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THE FORMATION OF HORSE BREEDING IN UZBEKISTAN AND THE REGIONAL ROLE OF THE KARABAIR BREED (1924–1991)

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Abstract

Based on archival documents, textbooks and encyclopedic data, the article analyses the formation of horse breeding in Uzbekistan in 1924–1991 and the regional role of the Karabair breed. Historical-analytical and comparative methods were applied. It is established that in 1924/25 the Uzbek SSR took over from the Turkestan Republic a stud farm of the Karabair type with 50 mares, and in 1926/27 the horses of the stud competed against other Central Asian studs at the hippodromes of Frunze and Tashkent. In the 1971 breed zoning the Karabair was also assigned to Tajikistan. The article links the history of the breed with the development of horse breeding in Uzbekistan.

Key words: *horse breeding in Uzbekistan, Karabair breed, stud farm, hippodrome, breed zoning, English-Karabair crossbreeds, Jizzakh stud farm.*

O'ZBEKISTON YILQICHILIGINING SHAKLLANISHI VA QORABAYIR ZOTINING MINTAQAVIY O'RNI (1924–1991)

Annotatsiya

Maqolada 1924–1991-yillarda O'zbekiston yilqichiligining shakllanishi va qorabayir zotining mintaqadagi o'rni tahlil qilingan. Tadqiqot arxiv hujjatlari, o'quv qo'llanmalar va ensiklopediya ma'lumotlariga tayanib, tarixiy-tahliliy va qiyosiy usullarda olib borildi. Aniqlanishicha, O'zbekiston SSR 1924/25-yilda Turkiston respublikasidan 50 bosh biyadan iborat qorabayir yo'nalishidagi ot

zavodini qabul qilgan, 1926/27-yilda zavod otlari Frunze va Toshkent ipodromlarida mintaqaning boshqa zavodlari bilan bellashgan. 1971-yilgi rayonlashtirishda qorabayir zoti Tojikiston uchun ham belgilangan. Maqola zot tarixini O'zbekiston yilqichiligining taraqqiyoti bilan bog'lab ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: *O'zbekiston yilqichiligi, qorabayir zoti, ot zavodi, ipodrom, zotlarni rayonlashtirish, ingliz-qorabayir duragaylari, Jizzax ot zavodi.*

ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ КОНЕВОДСТВА В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ И РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ ЗНАЧЕНИЕ КАРАБАЙРСКОЙ ПОРОДЫ (1924– 1991)

Аннотация

В статье на основе архивных документов, учебных пособий и энциклопедических данных анализируются формирование коневодства в Узбекистане в 1924–1991 годах и региональное значение карабайрской породы. Применены историко-аналитический и сравнительный методы. Установлено, что в 1924/25 году Узбекская ССР приняла от Туркестанской республики конный завод карабайрского направления в составе 50 кобыл, а в 1926/27 году лошади завода участвовали в состязаниях с другими заводами Средней Азии на ипподромах Фрунзе и Ташкента. При районировании пород в 1971 году карабайрская порода была закреплена и за Таджикистаном. Статья связывает историю породы с развитием коневодства Узбекистана.

Ключевые слова: *коневодство Узбекистана, карабайрская порода, конный завод, ипподром, районирование пород, англо-карабайрские помеси, Джизакский конный завод.*

Introduction. When horse breeding in Uzbekistan is mentioned, the Karabair breed comes to mind first. Yet the organizational foundations of this breed and of the stud farms that bred it in the Soviet period have still not been sufficiently covered from a historical point of view. The horse has long held an important place in the life of Central Asian peoples for riding, transport, fieldwork and military needs, and the sector remains in the focus of state attention today. The Presidential

resolution of 15 June 2017 «On additional measures for the development of horse breeding and equestrian sports in the Republic of Uzbekistan» is regarded as an important programme document for the sector [1]. The resolution is noted to be aimed at improving the legal framework and increasing the number of breeding and sport horses of the Karabair and Akhal-Teke breeds [2].

The aim of the article is to determine the stages in the formation of horse breeding in Uzbekistan in 1924–1991 and the place of the Karabair breed in the region. Three tasks were set: first, to identify the initial basis of horse breeding of the Uzbek SSR in 1924/25; second, to cover the activity of the stud farm in the region and its inter-republican links in 1926–1941; third, to show the position of the Karabair in other republics in the process of breed zoning in 1971–1974.

Literature review. Works on the Karabair breed can conventionally be divided into three groups. The first group consists of textbooks. The textbook «Horse Breeding» by Mukhtorov and Turakulov (Tashkent, 1974) covers the state of the sector in the 1970s, stud farms and the distribution of breeds [3]. Kholmiraev's practical manual of 1988 describes the 1971 decision of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture on breed zoning by republic [4]. The second group comprises works devoted to the breed itself. The article in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia describes the Karabair as a local breed created in Uzbekistan by improving ancient Central Asian argamaks with Mongolian, Turkmen and Arab breeds and suited to riding and pack work [5]. Among special works on the breed, the book «Karabair» by Shchekin and Vikhrev (Tashkent, 1947) [6] and volume IV of the State Stud Book of the Karabair breed by Likhov (Uzbekistan publishing house, 1982) [7] are noted. The third group consists of modern studies: Nurmatov and Khafizov call the Karabair the «golden fund of Uzbekistan» and pay attention to its genetic diversity [8]. Thus the characteristics of the breed are well covered, but the activity of the stud farm on which it was founded in the 1920s–1940s and its links with other republics have been little studied on the basis of archival documents. This article is intended to partly fill that gap.

Methodology. The study relies on secondary sources, namely published

textbooks, encyclopedia and scholarly articles and official information sources, as well as on archival documents. Archival documents served to cover events of 1924/25–1941, and published sources the situation in the 1970s. The historical-analytical method was used to establish events by period and place, and the comparative method to compare the activity of the Uzbek stud farm with other Central Asian studs and republics. The reliability of the results was ensured by referring each item of information to its source. The limitation of the study is that the sources relate to different years and do not fully match: archival documents cover the period up to 1941 and published sources mainly the 1970s, and the years between were not analysed separately in this article.

Analysis and results. The organizational basis of horse breeding in Uzbekistan in the Soviet period was laid during the national delimitation. In 1924/25 the Uzbek SSR took over from the Turkestan Republic a stud farm of the pure-blooded Karabair type with 50 mares. In the same year work began on establishing a network of covering stations (places where mares are covered by stallions) and on determining the prospects of horse breeding in the republic [9]. This shows that horse breeding in Uzbekistan did not start from nothing but on the basis of a ready breeding base of the Turkestan Republic.

In 1926/27 the Uzbek stud farm competed with other Central Asian studs at the hippodromes of Frunze (Kyrgyzstan) and Tashkent. According to the test results, the condition of the farm's horses was excellent and their speed fully sufficient, and the stud was not placed last among the Central Asian studs [9, 10]. The Frunze hippodrome made it possible to compare the breed directly with horses of other republics.

In a report on 1928/29 the Commissariat of Land Affairs rated English-Karabair crossbreds (horses obtained by crossing the English and Karabair breeds) as an ideal riding horse, not only for economic needs but especially for supplying the cavalry units of the Red Army with horses. Turkmen and Yomud stallions were also listed among the improving breeds [9]. Thus horse breeding in Uzbekistan was also linked to the gene pool (the hereditary reserve of a breed) of Turkmenistan's

breeds, and the breeding direction took military needs into account.

Inter-republican competition in horse breeding continued in 1941. In a letter sent on 7 April 1941 in Tashkent by the Horse Breeding Department of the People's Commissariat of Land Affairs of the Uzbek SSR to the regional departments, it was announced that in that year it had entered into socialist emulation with the Horse Breeding Department of the Tajik SSR. The Uzbek department also undertook to spread the emulation widely within its own system, and the lower units were required to send a copy of the contract drawn up no later than 25 April [10].

The relationship between the republics in breeding policy became evident in 1971. By Decision No. 394 of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture horse breeds were zoned: the Lokai and Karabair breeds were designated for the Tajik SSR, and separate breeds were also indicated for the other Central Asian republics [4]. According to the 1974 manual, the Karabair was also bred, outside Uzbekistan, at a stud farm in the south of Tajikistan [3]. The encyclopedia article describes the breed as a medium-sized, rather coarsely built horse, grey, dark bay or chestnut, rarely black; three types are distinguished in the breed: a heavier type close to the carriage horse, a riding type and a riding-pack type. Horses of the first type are bred mainly in irrigated farming valleys, and those of the second and third types in the mountain areas of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan [5]. The breed was kept in the Uzbek SSR, the Tajik SSR and the Karakalpak ASSR, and breeding work on it was carried out by the Jizzakh stud farm of the Uzbek SSR [5].

The years of independence lie outside the chronological scope of the article and are therefore mentioned only briefly: the «O'zbekim otlari» stud farm in the Middle Chirchiq district was established in 1992 and specializes in breeding Akhal-Teke horses [11].

Discussion. The facts presented make it possible to distinguish three periods in the horse breeding of Uzbekistan. The first falls in the 1920s: in these years the stud farm was taken over, a network of covering stations was established and the farm's horses were tested at regional hippodromes. In the second period, in 1941,

the sector was managed in the form of inter-republican socialist emulation, and regional departments became the lower link of the contest between two republics. In the third period, in the 1970s, the breed was officially zoned and its regional importance as a breed shared with Tajikistan was consolidated.

Conclusions and recommendations. The analysis shows that the foundation of horse breeding in Uzbekistan in the Soviet period was laid on the basis of a stud farm of the Karabair type with 50 mares received from the Turkestan Republic. The farm's horses competed with other Central Asian studs at the hippodromes of Frunze and Tashkent and proved themselves, and in 1928/29 English-Karabair crossbreds were highly rated as riding horses. The competition with Tajikistan in 1941 and the zoning of the Karabair for Tajikistan as well in 1971 confirm the regional importance of the breed. Recommendations: first, the activity of the stud farms associated with the Karabair breed should be studied separately in historical terms on the basis of primary sources; second, data from the breed's stud books should be compared with archival documents; third, the activity of the farm in 1930–1960 should be drawn into the analysis.

Foydalanilgan adabiyotlar ro'yxati

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