Reproduction in camels

A review



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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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FOREWORD

The camel species have long been neglected by science. Consequently, people whose lives are bound up with the camels, although having a thorough traditional knowledge of their animals, have often lacked the more precise information which can be offered by scientific study. The combination of new scientific insights and traditional knowledge and experience has been the foundation of much animal improvement in other species. The neglect of camels is perhaps due to their more limited distribution and less accessible locations.

The camel is a most valuable animal which contributes effectively to the welfare of people in harsh and difficult environments. It is frugal in habits but nevertheless highly productive of milk, meat, wool and work. Without doubt, the camel could contribute more widely and with improved management could improve the lot of those already keeping them.

Reproduction is often the key to improved livestock performance. Reproduction in the camel is not as well understood as in more common species of domestic animals. This publication is, therefore, likely to be of considerable interest and value to scientists, to camel owners and those who seek to support them through extension and other services.

The authors write with authority and bring to the subject the benefits of their own research and a thorough knowledge of the studies of others, as shown by the excellent bibliography. As a team they also demonstrate the benefits of cooperation between scientists from developing and developed countries. They have given us a concise, up-to date and comprehensive publication for which many will be grateful.

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