

in the form of hides and skins that were sold locally or exported.¹³⁴

Similarly, animal husbandry was a significant component of the Jewish European agricultural settlements. It was part of the modern system of mixed farming in which the dairy industry represented the major component. By the mid-forties, the dairy industry was second to citrus in terms of value.¹³⁵ Income from livestock as a whole comprised 50 to 60 percent of the mixed European farms.¹³⁶

Table 4.6 reproduces the estimates of livestock for the years in which there was an enumeration. Perhaps the most obvious observation is the wide fluctuations in the number of sheep and goats in the 1926-1934 period and for cattle 1932-1934. No explicit explanation is offered for these fluctuations by the official or other resources used in this study. However, an inspection of the annual average of rainfall showed a clear correlation between the drop in rainfall and the drop in the number of livestock for the above years.

The case of the drop in the number of sheep from 290,900 in 1926 to 226,700 in 1928, and, from 571,300 to 367,700 in the number of goats for the same time period, corresponds to the serious drought in the southern Beersheba subdistrict¹³⁷ and to the severe drop in the annual rainfall for 1927-1928 for the whole country, which amounted to 332 millimeters as compared to the annual

¹³⁴Brown, "Agriculture," 176.

¹³⁵*Survey I*, 332.

¹³⁶*Ibid.*, 334; Gurevich, *Handbook*, 126.

¹³⁷*Survey I*, 348.