

Table 18. Distribution of Farmers by Type of Animal Owned

<u>Type of Animal</u>	<u>None</u>		<u>1 - 5</u>		<u>6 - 10</u>		<u>More than 10</u>	
	<u>Freq.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Freq.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Freq.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Freq.</u>	<u>%</u>
Cattle	18	45	13	33	2	5	7	18
Sheep	32	80	2	5	2	5	4	10
Goats	8	20	15	38	10	25	7	18
Donkeys	15	38	24	60	1	2	0	0
Camels	32	80	8	20	0	0	0	0
Horses	37	93	3	7	0	0	0	0

Analysis shows that 55 percent (22 of 40) of the farmers owned cattle (Table 18). Of these thirteen owned five or less cattle while two owned six to ten. Seven farmers in our sample were relatively big cattle owners, owning more than ten each. The largest owner had sixty cattle. Major differences also were found among the three villages. Umm Ramad had the largest percentage of cattle owners (12 of 15 or 80%), followed by El Geifil (5 of 10 or 50%) and El Kharta (5 of 15 or 33%). In addition, most of the big cattle owners were living in Umm Ramad (5 of 7).

Two reasons can be given for the high percentage of cattle owners in Umm Ramad. First, this village has a permanent source of water, and cattle can be watered near the village year-round. Second, environmental conditions are such that food and cash crops can be grown which also serve as fodder sources. One such crop is sorghum. The clayey soils around Umm Ramad favor the cultivation of this crop. Nine of twelve cattle owners from this village plant sorghum in separate stands, and are most likely using these fields to graze their animals. These cattle owners are also probably growing groundnuts, which can be used as a source of fodder as well. The leaves and stems are used for this purpose. Given these resources, the prevalence of cattle rearing in Umm Ramad is understandable. The other two villages do not have access to the same favorable conditions, consequently, fewer cattle are maintained.

Although slightly more than half of the farmers in our sample owned some cattle, the majority owned very few. This is primarily because cattle are relatively expensive, and few farmers can afford to invest in them. This is especially true of poor farmers. Likewise, the lack of resources such as the availability of water and/or fodder can act as constraints to cattle rearing. Thus, cattle ownership is not a viable option for most farmers in this area. Fortunately, this has beneficial environmental consequences considering the susceptibility of this region to overgrazing and desert encroachment.

As for sheep, only eight farmers owned sheep (20%). Two owned one to five sheep while two others owned six to ten. Four farmers owned more than ten sheep. The largest owner had one-hundred twenty sheep.