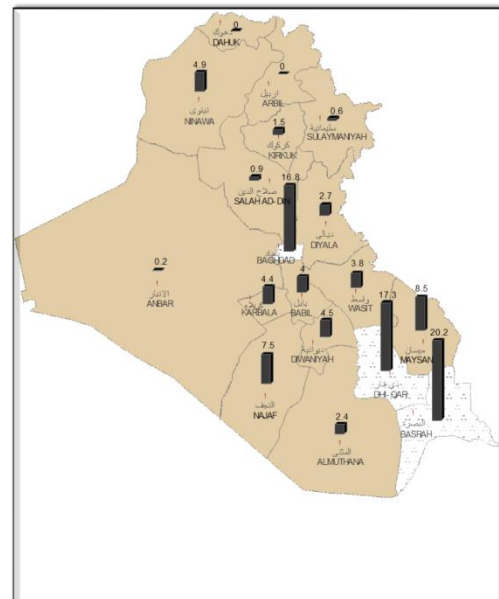
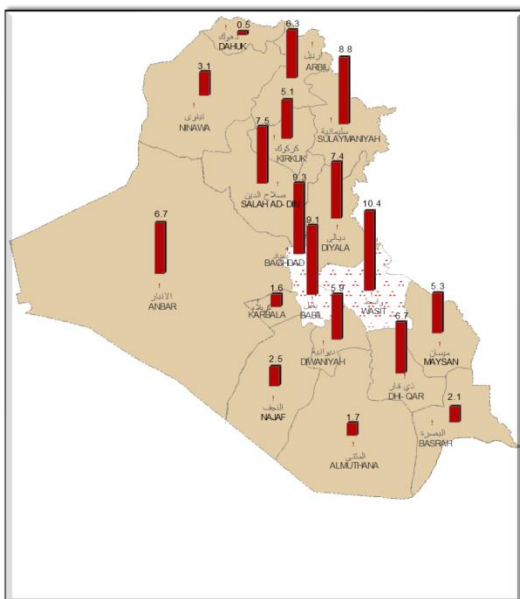


Animal production in Iraq

Animal husbandry and livestock production has been traditionally practiced in most parts of Iraq and provided animal products to a large segment of the population for generations. Livestock production comprised 30-40 percent of the total value of agricultural production and contributed heavily to meet nutritional requirements. Livestock production in Iraq mainly includes cattle, sheep and goats. Buffalo and camel rearing are carried out at a limited scale.

Cattle production:

Approximately 85 percent of the cattle population in the country is local breeds with rather low milk yields per lactation. The rest are crosses of foreign breeds. The local cattle breeds are Sharabie and Junobie. Attempts to improve the local breeding stock through artificial insemination (AI) when established artificial insemination center in Baghdad. No official data are available on the composition of the regional herd by breed. It is estimated that there are no more than 1000 purebred Friesian cattle in the area. While local breeds predominate, there are a significant number of crossbred cattle. The main local breeds of cattle are Karadi and Sharabi, which produce between one and five liters of milk per day for a lactation length of 150 days.

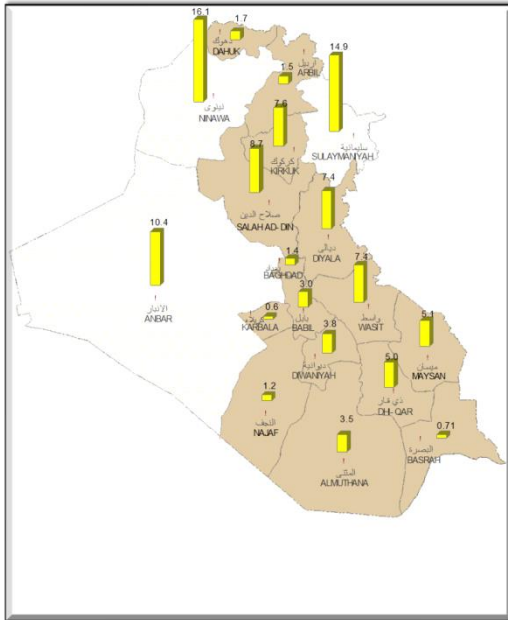


Sheep and goat production

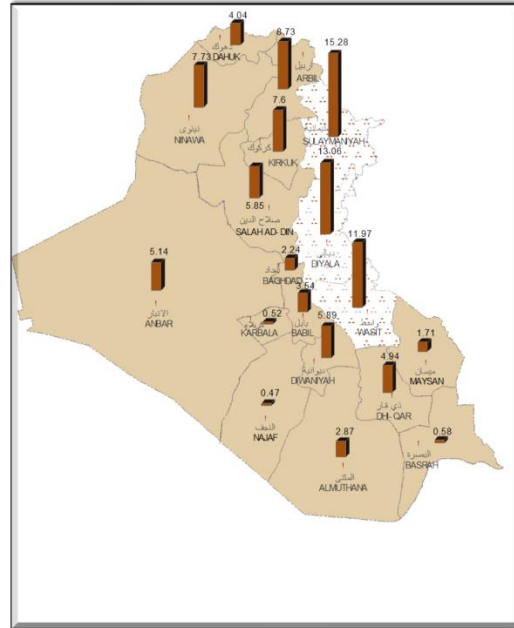
In many ways the sector of small ruminant animals - sheep and goats - is neglected in Iraq, attracting little interest and investment from the government. Sheep production involves the local breeds Awasia, Hamdany and Karadie They are raised extensively in the rangelands in the governorate of Ninewa (26%) and in the central Iraqi governorates of Diyala (12%), Wassit, and Thi Qar (8% each) where they are grazed semi-intensively, mainly with supplemental food. Small ruminant animals – sheep and goats - are an important source of income in western Asia and North Africa, semi-arid areas with less than 300 mm average annual rainfall. This is mainly because they require low initial capital and maintenance costs and use marginal lands and crop residues - otherwise of little or no value – to produce milk and meat.

Sheep Export - Heads		
Bahrain	465,000	9%
Jordan	587,564	11%
Kuwait	164,000	3%
Oman	481,484	9%
Qatar	308,369	6%
Saudi Arabia	3,420,000	63%
Total	5,426,417	100%





Sheep in Iraq



Goat in Iraq

Poultry production

To respond to the nutritional needs of the country, the government established a functional poultry industry during the 1970s and 1980s comprising modern poultry farms for the production of table eggs and broiler meat, stock farms, hatcheries and poultry slaughterhouses.

Regular supplies of necessary production inputs and provision of required poultry health services was assured.

By 1989, a total of 8 000 poultry farms were operational in the country and were estimated to produce 1 700 million table eggs and 250 000 tones of

Iraqi Poultry Meat Production:

poultry meat. Since 1991, there was considerable deterioration in production in the poultry industry to a state of near collapse.

Change Rate (%) معدل التغير (%)	Quantity of live broiler Year chickens(000)Ton كمية انتاج اللحم الحي (1000) طن	Year السنة
54.8	52.8	2010
65.2	87.2	2011
3.0	89.8	2012
16.8	74.7	2013
6.0	70.2	2014
23.0	86.4	2015

Quantity of live broiler chickens (2010-2015) in Iraq

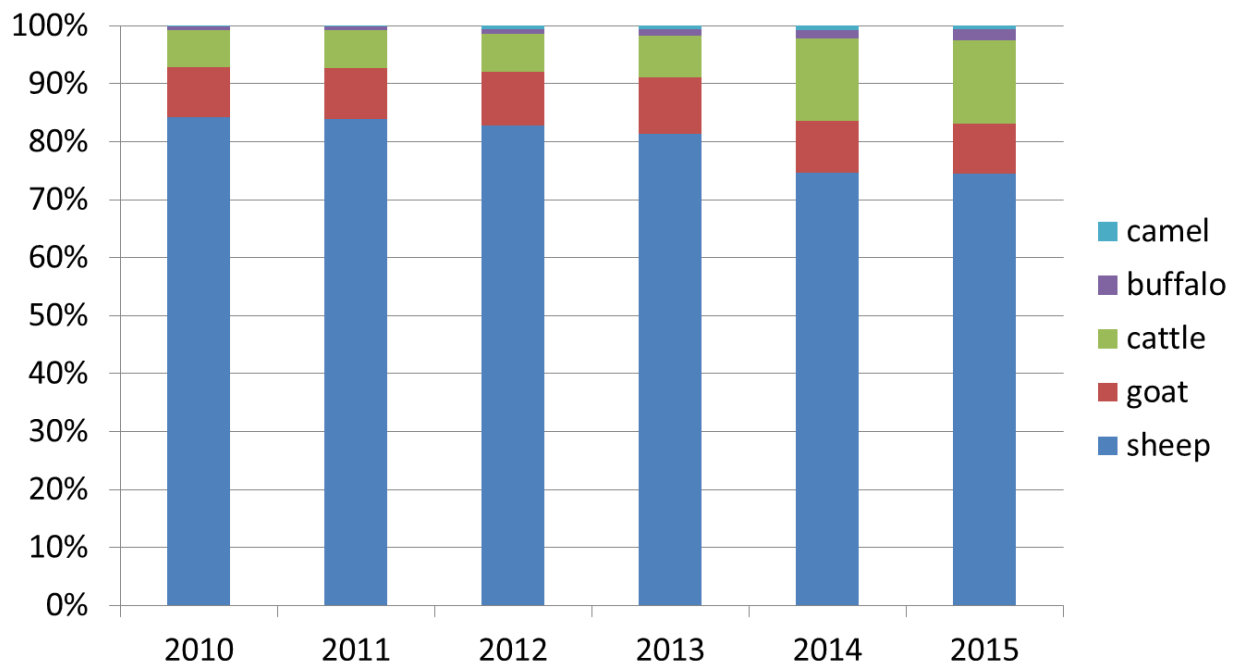
Change rate (%) معدل التغير	Quantity of eggs produced (1000) .Eggs كمية بيض المائدة المنتج (1000) بيضة	Year السنة
31.4	926,213	2010
10.0	1,018,834	2011
8.3	1,104,204	2012
4.1	1,149,582	2013
-67.5	373,732	2014
51.1	564,546	2015

Quantity of table eggs produced in Iraq for (2010- 2015)

- ▶ Total numbers of poultry projects = **3876 projects**
- ▶ **About 38.1 %** of these projects are stalled projects.
- ▶ Less than half of total poultry projects are productive projects =**45.1%**

Numbers of animals in Iraq

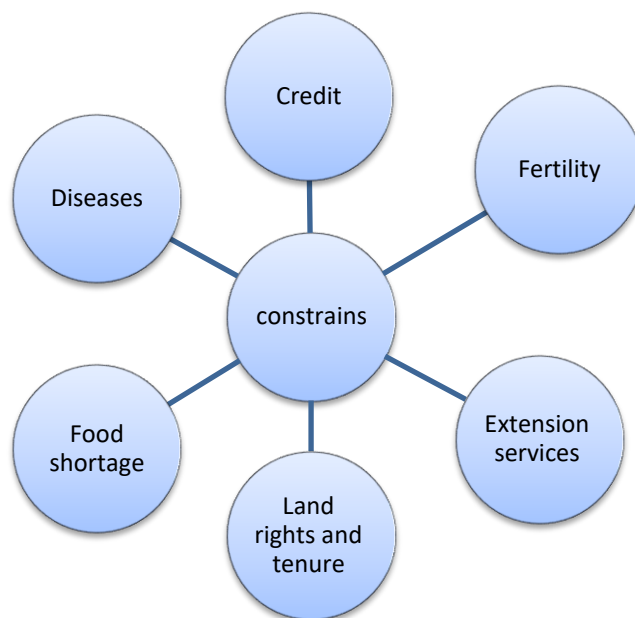
	2010 Iraqi Ministry of agri.	2011 USDA- Baghdad	2012 USDA- Baghdad	2013 USDA- Baghdad	2014 FAO Baghdad	2015 FAO Baghdad
Sheep	18.615	17.580	15.412	13.025	14.300	16.432
Goat	1.897	1.860	1.710	1.614	1.712	1.885
Cattle	1.437	1.365	1.228	1.166	2.725	3.172
Buffalo	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.280	0.395
Camels	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.011	0.11



There are four distinct types of animal production in Iraq:

1. Traditionally nomadic, transhumant and sedentary systems—flocks of sheep and goats are grazed extensively on natural vegetation in communal rangelands in the foothills, mountains and steppe during spring. During summer, flocks graze stubble in Al-Jazera; during autumn and winter they are generally fed crop residues supplemented with grain. Productivity is generally low.
2. The household system—sheep, goats and cattle, in both rural and urban areas, are kept near the house to provide milk for the family. Productivity is extremely low, as most farmers are more concerned with minimizing costs and risks rather than maximizing profits.
3. The lamb-fattening system—1 million lambs from the range are fattened for 3 months, from the age of 4–5 months (18–20 kg) until slaughter at 40 kg.
4. The modern or semi-intensive system for dairy cattle projects—green fodder is produced in irrigated areas in an integrated crop–livestock system.

Constraints of animal production in Iraq:



The main constraints are

☒ **shortage of feed**; currently, available feed is sufficient for only 80% of the calculated total dry matter requirements, resulting in reductions in animal numbers.

Inadequate and poor quality feed -especially during the dryseason is the most serious constraint on animal production. The contribution of natural grazing as a proportion of total feed resources in Iraq has declined from 70% in the 1950s to only 20% at present.

☒ **The harsh, arid climate** with extremes of temperature, strong, hot winds and sand storms

☒ **Lack of effective management** of feeding, breeding and reproduction

☒ **High incidence of disease**, resulting in high mortality rates and reduced productivity; the continual movement of livestock makes veterinary services difficult to use.

☒ **Lack of applied research and technology transfer**, because of lack of co-ordination between institutions responsible for research and extension

☒ **Unsatisfactory organization of marketing**

☒ **Lack of incentives for producers**, including poor ratio between feed and livestock prices, and inadequate credit facilities, particularly for smallholders.

Animal health and disease control

The General Directorate of Veterinary Board (GDVB) at the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for all aspects of animal health and it regulates acquisition of requisite vaccines, drugs and equipment, as well as the means for field transport and cold chain. Previous stringent animal health activities included regular vaccination programs for serious endemic diseases, campaigns for drenching, dipping and spraying livestock against external parasites and zoonoses control.

Iraq has a governorate veterinary hospital in each of the 15 Centre/South Governors and 228 district veterinary clinics. The clinics are supplied by the governorate hospitals while the hospitals obtain their supplies from the central warehouses in Baghdad. Diagnostic services are also organized in a similar manner. The Central Laboratories in Baghdad serves the Governorate Laboratories, administered by the governorate hospitals, which in turn serve the district clinics with their diagnostic needs.