BUFFALO BREEDS
BUFFALOES

The Water Buffaloes in the Punjab province of Pakistan belong to the genus Bubalus bubalis. These animals thrive best in irrigated areas where they have an easy access to water and plenty of green fodder. They are commonly considered as semi-aquatic animals but if fed well and under good management, are capable of producing/reproducing satisfactorily in dry areas even with extremes of climates as well. The Pakistani buffaloes are considered to be triple purpose domestic animals (milk, meat and draught). According to Pakistan Livestock Census 1996, the total population of buffaloes is 20.3 million and their percent distribution among the provinces are as under:

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<tr>
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<th>PUNJAB</th>
<th>SINDH</th>
<th>N.W.F.P</th>
<th>BALOCHISTAN</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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The Punjab province bears mainly one breed of Buffalo called Nili Ravi, which constitutes 76.7 percent of total buffalo population in Pakistan.

Average Productive and Reproductive Parameters of Nili Ravi Breed of Buffaloes.

PARAMETERS

1. Birth Weight (kg)
   Male
   Female
   40
   39

2. Adult weight (kg)
   Male
   Female
   750 - 910
   500 - 650

3. Age at maturity (Month)
   Male
   Female
   30
   38

4. Milk Yield (Litres/305 days)
   2350 - 4000

5. Butter fat (%)
   6 - 8.5

6. Calving Interval (Month)
   15 - 18
NILI RAVI

Home Tract
The home tract of Nili Ravi breed is around the Sutlej and Ravi Valley (Sandel Bar Areas) particularly Lahore, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Okara and Sahiwal, Multan and parts of Bahawalnagar districts of the Punjab. However due to their well recognized dairy qualities, these animals are now found all over the country.

Characteristics
These buffaloes are massive, somewhat wedge-shaped animals. They are mostly black but often have white markings on their forehead, face, muzzle and lower part of legs. The tail switch is often white. Some brown animals are also seen. They possess medium well set head with small active walled eyes and curly horns. The neck is long, thin in female and thick, powerful in males. The legs are comparatively short with good bones. They have large, strong and well developed udder. The tail is well set, broad at the base and tapering at ends that goes up to fetlock or just below, it has a big tuft of hair which may touch the ground. The disqualifications include white marking extending above knee and hock, all black tail and extension of white face markings over neck and body.

Average Body Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height (cm)</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length (cm)</td>
<td>165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chest Girth (cm)</td>
<td>222</td>
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