

Milk production and fertility of camels in Saudi Arabia

Sooud A.E.O., Al Motairy S.E., Hashimi A.

in

Tisserand J.-L. (ed.).
Séminaire sur la digestion, la nutrition et l'alimentation du dromadaire

Zaragoza : CIHEAM
Options Méditerranéennes : Série A. Séminaires Méditerranéens; n. 2

1989
pages 167

Article available on line / Article disponible en ligne à l'adresse :

<http://om.ciheam.org/article.php?IDPDF=CI000443>

To cite this article / Pour citer cet article

Sooud A.E.O., Al Motairy S.E., Hashimi A. **Milk production and fertility of camels in Saudi Arabia.**
In : Tisserand J.-L. (ed.). *Séminaire sur la digestion, la nutrition et l'alimentation du dromadaire.* Zaragoza :
CIHEAM, 1989. p. 167 (Options Méditerranéennes : Série A. Séminaires Méditerranéens; n. 2)



<http://www.ciheam.org/>
<http://om.ciheam.org/>

Milk production and fertility of camels in Saudi Arabia

SOOUD, A. O.
DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE
CAIRO

AL-MOTAIRY, S.E.
HASHIMI, A.
RANGE AND ANIMAL DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH CENTER
SAUDI ARABIA

SUMMARY - In Saudi Arabia, particularly in the project area (UFTN/SAU/008), there are three major breeds of camels and other ecotypes that were under investigation. El-Magaheim breed has two ecotypes which are high in milk production and black in colour. It originated in Najd and the south-eastern areas. Camels under investigation, located at Kuneitra Camel Research Station, were fed on concentrate pellets and roughages available from Kuneitra farm. Highest recorded individual data on milk production was 466 kg. per month was for Malhah «pure Magaheim breed». Maximum milk yields were 4502, 4015, 2469, 2507, 2387 and 2367 kg. per lactation for Malhah, Safrah, Wadhah, Shaalah, Hamrah and Shakhah, respectively. Average milk yield of the camel herd was 2,211.7 kg. per lactation. Malhah, Safrah and Wadhah breeds were superior to the herd average milk production throughout the lactation period. On the other hand, Hamrah, Shakhah and Shaalah were below the herd average. The Malhah breed represented 176.16% of herd production whereas Shaalah camels represented only 76.6% of the average. Length of the lactation period ranged from 7 to 18 months according to camel breed or ecotype.

Data on camel fertility in Kuneitra farm were collected from 93 cases over four successive mating seasons. Conception rate was high (86%). About 50% of conceptions required one service, 30% required two services and the remaining 20% required three or more services. Cases of abortion and still-births were very rare under the adopted systems of husbandry, management and nutrition.
