

## **SPECIFICATION OF TURKISH HAIR GOAT BREEDERS**

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Hair goat is the main breed in the goat population of Turkey. It can be seen every part of the Anatolian peninsula. According to geographic places, some varieties of Hair goat may found especially in harsh environment. All the Hair goat populations are reared extensively. People who keep Hair goat form their life according to breeding system of this goat. Most of these people sustain their job with the contribution of whole family. This breeding system penetrates many parts of the rural life and whole life of the breeder's family. This situation can be detected, especially in the life of nomadic Hair goat breeders. Not all the Hair goat breeders are nomads but many presentations related to extensive goat breeding originated from the nomad culture. This explained livestock practice is still active with almost all structures in the surveyed area. This study intended to define some specifications of the life style of those people.

A small survey, searching the specifications of the extensive Hair goat keepers has been applied in 2016. West Mediterranean region was chosen for the survey area. This area has the capacity to show all the characteristics of extensive Hair goat breeding and the breeders. The tradition and the customs related with this rearing system are still active. The questionnaire, established according to prior information of those people and consisted of personal construction of the breeder, locality, and information related the family of breeder, pleasure of breeder and social activities. All collected data were numerically coded and categorised according to parts of survey with percentages.

According to given answers in the survey, specification of those breeders were characterised as follows; 93.48% of them were male, the majority of these people (84.78%) had primary level of education and 93.48% were married. Nomadic life is a reality for them (58.7%), they change their places according to their animals requirements. Goats were milked (66.30%) to produce cheese. Women (96.47%) and children (68.23%) contributions to this business were essential. While grazing and clipping activities were men's job, hand milking (100%) and cheese producing held totally by women. Grandfather (92.31%) and father (96.74%) of breeders used to do same job, therefore they consider

their job as a family tradition. 86.96% were satisfied with their business but only 22.22% of them wanted their children to last this job.

Hair goat breeding is not only an animal husbandry system running together with family members in the harsh conditions but also it is a rural lifestyle formed its own culture. A piece of culture can easily be found in every application of this system. Even milk and meat from this sector are priceless because of their natural structures. In order to keep alive this sector, claims of breeders have to be considered and more facilities can be included to their life.

The toughness of this sector might be detected in the social life of breeders. Living under a tent with family away from the house and bringing up the children in these conditions is not an easy life. Although they are living under these conditions, most of them are happy with their job. But the danger is only less than quarter of them recommend this job to their children. They want state to allow them for in-forest grazing, rising the subsidy and enlarge the pasture area.

Furthermore, the reflections of the information gathered from the survey might be used for the problems and plans of extensive goat breeding sector.