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### The History of the Development of Cattle Breeding among the Karakalpaks

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#### **Abstract:**

The study is dedicated to the characteristic of development of traditional Karakalpak cattle breeding from the end of the XIX century up to present days. The influence of natural climatic conditions on the formation of the herd structure is noted. With regards to significancy, the first place was occupied by cattle, which, in addition to ensuring food security, was used in the economy as a draft force. The second place in importance in the Karakalpak economy belonged to sheep. The Karakalpaks bred camels and horses in small numbers. In the first third of the XX century, significant transformations took place in the traditional way of life of the people as a result of political and socio-economic reasons, which affected the cattle breeding of the Karakalpaks. During the XX century, the priorities in the composition of the herd did not change. In modern Karakalpakstan, the experience of traditional cattle breeding remains in demand.

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The peculiarities of the nature and climate of the Southern Aral Sea region have left their mark on the economy of the population. During the historical development of the people, certain economic traditions were formed, combining agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing. The predominance of one or another type of economic activity directly depended on landscape conditions.

By the end of the XIX century, cattle breeding was concentrated in semi-settled farms, where, in addition to keeping livestock, agriculture played a significant role, as well as in cattle farms, where it was the main occupation. As one of the most important aspects of the Karakalpak life support system, cattle breeding has had a significant impact on the formation of culture. The orientalist researcher P.P. Ivanov, describing the Karakalpak economy in the XVIII-XIX centuries, wrote that "the specific natural features of the delta region did not allow the Karakalpaks to concentrate entirely on agriculture

and contributed to the development of another branch of their economy – cattle breeding" [9, 48]. Ethnographers, based on the dependence of economy and culture on natural geographical conditions, distinguish economic and cultural types (ECT) [16; 20]. Karakalpaks are usually attributed to the economic and cultural type - semi-sedentary and semi-nomadic pastoralists - farmers of the arid zone [23, 137]. The division of the Karakalpaks into Arys, tribal unions, affected the area of their settlement in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya. Ethnographers noted that the tribes and clans of Arys on tort uru lived on the Right Bank of the Amu Darya, on the territory of modern-day Chimbay, Kegeyli and Nukus districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, while the tribes and clans of Arys Kongrat settled in the northern part of the delta, on the lands adjacent to the Aral Sea, on the Left Bank of the Amu Darya, on the territory of modern Muynak, Kungrad and Khodzheyli districts of Karakalpakstan [6]. The landscapes surrounding the Karakalpaks determined their type of economic activity: the Karakalpaks of Arys Kongrat were engaged in cattle breeding and fishing, the Karakalpaks of Arys on tort uru - in sedentary agriculture, migrating only when the canals dried up [7, 149]. Such an economic difference surprisingly repeats the ECT of the Kerder culture. When studying the material culture of Kerder, an economic difference was also recorded among the Kerder population, part of which conducted agriculture in its non-irrigation forms, combined with cattle breeding and semi-nomadic, engaged in driving cattle breeding [23, 136]. The population of Kerder used the Ustyurt plateau for driving cattle breeding. There were large settlements that had a stationary core, around which the portable dwellings of the semi-nomadic population were located, partially wintering at large Kerder settlements (Kurgancha, Kuyuk-kala) [13, 22]. Such proximity of the Kerder and Karakalpak ECT is not surprising. Natural geographical conditions determined similar types of economy. In addition, there are reasons to assume that there was an ethnogenetic continuity between the Kerders and the Karakalpaks [22].

The economic development of the territories of settlement of the Karakalpaks was uneven. As a result, by the end of the XIX century, natural and economic areas were formed: I -Daukarinsky, located in the eastern part of the Amu Darya delta; this area, despite favorable soil conditions, due to lack of water, in some places has already taken the form of a desert, and therefore agriculture here is unstable. II – Chimbaysky, occupies the middle part of the delta, acceptable irrigation conditions have developed here, which contributed to the formation of a stable economy of a pronounced intensive agricultural type. III – Taldytsky – located in the northwestern part of the delta, a significant part of the territory of this area was flooded with water, as a result of which agricultural industry was not widely developed here. IV – Shurakhansky – forming the Amudarya strip of the southern part of the department; this area is also in normal irrigation conditions and agriculture in it has reached the greatest development. V – Kyzyl-Kumsky – represents a huge expanse of bumpy and dune sands located to the east of the Amudarya oasis; there is absolutely no agricultural industry here, the economy is purely pastoral in nature [17].

In the Daukarinsky district in the first quarter of the XX century, sheep breeding was developed, in Kyzyl-Kum, only small cattle and camels were bred, in the Chimbay and Shurakhan districts due to their agricultural orientation, the number of cattle was small. A characteristic feature of these two areas was a significant number of cattle and a large distribution of horses. In the Taldom district, they mainly specialized in cattle breeding.

Karakalpaks bred sheep, goats, cattle and a small number of horses and camels. It is no coincidence that these animals occupied the most important place in their mythology, rituals and customs [4].

Representing a semi-sedentary agricultural population in the mass, deprived of the opportunity to use extensive steppe pastures and make proper migrations with their cattle, the Karakalpaks focused their attention on breeding cattle, designated by the Khiva documents by the term "mal", as opposed to small cattle "koi", using for this purpose those relatively limited forage resources, which the delta of the Amu Darya with the area closest to it possessed. In this respect, the Karakalpak cattle breeding differed sharply from the Kazakh, where the main role was played, as is known, by sheep breeding and partly horse breeding associated with the pasture-nomadic system of economy. Karakalpak districts were the main supplier of cattle to the markets of Khiva, while Kazakhs and Turkmens sold their sheep, horses and camels here [8, 59].

The cattle bred by the Karakalpaks were exclusively of local breeds, representing a transitional type between the cattle of Turkmens and Kazalin Kazakhs: bulls are large and strong, cows of medium yield, the color is most often red and brown [19, 108]. Describing the cattle of Karakalpaks, A.V. Kaulbars wrote that "the breed of this cattle here is very good; bulls are very large, firm, strong; cows are also quite tall and give a lot of milk, if we take into account that they use exclusively foot food and reeds all year round"[12].

Cattle predominated in the Karakalpak economy. According to Hirschfeld and Galkin, the Karakalpaks of the Shumanai khanate and the Chimbai section of the Amudarya department were the main suppliers of cattle in all the markets of the oasis [2, 171]. Unlike the Karakalpaks, Turkmens, Uzbeks and Kazakhs bred cattle to a lesser extent [1, 85].

These breeds – red and brown, have become widespread among the population of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya. Karakalpaks widely used cattle in agriculture as a draft force. In well-to-do farms, cows were kept for meat and dairy products, in others, due to the lack of draft power, a single cash cow was often used instead of a working bull [19, 108].

The population of the Central Asian region has been engaged in horse breeding since ancient times. Among the Karakalpaks, unlike the Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, herd horse breeding has not become widespread. Nevertheless, there were farms in which horses were kept. They were widely used in the Karakalpak economy: In the spring, horses, bulls and even cows plowed the land, then, when the grain rose, in those areas where irrigation is possible only with the help of chigiris, camels, and sometimes horses and bulls, people set in motion a water-lifting wheel; Finally, after the harvest, the animals were used for knocking out bread, as is done throughout Central Asia. In addition, horses and bulls served for the transportation of goods on carts or two-wheeled carriages, which are in widespread use in the Amu Darya Delta [12]. Horses were of three breeds: Kazakh, Karakalpak and Turkmen. The Kazakh breed of horses was mainly common among the Kyzylkum and Ustyurt Kazakhs and was distinguished by endurance and unpretentiousness. The settled Kazakh population in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, along with their horses, kept horses of Karakalpak breeds – Karabair, Budan, Tukim, Khanyazat. Among these breeds, the karabair was especially appreciated, for the breeding of which, in addition to the local horse, Turkmen, Arab and Mongolian breeds were used [21, 130]. The horse is taller than the Kazakh and lower than the Turkmen, hardy, dense and beautiful build, had a wide chest. It possessed the best racing qualities, physical strength, endurance, and the ability to move for a long time. At the Karakalpak bazaars, Kazakh-bred horses on average cost from 20 to 40 rubles, and karabair from 55 to 75 rubles [17, 287]. Turkmen argamaks were very rare among Kazakhs, Karakalpaks and Uzbeks.

The population of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya bred sheep of two breeds: Kazakh fat-tailed and Karakul. Sheep breeding prevailed in the peripheral parts of the delta inhabited by semi-nomadic and nomadic Kazakh population. Settled and semi-settled Karakalpak farms, unlike Kazakh, Turkmen and Uzbek, had significantly fewer sheep. For example, in the traditional Kazakh economy, the specific weight of sheep in the species composition of the herd averaged more than 60% of the total livestock [10, 85]. The first place was occupied by sheep breeding in terms of its specific weight among the types of livestock, economic purpose and in the life of the Turkmen population [3, 139]. Sheep breeding also occupied a leading place in the animal husbandry of the Uzbeks, who bred two types of sheep: Karakul (Karakul-smush sheep breeding) and fat-tailed (meat-tallow) [21, 121].

According to the respondent, in addition to the named breeds, "there was an elibai breed, but it is not widespread here, mainly in Kazakhstan. These sheep have long legs" [27].

The Karakalpaks kept camels only for driving chigiris, mills and cotton gins. Camel breeding was mainly carried out by Kazakhs and Turkmens of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya. For them, camels served as a means of transportation during migrations, they gave milk, wool and earnings when accepting contracts for the transportation of all kinds of heavy loads along caravan routes. The main camel breeding areas were Kyzylkum, Ustyurt and the adjacent desert areas of the Amu Darya Delta [19, 108].

Such was the state of animal husbandry of the Karakalpaks in the late XIX- early XX centuries. The agrarian policy pursued in the 1920s and 30s led to significant reductions in the number of livestock. The first collective farms created in 1928 were formed by forcing peasants to join them with their own cattle. The results of collectivization had negative consequences. The peasants were forced to switch to cotton cultivation, especially in Turtkul, Shabbaz, Kipchak, Khojeyli, Chimbay, Kegeyli, Kungrad districts, and the task of expanding cotton cultivation was set. The districts, initially of the livestock direction – Karauzyak and Takhtakupyrsky, began to adapt to the cultivation of cotton [15, 233]. As a result, the traditional foundations of economic management, which were based on integrated management, began to be violated, which led to a significant reduction in the share of the private sector.

The reason for the sharp decrease in the number of cattle in 1920-1921 was, without any doubt, large-scale harvesting of the prodravverstka. The number of livestock in the Amudarya region decreased from 566 thousand heads in 1917 to 201 thousand heads in 1921. Thus, the agriculture of the department, weakened by the war, crop failures, also experienced the blow of the prodravverstka.

In subsequent years, attempts were made to form a new system of state regulation based on market mechanisms and incentives. This policy has given some positive developments in the Amudarya region: the acreage, livestock and production of various agricultural goods have significantly increased. However, However, soon all this was lost, or more precisely, swept away by the command and administrative system, the establishment of a regime of forced harvesting of agricultural products, which in no way interested the workers in increasing their production.

In general, the period of the 1920s in the history of our region is very contradictory: firstly, a significant proportion of landless dehkans were able to exploit land plots on less bonded terms than in previous years. Secondly, the stimulation of labor and production made it possible to increase the volume of production and agricultural goods. However, the crisis situation in Turkestan, as well as in the Amudarya region, has not yet been overcome.

In the second half of the 1940s, certain successes were achieved in animal husbandry. A point of the scientific research institute of animal husbandry is being opened on a permanent basis in the Chimbay district. There are breeding state farms, so 104 heads of cattle of the red steppe breed from Russia were brought to the nursery of the Chimbaysky district. This is also noted by the respondent: In Soviet times, cattle were often brought from other countries. In the pre-war and post-war years, there were local cattle breeds in Karakalpakstan. Importing cattle from other regions and countries, they developed animal husbandry [24]. 80% of the collective farms of the republic became owners of 3 types of productive livestock. In Karakalpakstan, 219 horse farms and 48 cattle fattening farms (commercial) are being built [15, 288].

However, since the mid-1950s, as a result of ill-conceived management in the field of animal husbandry, the number of livestock begins to decline. By 1955, there were 159.2 thousand cattle, 358.2 thousand sheep, 1.9 thousand pigs on collective farms. In 26907 private farms there were no cattle, in 8775 farms there were no pets at all. In the republic, the number of horses and goats was reduced to zero [15, 291].

In the 1960s, thanks to the rich pasture lands in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, livestock farms were organized to fatten beef cattle. As a result, by the 1970s it was possible to achieve improvements in this area of management. By this time, there were 10 livestock farms per 100 thousand heads of cattle. Their profitability was very high – one hundredweight of meat cost 70-80 rubles. Over 25 years (1960-1985), 75 tons of meat were produced in Karakalpakstan [11, 5].

By the mid-70s of the XX century, as a result of the concentration of production, 8 sheep-breeding state farms, 14 beef cattle breeding and cattle fattening, 1 poultry farm were created [14, 56]. It was a period of prosperity of one of the districts of Karakalpakstan with a livestock direction: "Sheep breeding was well developed in Takhtakupyrsky district. The state farm named after K. Marx (now Zhanadarya) in 1976 was one of the most developed. The number of cattle reached 105-110 thousand. With the increase in the number of small cattle, the state farm Konyrat kol opens (formerly the Dmitrov State Farm). Small cattle were imported from Khorezm. The natural conditions of the Takhtakupyrsky district were well adapted for cattle breeding. The district managed 2,000 hectares of land for pasture, with wells with artesian water" [25].

In the following years, the situation in the cattle industry began to deteriorate again. By the time of the collapse of the USSR, animal husbandry in the republic was in crisis. The economic situation in the republic was difficult. In the livestock industry, there was a shortage of fodder, a lack of proper zootechnical and veterinary equipment. The quality of the pastures was in poor condition. As a result, cases of livestock deaths were not uncommon.

After the declaration of independence by the Republic of Uzbekistan, a number of resolutions were adopted aimed at improving the situation in the livestock sector: "On measures of deepening economic reforms in the livestock sector of the republic" (1993) and "On measures of improving economic reforms in animal husbandry and protecting the interests of dehqan (farmers) farms and privatized farms" (1994). Cattle from unprofitable farms were distributed to former collective farmers. A number of resolutions are being adopted directly for the Republic of Karakalpakstan: "On measures to accelerate the development of livestock industries in the Republic of Karakalpakstan" (2019), "On additional measures to accelerate the development of livestock industries in the Republic of Karakalpakstan" (2020). As a result, 236 projects totaling 490 billion soums have been formed in the

livestock sector of Karakalpakstan. Currently, 94 projects worth 119.6 billion soums have been implemented. In the Kungrad, Bozatau, Muynak and Takhtakupyr districts, work has begun on the creation of family livestock cooperatives designed for 5.5 thousand heads of cattle.

The measures taken have revived the cattle breeding industry of the republic. According to the respondent, in modern conditions, "Cattle are being raised on the territory of the Takhtakupyrsky district. Today there are 39 thousand heads of cattle, mostly of local breeds: kyzyl ala, and also imported breeds from abroad - from Germany Semental (Simmental), Poland – Red Polish, Kazakhstan – kyzyl shol (Red steppe), Kazakh akbas (Kazakh white-headed). We mainly grow Kazakh white-headed and semental. In April we drive them out to pastures, in May we drive them back to the cowsheds. These animal breeds are not adapted to the climatic conditions of our region, they do not tolerate heat well. Therefore, in the hot months they are kept indoors, besides they need special shower rooms. In September they are driven out to graze again, in December they are driven to farms [26].

In general, in the Takhtakupyrsky district, farmers prefer to breed small cattle, mainly sheep – malshi koi, edilbai breeds. Recently, the Hissar breed of sheep from Kashkadarya region has been started. The imported cattle are distributed to private farms.

Karakalpak cattle breeders, especially in recent years, despite the difficulties and risks, show perseverance, develop their production. This branch of management remains one of the most important at the present stage. Experienced cattle breeders, who are well aware of the peculiarities of natural and climatic conditions, the basics of cattle farming, manage to achieve some success. Modern cattle breeders successfully combine traditional experience with modern knowledge.

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