

CATTLEBREEDING

A cattle breeding is the composition of experiences associated with breeding horses, bovine animals and other domestic animals. It is one of the ancient activities dealt by Uzbeks. A cattle breeding was one of the main activities in mountainous, submontane and steppe areas of Uzbekistan. The essence of traditions and ceremonies, associated with cattle breeding and goals, pursued by them, were always the same — they were aimed at breeding animals, protecting them from various diseases, predators and thieves, preventing their loss, etc.

Before Uzbek people used two calendars. As such, agricultural year begun from 22nd March, while cattle-breeding year-from 16th March. Every year, before putting cattle to mountain pasture, shepherds used to make a sacrifice to “holy” protector of shepherds, Chophonota, and protector of cattle, Zangiota.

In the ceremony “Darvishona”, which is conducted by people of the mountainous and steppe areas of Uzbekistan, shepherds who will breed the cattle from spring until late autumn were appointed and the amount of money, that will be paid to them is determined. During the ceremony the amount money paid for the lost animals and the cattle’s going to the mountain and return dates were arranged.

Indeed, it was believed among cattle breeders that each animal has its own protector, to which, once a year a sacrifice needs to be made. Thus the protector of sheep was

Chophonota, of bovine cattle-Zangiota, of horse-Qambarota, of goats –Chighatoy ota.

Among Uzbeks it was considered as grievous sin to kick any type of domestic animal (be it horse or cow, be it sheep or camel). Moreover, there was a belief among the Uzbeks of Khorezm, according to which it was even prohibited to throw the camel wool under one’s legs.

Relying to his own experience cattle-raiser decides himself when to take the cattle to pasture and when to return, when to cut animal wool;

At present more than 80% of rural population of Uzbekistan is busy with domestic cattle breeding than and as a result, the population of the country satisfies the needs of the country for meat and diary products. Experience and knowledge associated with cattle breeding are being passed from generation to generation and being enriched with new knowledge.



