



## Kherigarh Cattle

*Kherigarh*, a draught breed of cattle is native of *Lakhimpur Kheri* district of Uttar Pradesh and a few animals are also available in adjoining *Pilibhit* district. The breed derives its name from a village “*Kherigarh*” situated in the Shinghai area in the Nighasan Tehsil of Lakhimpur Kheri. The breeding tract of this breed encompasses *Nighasan* and *Pallia* blocks of *Lakhimpur Kheri* District of Uttar Pradesh. True to the breed animals are available in the interior area of the breeding tract mainly around *Sharda* and *Saryu* rivers and around *Dudhwa*.

The breed is primarily employed for agricultural operation, for carrying loads and transportation. The bullocks of this breed are active and have remarkable speed and stamina. Approximate *Kherigarh* populations in the entire breeding tract is estimated to be 15,709 heads.



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वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥

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### Physical characteristics of the breed

The *Kherigarh* cattle are generally white or gray in color. Average adult body weight of *Kherigarh* cattle is 476 kg in males and 340 kg in female animals. The face is small, narrow, flat or dished face. Forehead is broad. Horns are Lyre shaped, thin, curving, outward, upward, tapering and pointed at the tip, upstanding and measure 12 to 18 inches in length in bulls; cows usually have smaller horns. The ears are small and horizontal and the eyes bright. The neck is short and looks powerful. Muzzle is black. The hump is well-developed in bulls. The dewlap is thin and pendulous and starts from right under the chin and continues right down to the brisket. The barrel is broad and deep. The sheath is short and moderately tight. Limbs are thin and straight. Hooves are small and black. The tail is long, nearly touching the ground and ending in black switch, white switch in few animals. Udder is small-sized and tightly attached to the body.

### Management practices

*Kherigarh* cattle are maintained almost on zero input system. The animals are taken for grazing in the surrounding forest area in the morning between 8-10 AM. The animals cover about 5 to 15 kms in a day for grazing. The animals return to their respective owners in the evening around 5:00 PM. No additional fodder or concentrate is provided.

### Performance parameters

A pair of bullocks can haul more than 10 quintals of load in a cart to a distance of 10-15 km without showing signs of much fatigue. The average speed is 4-5 km per hour. A pair of bullocks can plough one acre of land in a day working for 6 to 8 hours.

### Production performance

Cows are poor milkers producing only 0.5-2 kg of milk for 9-12 (10.08 ± 0.09) months. Lactation milk yield averaged 362.50±11.19 kg. Several farmers do not milk the cows and milk is suckled by the calves.

Age at first calving ranged between 36-54 (49.3±0.89) months. Service period ranged between 90-150 (129±2.5) days. Calving interval ranged between 13-15 (13.9±0.11) months. The dry period ranged between 60-120 days (105±2.93). Bulls attain maturity between 3-3.5 years and start servicing.

### Current status

The present status of *Kherigarh* cattle breed revealed that the animals of this breed must be conserved and improved on priority. This precious cattle breed will be lost if proper attention is not paid immediately.

### Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board

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