



## Bhadawari Buffalo

Bhadawari is one important breed that is well known for its high milk fat percentage. Although no distinct information is available about the origin and distribution of Bhadawari breed, but it is a pride animal of Bhaduria clan of erstwhile Bhadawar state of pre-independence India. The term Bhadawari was probably coined from the word Bhadawar, which is the home tract of this breed.

The major breeding tract of this buffalo is the Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh and the minor tract is Agra and the adjoining districts of Madhya Pradesh-Bhind and Morena. These buffaloes are found in Bah tehsil of Agra, Chakarnagar and Barhpura blocks of Etawah, Amban and Porsa tehsils of Morena and Mahangaon tehsil of Bind district.



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वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥

Uttar Pradesh  
State Biodiversity  
Board



As per 1977 census, the total Bhadawari population in India was about 160,000 with 70,000 breeding females. The 1991 survey by the State Animal Husbandry Department reported only 29000 animals (just 0.54% of total buffalo population of the state). Two Surveys conducted in 1993 and 1995 in 97 villages of breeding tract in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, revealed seven village not having any Bhadawari buffalo. Total population in 34 villages of Etawah district was 1195, in 46 villages of Agra district it was 696 whereas in 10 villages of Morena district of MP not a single Bhadawari buffalo could be traced. Pundir *et al.* 1997 estimated that the population of Bhadawari buffaloes in its breeding tract was 37,706. A recent report of IGFR, Jhansi also indicated that the total Bhadawari population in the country in between 10,000 and 15,000 animals.

### Production performance

The first lactation total milk yield in Bhadawari is  $780.0 \pm 25.4$  kg with period of calving having a significant influence. In the second lactation it was  $781.31 \pm 29.4$  kg. maximum milk yield was in the second lactation and then it remained static upto parity 4 and then gradually declined up to parity 7.

Bhadawari buffaloes are known for producing milk with high fat percentage. Pundis et al (1996) have recorded average fat percentage as  $7.14 \pm 0.44$  in farm and village animals. Lactation length in Bhadawari is reported to be  $271.8 \pm 3.98$  days. Milk yield per day in Bhadawari was recorded to be 2.76 to 3.95 kg for all lactations.

### Reproduction performance

Age at first fertile service in Bhadawari has been recorded to be  $38.64 \pm 0.48$  months. Bhadawari are reported to be seasonal breeders with maximum number of animals breeding between September and December with highest percentage in October (26%) and lowest in May (0.6%). The age at first conception is recorded to be 48.1 months. Average gestation length of Bhadawari buffaloes is reported to be  $306.9 \pm 1.75$  days.

### Conservation of Bhadawari

The steep decline in Bhadawari population in its nature tract warrants immediate intervention of Government and other agencies. A necessary step is stoppage of use of Murrah buffalo semen in the nature tract of Bhadawari. At Etawah form of Uttar Pradesh, Bhadawari animals are being maintained to produce bull calves for breeding.

### Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board

East Wing, III Floor, A-Block, PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226 010, U.P., INDIA  
Phone : +91 522 4006746, +91 2306491, E-mail: upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com  
Website: www.upsbdb.org