

SHEKHAWATI-A HORNLESS DAIRY BDREED OF GOAT FROM INDIAN DESERT

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SUMMARY

Recently identified, Sekhawati breed of goat, is localized in a specified pocket of the Shekhawati region of north west India. It is called as Modi -Bakkri, which means goat without horns, in area of its inhabitation. This breed is solid coloured with predominant black colour. The body is covered with small hair of fine texture. Both male and females are polled. Female goats have typical wedge shape of a dairy animal alongwith long neck. The average values for body weight, height at withers pin-shoulder length and heart girth, of adult males were 35.78+1.04 kg, 73.05+2.32, 76.82+1.92 and 74.37+2.03 cm and adult females were 23.78 + 1.24 kg, 68.92 + 2.24, 70.78+1.98 and 71.16+2.15 cm respectively. The milk yield was 138.15+8.25 in lactation period of 150.00+3.12 days. This goat may hopefully prove to be a good dairy breed if developed on scientific lines, through improved management, nutritrional betterment and selective breeding.

INTRODUCTION

Under prevailing circumstances of Indian desert the goat is most economical animal among all species of livestock. Dual type Marwari was the only recognised breed of goat in this region so far. Scientists of this Institute have discovered and identified a new dairy breed of goat from this region during last 5 years (Mittal 1986, and 1987 a). It has been named as Shekhawati after its area of inhabitation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Detailed surveys of Shekhawati region which includes Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu districts of Rajasthan, were conducted for pinpointing the diistribution of this breed of goat. After completion of these surveys a flock of this breed was purchased from its native tract and was kept and bred under traditional type of management, since last 6 years, at Central Research Farm of this Institute at Jodhpur.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Habitat: As its name indicates, the natural habitat of this breed is the Shekhawati region of western Rajasthan in north west India. In its purest form this goat is found in a tract covering Lachmangarh town of Sikar district and Navalgarh and Udaipurwati towns of Jhunjhunu cities and Fatepur town of Sikar district. A relatively concentrated pocket of this goat lies between Navalgarh and Udaipurwati towns. Since this goat is located in a comparatively smaller area, the total population will not be more than two hundred thousands at present.

Conformation: The Shekhawati goat is solid coloured having predominantly black colour. In some animals a white band is seen on the body. The goat is good looking, medium sized having well built body. This is an active and agile animal having round barrel and clean cut legs. Forehead is well built with prominent muzzle. No indication of roman nose in either of the sex. The eyes are bright and dark brown in colour. The body coat is smooth, shiny with smaller hair of fine texture. Both males and females are polled. The ears are medium sized hanging little apart from its head. This goat has a typical wedge shape of a dairy animal with long beautiful neck. The tail is small in size, with slight curvature upwards. The udder is symmetrical, capacious and pendulous with medium size teats placed distinctly.

Adaptation: This goat is well adapted to the environmental harshness of Indian arid zone. Natural hazards like highly variable ambient temperatures (1C to 48C), scarcity of feed and fodder, scarcity of water, brackish nature of water did not have any adverse effect on its production performance (Mittal, 1987b).

Production: Data on various production parameters of Shekhawati breed of goat have been provided in Table 1. For purpose of comparison production traits of Marwari breed have also been presented in same Table. It is clear from this table that Shekhawati goat is an early maturing, fast multiplying and more productive than Marwari.

This breed of goat has not received proper attention of animal production specialists, presumably, due to the remoteness of its native tract. Since it is capable of withstanding all the natural hazards of desert living, its production potential can be increased by selective breeding and nutritional betterment in this region.

REFERENCES

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Table 1: Production characteristics of Shekhawati and Marwari does.

Traits	Shekhawati	Marwari
Birth weight(kg)	2.15+0.12	2.02+0.21
Weight at weaning(kg)	9.41+0.74	10.20+0.18
Weight at maturity(kg)	13.62+0.85	15.65+1.32
Age at maturity(months)	9.23+0.62	12.08+0.95
Body weight of adult(kg)	23.78+1.24	28.74+2.02
Height at withers (cm)	68.92+2.24	73.60+1.79
Pin-shoulder length(cm)	70.78+1.98	62.60+1.54
Heart girth(cm)	71.16+2.15	73.10+2.12
Kidding (%)	85	87.5
Twinning(%)	12.54	6.98
Length of gestation(days)	148.25+2.01	147.92+1.81
Length of lactation(days)	150.00+3.12	180.00+4.52
Lactational yield(kg)	138.80+8.25	81.27+1.23
Post-partum oestrus interval(days)	121.56+4.12	168.71+5.34
Inter-kidding period(months)	9.10+0.65	10.38+0.37