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The Impact of Breed Types on the Productivity of Sur Karakul Sheep

O'. X. Aripov
Head of the "Genetics and Gene Pool" Department, Doctor of Agricultural Sciences, Professor

O. Ergashev
Doctoral Candidate Karakul Sheep Breeding and Desert Ecology Research Institute

A B S T R A C T
This thesis presents the results of research conducted by scholars on the impact of breed types and environmental factors on the productivity of Sur Karakul sheep.

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The resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the development of Karakul sheep breeding, namely PQ-2841 dated March 16, 2017, "Additional Measures for Deepening Economic Reforms in Livestock Breeding" and PQ-3603 dated March 14, 2018, "Measures for the Accelerated Development of the Karakul Sheep Breeding Sector," emphasize the rapid development of this important industry, enhancing its export potential, increasing the efficiency of selection and breeding work, modernizing product processing methods, and addressing other crucial issues.

Karakul sheep breeding is an integral part of livestock farming. Karakul pelts, the primary product, are renowned not only for their external beauty but also for their purity and long-lasting quality. Particularly, there is a high demand for Sur-colored pelts. There are three breed types of Sur-colored Karakul sheep:

Bukhara Sur:

- **Silver Sur**: The undercoat is dark, with the outer part being smoky or silver in color.
- **Golden Sur**: The undercoat is brown (coffee-colored), dark brown, with golden tips.
- **Diamond Sur**: The undercoat is dark, and the tips are diamond-colored.
- **Lilac Sur**: The undercoat is light brown, and the tips are light purple.

Surkhandarya Sur is characterized as follows:

- **Platinum**: Its bright and attractive color makes it highly valuable from both aesthetic and commercial perspectives. It is distinguished by a light cream or white surface over a brown or coffee-colored underlayer.
- **Amber**: Slightly lighter than platinum, with a darker outer surface. Its tone transitions more gradually from the base to the tip of the wool fiber.
- **Bronze**: Darker than platinum and amber, with a deep tone that contrasts less, featuring a bronze-colored outer surface and dark brown base.

- **Karakalpak Sur** has three main color variations:
- **Lantern Flower**: The undercoat is intensely black (75-80%) with a sharp transition to white (20-25%).
- **Apricot Flower**: The pelts are distinguished by a perfect structure, with the wool fibers divided into three zones by pigment distribution. The undercoat (60-65%) transitions from black or dark to light brown (10-15%), with the outer tips turning to milky white (20-30%).
- **Steel**: The undercoat is black (65-70%) with a gradual transition to a steel or whitish color.
- **Qamar**: This color variation is subdivided into three categories: red Qamar, light Qamar, and black Qamar.

Additionally, the rarer colors of "chaqir" and "shabdor" can also be found, but they are much less common.

Karakul sheep are bred in various desert landscapes, including southern sandy deserts, foothill semi-deserts, and gypsum deserts. The natural climate conditions of these regions, where Karakul sheep are bred, also directly influence their productivity, along with their breed type.

Different desert and semi-desert environments cause the sheep's genotype to undergo certain phenotypic and genetic changes. These variations allow researchers to identify the genetic stability of traits in sheep from each ecological region, which is crucial for Karakul breeding.

Research has been conducted on the importance of individual traits, such as wool length and the factors affecting flower length. In desert and semi-desert regions, environmental factors cause the genotype of Karakul sheep to change within certain limits, allowing the genetic stability of their traits to be determined for each specific ecological zone.

In conclusion, the Bukhara, Surkhandarya, and Karakalpak Sur Karakul sheep possess distinct characteristics unique to their breed type. These differences are also influenced by the conditions in which they are raised. Identifying the factors affecting their productivity and hereditary traits in various desert environments will help improve the efficiency of their utilization.

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