

THE PALMERA GOAT (VIDEO)

LA CABRA PALMERA (VIDEO)

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Palabras clave adicionales

Sistema de cría precolombino.

SUMMARY

Recent investigations have shown that within the Canary Caprine Group, the Palmera Goat is which most differs in morphological and productive aspects.

This video, shows the characteristics of the Palmera goat and the present management systems which include similar custom to those developed in the prehispanic age when goats constitute the essential basis of the native economy.

RESUMEN

Investigaciones recientes han demostrado que dentro de la Agrupación Caprina Canaria, la Cabra Palmera es la que más difiere en morfología y en aspectos productivos.

Este video, muestra las características de la cabra Palmera y los actuales sistemas de manejo que incluyen costumbres similares a las desarrolladas en tiempos prehispánicos cuando las cabras constituían la base de la economía aborígen.

La Palma is an Atlantic island

located in the Canary Archipelago. This volcanic island has a hearth form presenting a wide crater in the center so called *Caldera de Taburiente*.

Before the spanish conquest this island was inhabited by the Guanches a people of disputed origin. The Guanches were farmers of sheep, pigs and specially goats, and this activity constituted their principal richness.

These mentioned goats were the ancestors of the present Palmera Goat. Which is the most original type within the Canary Caprine Group.

The Guanches used a special management system with their goats. After the season of kidding, when the females for reposition start to feed for themselves, they were introduced into the *Caldera de Taburiente*, from where they can not go out, there they eat the rich pastures of this area until they reach the age of first mating, they were taken off by the owners and incorporated into the productive herd.

This peculiar custom using the

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closed area of *La caldera* to keep the animals in unproductive period has been strongly enclosed in the system of farming of the island until our days, when the developing of intensive farms in the island and the importation of selected animals belonging to other types of the Canary Caprine Group from other islands are finishing with the ancestral practices.

In the present video we tell the history of the animals under this special management system, using these scenes to show the morphological, productive and reproductive characteristics of the Palmera Goat in their nice and hard environment rich in autochthonous species of flora.

Also we show the traditional production of the typical smoked cheese under old and new technologies, and we also present the curiosity of the public shows of domestic animals always linked to Catholic Parties.

We have not forgotten to present the interesting scientific findings obtained recently in these goats such as their morphological definition (Capote 1989), their meat production capacity (López *et al.*, in press), their milk production capacity in quantity (Fresno *et al.*, 1991) and in quality (Fresno *et al.* 1992), their biochemical relationship with other types of the Canary Group (Casas, in press), etc.

The history is told under the sound of an original music based in folklorist rythms that transport us through the geography of the island, through the morals of the habitants, and make us feel the sun, the wind and the rain of the wonderful island of La Palma.

If you want to get a copy of this video, please write to Juan Capote Alvarez, Unidad de Producción Animal, Pastos y Forrajes, Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria. Apartado 60, La Laguna. Tenerife. Spain

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