

Dagestan Hosts Sheep Beauty Queen Contest

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Ministry of Agriculture of Dagestan

Dagestan held a sheep beauty queen contest to celebrate the Muslim “Festival of Sacrifice,” known as Eid al-Adha in Arabic and Kurban Bayram in the Russian- and Turkic-speaking world.

Kurban Bayram celebrates the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son on a command from God and is considered to be one of the holiest days in the Islamic calendar. This year, it was [celebrated](#) by Muslims across Russia on Tuesday, Aug. 21.

To mark the occasion, an outdoor livestock market in central Dagestan held a contest to pick out the “queen” among Kurban Bayram sheep. Contestants were judged based on wool thickness and their owners’ creativity, among other criteria, the local administration [said](#).

“The jury faced a truly difficult task: To pick the most worthy candidate for the ‘Most

Beautiful Sheep' title out of 10 decorated and fairly good-looking sheep," the Buynaksk district said on its website.

Some of the contestants featured in photos and a promotional video were seen wearing garlands, shawls, as well as baseball caps and sunglasses.

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Islam Ismailov, the owner of the winning contestant, named "Princess Aisha," was awarded a traditional handmade dagger.

Dagestan's head of husbandry [estimates](#) some 300,000 sheep are slaughtered on Kurban Bayram every year, one-third of which are sent to Moscow, St. Petersburg and the neighboring regions.

No word was given about the ultimate fate of Princess Aisha.

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