

The Dairy Herd at Daganjah A.

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Most of the cows in the dairy herd at Daganjah A. belong to the Damascus breed. A few are cross-bred: Friesian × Beyrouth. From 1912 to 1919 cows were brought in from Damascus on a few occasions. Some died of cattle-plague, and the remainder served as the foundation of the present herd. The record for six years includes 44 cows of the following breeds: Gaulan — 3 cows, Beyrouth × Friesian — 12 cows, Damascus — 21 cows, Damascus × Friesian 44 cows, Dutch — 4 cows. At the end of 1924—1925 there remained 30 of these cows: Beyrouth × Friesian—4, Damascus—18, Damascus × Friesian 4, Dutch—4. The Damascus strain is becoming predominant in the herd. Now a new type is being formed — a Damascus × Dutch cross. In 1924—1925 out of 34 cows, 13 were born at Daganjah, and 13 were obtained while calves, so that it may be stated that 70% are native to this country.

Body Weight (according to measurements). The average for 26 cows is 489 kilos, 16 being above 500 kilos. The average of 17 Damascus cows is 510 kilos, of the 7 Friesian × Beyrouth crossbreds is 431 kilos and the maximum weight is 630 kilos (Damascus).

Average total Yield per year and Lactation period.

Year	Annual Milk Yield Oct. — Sept.		Milk Yield according to Lactation Period		Number of Days in Lact. Period
	Number of Cows	Amount of Milk Lts.	Number of Cows	Amount of Milk Lts.	
1919/20	16	1685	2	1911	—
1920/21	18	2031	10	2186	339
1921/22	20	2576	12	2147	290
1922/23	21	2252	15	3198	397
1923/24	29	3324	17	3160	331
1924/25	34	2614	29	2610	296

Milk Yield. From year to year the milk yield varies, increases and decreases, owing to irregularities in the periods of lactation. In 1920—21, one of 10 gave over 300 litres milk, in 1921—22, 0 out of 12; in 1922—23, 8 out of 16; in 1923—24, 10 out of 17; in 1923—24, 10 out of 17; in 1924—25, 14 out of 29 and in 1925—26, 19 out of 29.

Bulls. Feeding. In the course of 8—10 years, 6 bulls were used in the herd. Since 1924, the herd includes a Dutch bull. One Damascus bull especially increased the milk yield in his daughters. About 40% of the total present herd belongs to this progeny. Two tribes of cows excel—"Atzilah" and "Zekufah". Green food is supplied for about six months, in various years lucerne, vetches, maize and beet being used, while in the last few years clover has been used to an increasing extent. Concentrated food was barley, beans, and other legumes.

During the 6 years 14 cows left the herd: 3 were sold for rearing, 4 to the butcher through old age, 3 through sterility and 4 died.

Maize Variety Tests at Ben Shemen 1921—1926

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Varieties. In 1922 the first experiment was set up with a few varieties from California (from the firms Germain and from Aggeler & Musser, Los Angeles), France (Vilmorin-Andrieux, Paris) in order to determine, in the first place, their general characters, and particularly the period of cultivation. According to these we divided the varieties into late-all and early-short. In 1923 we sowed early ones from Italy, which we received from Prot. Strampelli of the Exper. Station of Rieti.

Results of the Experiments. The results are summarized in the accompanying table (see p. 200). On the basis of the above, the following conclusions may be formed: in years of average rainfall, the short „Horse-dent“-varieties are better than the early-round seeded varieties. In years of low rainfall, and