



Establishment of Breed Societies in Cyprus

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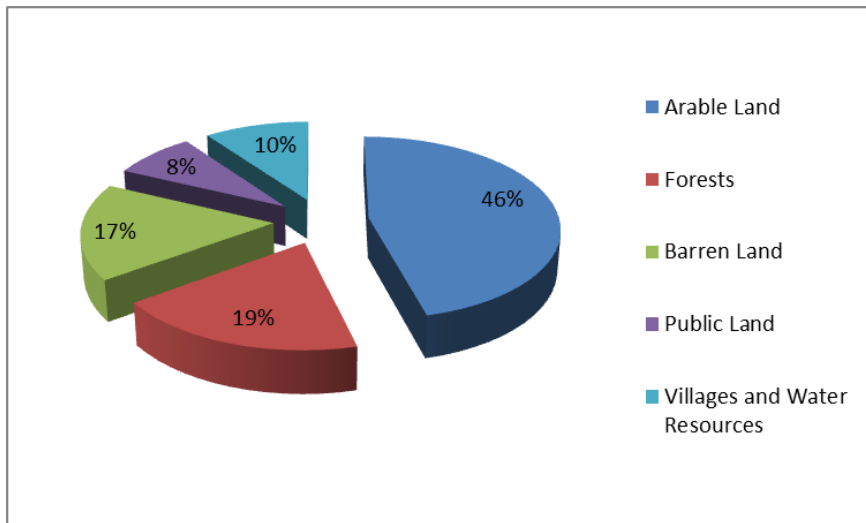
Natural Environment



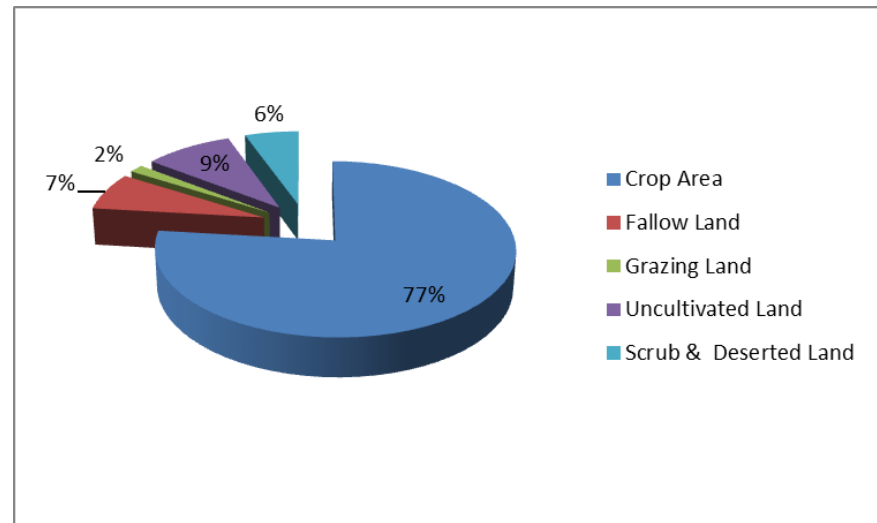
- Mediterranean climate
- Shortage of water
- Approx. 1.800 species, subspecies and varieties of flowering plants; many endemic.
- 7 species of land mammals, 26 species of amphibians and reptiles, 365 species of birds, and a variety of insects.
- 197 fish species, various species of crabs, sponges and Echinodermata.

Natural Environment

General Land distribution in Cyprus



Agricultural Land distribution in Cyprus



Animal Production

The sheep and goat sector

- Important part of animal production in Cyprus
- Contributes ~19% to the total value of animal production
- Faces challenges of different types and does not fulfill its full economic and production potential

Productive sheep population: Around 270,000

Productive goat population: Estimated at 195,000

- Population trends correlate with meat and milk production
- Steady population increases in recent years (apart from 2019)

Animal Production

The bovine sector

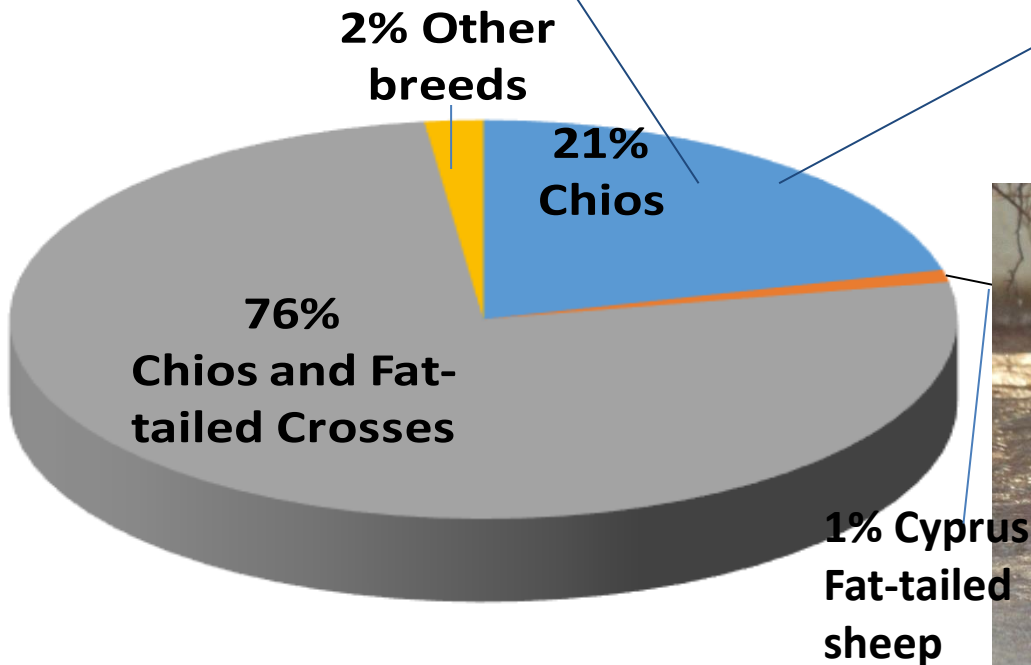
- Important part of animal production in Cyprus
- Contributes ~42% to the total value of animal production
- Based on the exotic Holstein-Friesian breed

Total bovine population: Around 85,000 (2021)

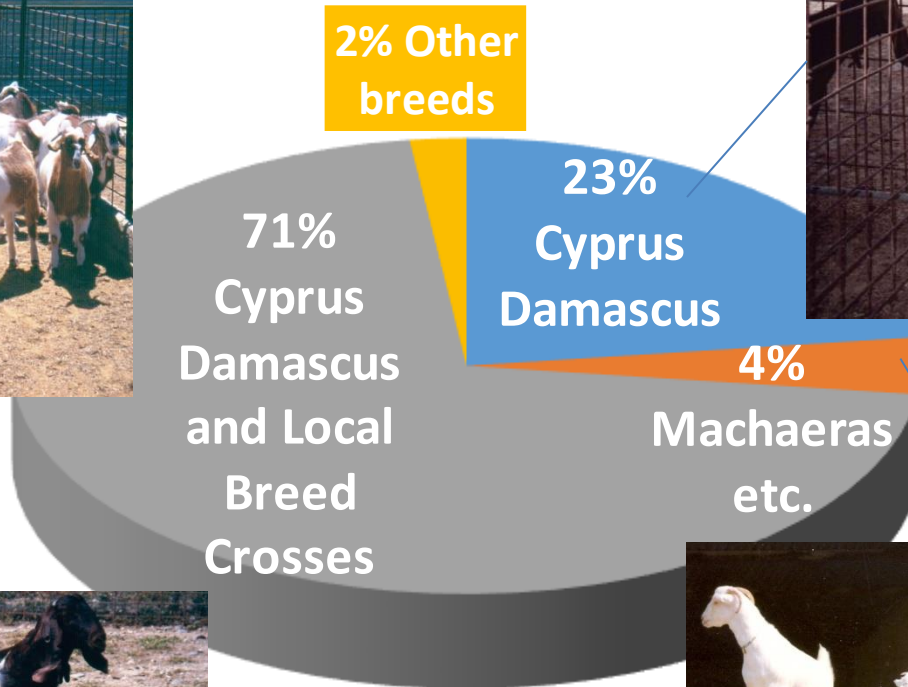
Productive cow population: Estimated at 39,000 (2021)

- Population trends correlate mainly with milk production
- Slightly decreasing population in recent years

Breed Composition of Sheep



Breed Composition of Goats



Bovine Breed Composition



1.5%
Local
Cow

3.2%
Other exotic
breeds

95.3%
Holstein-
Friesian



Breed Societies

- **Established only recently (from 2019 onward), under the EU Regulation 2016/1012**

Six Breed Societies (Horses and Ruminant Breeds)

- **Cyprus Breed Association of English Thoroughbred Horses (2019)**
- **Cyprus Association of Local Cattle Breeders (2020)**
- **Cyprus Association of Cyprus Damascus goat Breeders (2021)**
- **Cyprus Association of Cyprus Chios sheep Breeders (2022)**
- **Cyprus Association of Local Fat-tailed sheep Breeders and Friends (2022)**
- **Cyprus Association of Local Machaeras Breeders and Friends (2022)**

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Ruminant Breed Society Membership (2022)*

Breed Society	Number of Members	Number of animals
Cyprus Local Cow	20 (more than 30 in 2023)	700 (out of 1200)
Cyprus Damascus Goat	20+	6100 (out of 45000)
Local Machaeras Goat	20 (more than 30 in 2023)	3230 (out of 5273)
Local Fat-tailed Sheep	20 (more than 30 in 2023)	940 (out of 1726)
Cyprus Chios sheep	20	9200 (out of 57000)

*Source: Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

Breed Societies

Next steps

- Competent Authority (Department of Agriculture) to monitor Breed Society activities
- Breeding Programmes implemented currently only for “Preservation of the Breed”
 - For the two commercial breed societies (Damascus goat and Chios sheep), concerted efforts are made for them to soon implement breeding for “Improvement of the Breed”
- Engage Breed Societies with more activities for effective breed conservation, utilization and promotion (some products already desirable by consumers)
- Involve Breed Societies in research activities to better characterize and add value to their breed

Thank you for your attention

