

Abstract

Agriculture was the main basis on which the economic activity of Fayoum province was based. Ptolemies and Romans cared for keeping animals that were classified into three sections; firstly, the cattle that was used in agricultural work like bulls and cows. Secondly, the animals that were used for transporting like donkeys, horses and camels. Thirdly, livestock and poultry that gave meat for eating or offering to gods, and animals that were kept for their wool or skin like calves, sheep, goats, pigs, pigeon and geese. In addition there were beekeeping and honey for sweetening food and fishing. The researcher has been motivated for studying this topic because of the economic importance of livestock and poultry in the Egyptian economy in the greaco-roman period besides other reason including:

- 1- The damage happening to agriculture because of the lack of cattle or its poor conditions was not less than the damage caused by the lack of canals and bridges or their poor conditions.
- 2- The process of transferring crops in addition to the staff and officials within the region depended on the availability of transport animals.
- 3- The settlement of large numbers of foreigners in Egypt like the Greeks Romans led to increasing the need to meat, wool and milk of animals, in addition to the importance of the livestock in the work, food, drink, and clothing of the native people.
- 4- Livestock was also an important resource of the income of the state in the Greek and Roman eras, through the taxes paid by the owners of these animals to the treasury of the state.

Fayoum territory has been chosen as a model of the study because of the availability of the original sources of papyri and ostraca in addition to the availability of livestock in that the Ptolemaic and Roman times; Moreover, it is important to speak

about the economic life. There has been no study of that territory whether in the classical sources or papyri documents that were contemporary to the period that is subjected to the study. The researcher divided the study of this topic into a preface, four chapters, conclusion and a list of the sources and references as follows:

Preface: It includes the geography of Fayoum for what is concerned with the location, the terrain, and the classic authors' points of view such as Herodotus, Diodorus of Sicily and Strabo of Lake Moeris. Afterwards, comes the administrative division of Fayoum in the greco-roman period in terms of units and administrative functions.

Chapter I: It deals with the cattle shedding light on the pasture, their locations, their area and the taxes imposed on them in Fayoum. Then come the importance of the cattle, types of their ownership, their surveys, renting, trafficking, taxes imposed on them, barns of the animals and damage of the livestock on crops. The chapter concludes with studying the robbery of animals.

Chapter II: It studies animals of Transport in terms of importance, types of ownership, declarations of ownership, and the transfer of grain, and transport fares, renting, trading, transferring grain, fares of transferring, fares of animals of transferring, the trade of animals of transport, taxes imposed on them and finally the role the animals of transport played in trade.

Chapter III: It deals with poultry for what is concerned with its importance, types of ownership, renting, trading, barns of poultry and towers of pigeon and taxes imposed on it.

Chapter IV: It studies three elements: pigs, fishing and beekeeping. The first element includes the importance of pigs, keeping them, renting them, their prices and taxes imposed on them in Fayoum territory. The second element, fishing, shows the ways exploiting fisheries in the Fayoum during Greek and Roman eras, it show also types of fish, its prices, trade and taxes

imposed on it. The third element, beekeeping and honey extraction includes possession of hives, ways of beekeeping and honey production, trade and prices of honey, and taxes imposed on beekeepers.