

Dmanisi Association for Animal Production (DAAP -2004)

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Dmanisi District

Territory: 1198.8sq. km.

Population: 29 830

District centre: Dmanisi



Dmanisi district is located in the South Mountains of Georgia. It's territory is rising from east (820m) to west (1900m). A combination of mountains and rivers with good soil valleys, canyons and flood plains make large parts of **Dmanisi** district, which is suitable for agricultural activities and agro tourism. There are almost 2 000 historical monuments in the district, from which differs **Dmanisi** old city. <http://www.dmanisi.org.ge>. Here exist little volcano lakes. Here is cold winter and long warm summer.

Duration of snow: 2-4 months.

Climate: moderate-moist.

Average temperature: -10⁰ C, -2⁰ C in winter, 13⁰ C -2 3⁰C in summer.

Average annual precipitations: 650-1080mm.

Soil: forest grey and mountain black ground.

Plants

There are more than 1200 kinds of plants, which create oak, beech and other deciduous and coniferous forests. From 2000m. there are sub alpine meadows with steppe elements. Higher of 2500m there are alpine meadows. Forests and bushes cover 24 000 hectare

Animals

Fallow deer, wild boars, bears, wolves, squirrels and trout in the rivers are widely spread in the district.

Agriculture

There are 85 946 hectare of agricultural grounds in district territory. Between them ploughed fields and perennial plants- 13 042 hectare, pastures- 55 251 hectare. From them 5 884 hectare of the ploughed fields and perennial plants are in private property. 17 581 hectare of pastures are in cooperative usage. The district agriculture is represented by animal breeding and annual, perennial cultures.

Number of Livestock in Dmanisi district

Animals	2003	2004
Cattle	20853	21319
Of which milk-cows	14888	15060
Pigs	1444	1701
Sheep and goats	22805	24057

There are small and medium farmers in the district. Most of families have 2-4 cows, some 20-30 but there are farms with livestock 100-150.

The Caucasian nut-brown sort of cow was created in this district and nowadays this district is a leader in breeding of this sort. In addition, pig and sheep breeding occupy 40 % of district population. Bee breeding is one of the traditional activities in district supported by natural conditions.

Photo gallery



Problems

Unfortunately, the crisis of recent years touched the district too and Caucasian nut-brown cow lost its characteristics. The breeding activity is damaged in the district. There are not any breeding farms, which can grow different sort improving bulls. There are not stations for artificial insemination, and that's why cows are inseminated chaotically by free insemination with unknown origin low productive bulls, which are not protected from different diseases. This eventually caused the degeneration of sorts and lack of productivity. Nowadays the milking product on one cow is not more than 1000kg. AnGR bank is destroyed. It's almost impossible to identify animal sorts according to the phenotype. During the last 15 years there is nothing done for save and conservation of AnGR in the district, which stopped the following development of cow breeding and brought this field to the present catastrophic results. Dmanisi district is one of the most perspective ones for producing feeding base, which is very important for the development of animal breeding.

Partnership

Dmanisi district farmers established **Dmanisi Association for Animal Production (DAAP)** in 2004. DAAP has close collaboration with Georgian National Association for Animal production (GNAAP). Local Government and Major Deputy of Georgian Parliament support DAAP activity. Dmanisi is a base district for rehabilitation and development of Georgian AnGR.