parallel to cow milk.

Medicinal value of Milk

Liver disorders, T.B, Asthma, Arthritis are some of diseases in which camel milk can be used and camel milk also act as nerve tonic.

Products from Camel milk

Used in cosmetic industry and make the skin soft.