

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL LEVEL OF SHEEP HOLDERS AND
FACTORS AFFECTING THAT IN ASSIUT AND SOHAG
GOVERNORATES**

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this research was to determine the management knowledge and skills level of sheep owners in the form of herds. This study also dealt with determining the factors affecting these gained levels in some of El marg regions in Jamahiriya. In addition, the study aimed to identify the most important problems facing sheep owners in this regard.

Data were collected through interviews schedule for all raisers having 40 heads or more of mature ewes and rams. Their total number came to 95 respondents. Data were collected from 90 persons out of them. Percentages, averages, standard deviation as well as simple correlation coefficient were the statistical means used in analyzing and presenting data.

The main results were as follows:

- The trend of breeding sheep show that 60% had positive trend, but those who had negative trend was 7.8% which is due to the importance of sheep in farming system in these regions (Assiut and sohag).
- The personal experience was high; within 75% have more than 4 years experience.
- The flock size, more than 53.33 % of the raisers have 39 mature ewes, and 46.67% have 25-38 mature ewes.
- In the field of health care and treatment of sheep, the results revealed that 40% of the raisers had a low skill level , and 46.7% had moderate skill level . The findings showed also that around 54% from the sheep raisers did not have skill to diagnose ewes suffering diseases and how to treat them,49% had low skills level in helping ewes at delivery, 39% had low level of knowledge concerning the reasons of inflation and how to deal with inflated ewes, 36% had low level of skills concerning introducing first aids in case sheep exposed to pesticide poisoning.
- There were correlations between the level of knowledge, the level of skills, and some socio-economic independent variables and also some communicational independent variables as well.

Finally, the study showed that the role of the veterinary units and extension workers is limited in respect of educating, training and enlightening the sheep raisers. The main problem in sheep raising is the feeding and veterinary care, especially the high price of feeding resources and drugs.