

Spotlight on Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development • Directorate of Agricultural Research and Training • Private Bag 13184 • Windhoek

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Gellap-Ost Research Station

BACKGROUND

The Gellap-Ost Research Station is situated \pm 20 km northwest of Keetmanshoop on the Berseba road. This farm was bought in 1938 and is one of the oldest Research Stations owned by the Government today. Gellap-Ost covers 13 734 hectares of land and is divided into 160 camps which are supplied with water from 9 boreholes and 70 km of pipeline. This Research Station is mainly responsible for the conservation and breeding of Karakul sheep, but also have Boergoats, horses and cattle.

THE KARAKUL STUDS

- The black and grey studs of Gellap-Ost are valued as two of the best studs in Namibia.
- The pipecurl stud is probable the only of its kind in southern Africa.
- The recessive white stud is the only of its kind in the world.
- Gellap-Ost also breeds brown and dominant white Karakul.
- The aim of the breeding is mainly the conservation of the Karakul gene pool and also to participate in Karakul upgrading projects in the communal areas and to supply top breeding material to the Karakul farmers.
- All the pelts are auctioned twice a year at the International Fur Centre in Copenhagen.
- Breeding stock is sold both at the Gellap-Ost auction and the annual Karakul elite auction at Keetmanshoop.



Different colours of Karakul sheep

THE GELLAP-OST KARAKUL STUD HAS BEEN THE NUMBER ONE KARAKUL STUD IN FERTILITY IN NAMIBIA FOR THE PAST FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS

WHY KARAKUL FOR THE COMMUNAL FARMER?

- It ensures a constant cash flow from the pelts and extra protein for human consumption.
- Cash is available immediately by means of pre payments.
- It relieves the pressure on degrading communal pastures as the lambs are slaughtered at day-old age.
- The pelts can be stored for a longer period.
- Wool and old animals can be sold as an additional source of income.
- Environmental effects on the main product are minimal.
- Information is available through continues courses.

THE GELLAPER

The Gellaper has been developed over a period of ten years as a response to the need for a meat breed with more adaptability and hardiness than the Dorper.

The following crossbreeding between the Damara and the Dorper was done:

- Dorper Ewe x Damara Ram = F1
 - F1 Ewes x Damara Rams = F2
 - F2 Ewes x Damara Rams = F3
 - F3 Ewes x Damara Rams = F4
 - F4 Ewes x Dorper Ram = F5
 - F5 Ewes x F2 Rams = F6
 - F6 Ewes x F6 Rams = F7
- = Gellaper**

The Gellaper combines the hardiness and good mothering ability of the Damara with the meat qualities of the Dorper. Trials are currently conducted to compare the meat qualities of the Gellaper with both the Damara and the Dorper. The preliminary results are looking very promising and the final results will be published as soon as it is available.



The Gellaper

THE BOERGOAT

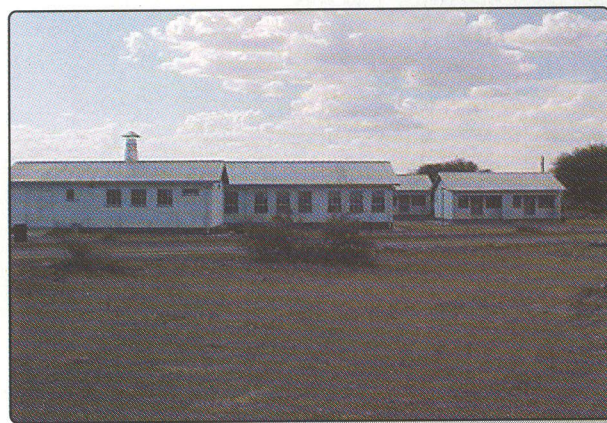


The Boergoat

The main objective of having a Boergoat flock at Gellap-Ost is to support upgrading projects in the communal areas. Many communal farmers who want to improve their flocks do not have the financial means to buy expensive stud rams. These farmers can be incorporated in the existing Boergoat upgrading projects. Discussions are currently conducted with all the role-players to start a similar scheme to that for Karakul rams where communal farmers could buy subsidize rams of good quality.

TRAINING

Gellap-Ost Research Station has a training centre consisting of lecture rooms, a catering division and accommodation. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, as well as other Ministries, have the advantage to use these outstanding facilities. Every year Gellap-Ost presents about seven Karakul lamb description courses for communal and commercial farmers. Boergoat judging courses, rabbit farming, farm management courses, and many more, have also been presented in the past. On the request of farmers, practical demonstrations are presented by officials at farmers' days. Exposure tours for farmers, school groups and tourists are also accommodated from time to time.



The training centre and accommodation