



World Milk Day 2020 – Raise a glass to the more natural milk – camel milk!

Description

GLOBAL COALITION FOR CAMEL MILK (Ad hoc) World Milk Day – Monday 1 June 2020 **World Milk Day 2020 – Raise a glass to the more natural milk – camel milk!**

This World Milk Day, for the first time, a global coalition of camel milk consumers, experts, and dairy producers from 35 countries will raise a virtual glass for camel milk. **This is the first-time camel milk is on the global World Milk Day agenda since the day began 20 years ago.** Sales in camel milk are growing, as interests, in this more natural, climate-friendly, and healthy dairy option – both as stand-alone milk and as an active ingredient in camel milk products.

“Give the camel a chance as the camel is the solution of the complex problems in the emerging climate change calamities”™ said Dr. Abdul Raziq, advocating camel4life.

The global camel milk products market size was valued at USD 10.2 billion in 2019.^[1] Camel milk is highly sought after for its anti-inflammatory, strong protective proteins, anti-microbial and nutritious value and works well for lactose intolerance.

“The global camel market is projected to grow at more than 10% for the next decade, so more camel milk in the future!” said Dr. Bernard Faye, veterinarian, and chair of ISOCARD, the International Society of Camelid Research and Development.

The unique health benefits of camel milk:

Camel milk works across a range of physical and behavioral issues, making it a highly effective alternative. “Parents of children with autism remain a key and growing market, as studies show the milk is safe and effective and can lead to behavioral and medical improvements,” stated Christina Adams, author of several publications on camel milk and editorial board member of the Journal of Camel Science.

“The fatty acids in camel milk are also better for human hearts as they contain more mono-unsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids than cow milk. Low in allergenic proteins, camel milk is also the best alternative to human milk and for children with severe food allergies or eczema,” said **Dr Tahereh Mohammadabadi**, Associate Professor, Khuzestan Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources University, Iran.

A growing market for camel milk

The Middle East and Africa dominate with more than 60% of the global camel livestock revenue. Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya consume the most per capita in the region. Saudi Arabia is the largest market in the world at around 33 litres per year, per capita. North America is expected to grow the fastest as consumers with diabetes switch to camel milk to better control sugar levels.

The cow dairy industry is known to be a well-organized and powerful lobby force. Until now the camel milk private sector has been mostly established in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Mauritania. But with climate change and growing consumer concerns about ethics and farming, camel herders and camel milk producers are expanding worldwide.

For the past 50 years, camels are the second-fastest growing herbivorous livestock in the world, after buffalo, and has grown annually significantly by 4.5 % in the past decade in Africa (FAO)². The Middle East and the Horn of Africa camels lead the charge, as the second-fastest growing herbivore livestock in the world after buffalo (FAO).

Regions in Africa are switching to camels even where they never were before, e.g. Uganda and Tanzania
 “There is so much tradition and long-term use across the world, but we need more scientific research on camel in general and especially on camel milk” Says Mohammed Bengoumi, Tunisia based FAO camel expert.

Facing climate change on the equator in Kenya and Australia, more commercial dairy farmers are diversifying or switching to camels as they do better in tough, drought-ridden, hot climates and browse on prickly bushes and shrubs that most farm animals avoid.

“The camel milk industry is undervalued but could rival other foreign exchange earners in Kenya. Drought and the fact that 89% of Kenya is classified as arid and semi-arid land means many are shifting from cows to camels, even in southern Kenya,” said Dr James Chomba Njanja, Vice Chair of the Kenya Camel Association.

Every year an estimated 3 million tons of camel milk is officially sold and consumed around the world. But the true production level could be double that, at around 5-6 million tons per year. A fact of note is that **70% of camel milk is consumed by the camel owners and never reaches the market.**

“The camel saved humans for generations in the desert. In arid areas and hot weather over 45C, we see cows suffer as they need 8-10 times more water than camels to produce 1 liter of milk,” said Dr. Abdul Raziq Kakar, a UAE based camel dairy specialist from Pakistan and Camels4All blogger.

Camel herding nomads who have traditionally bred camels for centuries are also benefiting from the interest in camel milk. “Supporting decentralized camel farming through innovative models is a great opportunity to reduce poverty and to better food security in some of the poorest parts of the world,” concluded Dr. Ilse Kähler-Rollefson, project coordinator of the League for Pastoral Peoples.

For all these climate friendly, natural, and immune-boosting reasons, please raise a virtual or real glass of camel milk to celebrate this World Milk Day!

#worldmilkday #enjoydairy #camelmilk

Dr. Abdul Raziq Kakar, camel dairying specialist, advocating camel4life.

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[1]<https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/camel-milk-products-market>

[2]The global milk market grew at a steady pace of 3.89% per year between 2011 and 2018 (FAO)

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