

## **BREEDS OF CATTLE**

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### **Abstract**

**Indigenous Breed:** The classified of indigenous breeds are under three groups based on utility / purpose. 1-Milch breeds / Milk breeds, 2-Dual Purpose breeds, 3-Draught breeds  
**Milch Breeds / Milk Breeds:** The cows of this group are high milk yields and the male animals are slow or poor work animals. The examples of Indian milch breeds are shahiwal, Red Sindhi, Gir and Deoni. The milk production of milk breeds is on the average more than 1600 kg per lactation.  
**Dual Purpose Breeds:** The cows in this group breeds are average milk yielder and male animals are very useful for work. Their milk production per lactation is 500 kg to 150 kg. The example of this group is Ongole, Hariana, Kankrej, Tharparker, Krishna valley, Rathi and Goalo Mewathi.  
**Draught Breeds:** The male animals are good for work and Cows are poor milk yielder are their milk yield as an average is less than 500 kg per lactation. They are usually white in color. A pair of bullocks can haul 1000 kg. Net with an iron typed cart on a good road at walking speed of 5 to 7 km per hour and cover a distance of 30 - 40 km per day. Twice as much weight can be pulled on pneumatic rubber tube carts. The example of this group Kangayam, Umblacherry, Amritmahal, Hallikar.

## Milch Breed

### Red Sindhi

- This breed is otherwise called as Red Karachi and Sindhi.
- This breed mostly found in Karachi district of Pakistan.
- Mainly available in Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Orissa.
- Colour is red with shades varying from dark red to light, strips of white.
- Milk yield ranges from 1100- 2600 kgs.
- Widely used in crossbreeding programmes.
- Age at first calving 39-50 months and inter calving period from 425-540 days.



### Sahiwal

- Originated in Montgomery district in present Pakistan.
- Mainly found in Punjab, Haryana, U.P, Delhi, Bihar and M.P.
- • This breed otherwise known as Lola (loose skin), Lambi Bar, Montgomery, Multani, Teli.
- • The colour is reddish dun or pale red, sometimes flashed with white patches.
- • The average milk yield of this breed is between 2,725 and 3,175 kgs in lactation period of 300 days
- Age at first calving -32-36 months
- Calving interval – 15 month



## Gir

- This breed is otherwise known as Desan, Gujarati, Kathiawari, Sorthi, and Surati. Originated in Gir forests of South Kathiawar in Gujarat.
- Basic colours of skin are white with dark red or chocolate-brown patches or sometimes black or purely red.
- Horns are peculiarly curved, giving a 'half moon' appearance.
- Milk yield ranges from 1200-1800 kgs.
- Age at first calving 45-54 months, lactation period 325 days and inter calving period from 515 to 600 days.



## Deoni

- This breed otherwise known as Dongerpati, Dongari, Wannera, Waghyd, Balankya, Shevera.
- Originated in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state and adjoining part of Karnataka and western Andhra Pradesh states.
- Body colour is usually spotted black and white. Horn covered outward and backwards, dip cheet and arched ribs, strong quarters, heavy dewlaps and pendulous sheath.
- Age at first calving ranges from 894 to 1540 days with an average of 1391 days.
- Milk yield ranges from 636 to 1230 kgs with an average of 940 days.
- Caving interval averages 447 days.



## Milch and Draught breeds

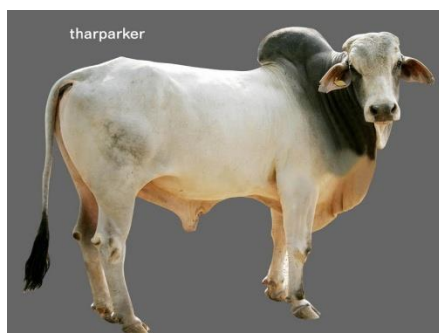
### Haryana

- It was originated from Rohtak, Hisar, Jind and Gurgaon districts of Haryana.
- Proportionate body, compact graceful appearance, head is carried high, Horns are small, curving upward and inward and stumpy. Popular colour is white or light grey.
- The bullocks are good working animals for fast ploughing and road transport.
- Haryana cows are good milkers yielding on an average 1.5 kg/cow/day in a lactation period of 300 days.
- Average milk yield is 600 to 800 kgs per lactation. The age at first calving is 40-60 months.



### Tharparkar

- Mainly found in Jodhpur, Kutch and Jaisalmer
- Milk yield – Under village condition :1660 kg
- Milk yield – Under commercial farms: 2500 kg



### Kankrej

- Mainly found in Gujarat
- Milk yield – Under village condition :1300 kg
- Milk yield– Under commercial farms : 3600 kg
- Age at first calving -36 to 42 months
- Calving interval – 15 to 16 months
- Bullocks are fast, active and strong. Good for plough and cart purpose



## Draught Breeds

### Kangayam

- This breed, in its native area, is also known by other names of Kanganad and Kongu though the name Kangayam is well-known. These cattle are bred in the southern and southeastern area of the Erode district of Tamilnadu in India.
- Mainly found in Coimbatore, Erode, Namakkal, Karur and Dindigul districts of Tamil Nadu.
- Best suited for ploughing and transport. Withstands hardy conditions.



### Amritmahal

- Mainly found in Karnataka.
- Best suitable for ploughing and transport.



### Hallikar

- Mainly found in Tumkur, Hassan and Mysore districts of Karnataka
- Bullocks are strong, well spirited, quick and steady in the field as well as on road.



## Umblacherry

**Origin:** Tanjore district in Tamilnadu.

Distinguishing characters:

- This breed has similar characters as kangayam.
- Bulls are fearely temperament. They are used for ploughing in Thanjore delta area.
- Calves are red in colour when born and become grey in colour after 6 months of age.
- Cows are poor milker with average milk yield of 300 kg/lactation.
- Male animals are good for hard work.



**Exotic Breeds:** Milch – Jersey, Holstein Friesian Jersey

**Origin:** This breed was developed from the island of jersey in the English channel off the coast of France.

Distinguishing Characters:

- The Jersey is one of the oldest dairy breeds, having been reported by authorities as being purebred for nearly six centuries
- The color in Jerseys may vary from a very light gray or mouse color to a very dark fawn or a shade that is almost black. Both the bulls and females are
- commonly darker about the hips and about the head and shoulders than on the body.
- Age at first calving : 26-30 months
- Intercalving – 13-14 months
- Milk yield – 5000-8000 kg
- Dairy milk yield is found to be 20 liter whereas cross bred jersey, cow gives 8-10 liter per day.
- In India this breed has acclimatized well especially in the hot and humid areas



## Holstein Friesian

**Origin:** This breed is originated in Holland.

**Distinguishing Characters:**

- Holsteins are large, stylish animals with color patterns of black and white or red and white.
- Holstein heifers can be bred at 15 months of age, when they weigh about 800 pounds. It is desirable to have Holstein females calve for the first time between 24 and 27 months of age.
- Milk yield - 7200-9000 kg.
- This is by far the best diary breed among exotic cattle regarding milk yield. On an average it gives 25 liter of milk per day, whereas a cross breed H.F. cow gives 10 - 15 liter per day.
- It can perform well in coastal and delta areas.



## References

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- Sastry, N.S.R. and Thomas, C.K. (1976), Farm Animal Management. Vikkas Pub. House PVT. Ltd., 181.