



BREEDING POLICY FOR CATTLE & BUFFALOES - 2016

(Notified by H.P. Govt. vide letter No. AHY-F(5)-5/2012-I dated 15-06-2016)

**Himachal Pradesh Livestock & Poultry Development Board
Pashudhan Bhawan, Boileauganj, Shimla-5**

**Government of Himachal Pradesh
Animal Husbandry Department**

No. AHY-F(5)-5/2012-I

Dated: Shimla-171002

15-06-2016

Notification

The Governor of Himachal Pradesh is pleased to notify the Breeding Policy for Cattle and Buffaloes in Himachal Pradesh to promote breeding and development of cattle and buffaloes in the state.

BREEDING POLICY FOR CATTLE AND BUFFALOES-2016

1.0 Existing Cattle Breeding Policy in the State of Himachal Pradesh

The existing Cattle Breeding Policy for the state of Himachal Pradesh envisages upgrading of local hilly (Non-descript) cows with Jersey bulls and maintaining exotic inheritance level at 50% and further inter-se mating using half bred (Jersey X hilly) bull semen uniformly throughout the state. This policy was meant to ensure benefit of higher milk production potential of exotic breeds as well as disease resistance and hardiness traits of Hilly cattle to farmers of the state. This policy was in place since 2002-2003.

2.0 Outcome/Impact of existing breeding policy:

The existing breeding policy has been successful in enhancing milk production while maintaining adaptability and disease resistance in crossbred/upgraded progeny. This crossbreeding programme has increased population of crossbred cattle from 6,50,743 in the year 2003 to 9,83,928 in year 2012. The indigenous cattle population was 15,45,795 in the year 2003 and now it

has decreased to 11,65,331 in year 2012. Increasing milk production which was the major aim was achieved as the statistics depict that milk production has increased from 772.49 thousand tons in 2002-2003 to 1172.15 thousand tons in 2014-2015.

3.0 Need for review:

However, the existing breeding policy required a review due to following reasons:-

- 3.1 The earlier Policy was uniformly applied throughout the State.
- 3.2 Choice of the Farmer as to the type of breed he/she wants to rear was not available.
- 3.3 Established indigenous Breeds were not included in the earlier breeding Policy.

4.0 Objectives of the recommended breeding policy:-

- 4.1 To bring flexibility in the existing breeding policy thereby offering choice to the farmer as to which kind of breed he/she wants to rear considering his/her resources.
- 4.2 To avoid indiscriminate breeding.
- 4.3 To stop propagation of poor germplasm.
- 4.4 To increase the proportion of high yielding pure bred animals.
- 4.5 To fix the minimum production standards (Dam's yield) for breeding bulls.
- 4.6 To ensure breeding soundness of all stud bulls.
- 4.7 To identify the bulls of low genetic merit, scrub and stray bulls and keep them out of breeding programme through castration.
- 4.8 To evolve sound breeding practices with an ultimate aim of fast genetic improvement of livestock vis-a-vis increased productivity per animal to ensure better returns to the animal owners.
- 4.9 To make area specific recommendations for Cattle and Buffalo breeding.

5.0 Selection of Stud Bulls:

- 5.1** Before including any bull in the breeding programme, it would be subjected to detailed examination by a qualified veterinarian to ascertain its breed characteristics (true to breed), breeding soundness and genetic merit based on production performance in addition to the general health status.
- 5.2** All bulls will be tested for sexually transmitted diseases before using them for breeding and thereafter at regular intervals, but at least once a year.
- 5.3** No bull will be used for more than three years in a particular area to avoid inbreeding.
- 5.4** Use of progeny tested bulls will be the first choice. Since proven bulls are hard to find in the absence of elaborate progeny testing programme in the country, the bulls with high production potential will be selected on the basis of their dam's yield.
- 5.5** The minimum production standards for breeding bulls to be used for artificial insemination/ natural service of various breeds are given as below:

Breed	Dam's best lactation yield (Kg/305 days)
Jersey	3750
Holstein Friesian	5600
Red Sindhi	2500
Sahiwal	3000
Cross bred Jersey	3000
Murrah Buffalo	3000

- 5.6** If frozen semen or a breeding bull is procured from other states of the country or abroad, it will be ensured that the genetic material is at least 30% higher than the minimum standards prescribed above. Special attention will be given to the disease free status of the bull, semen, herd as well as area as per OIE guidelines.

5.7 Assistant Directors posted at Sperm Stations would be required to ensure use of only quality bulls in the breeding programme as per standards given above.

6.0 Breeding Policy for Cattle:

6.1 General: The State of Himachal Pradesh spreads from an altitude of 200 mts above mean sea level to more than 2200 meters above mean sea level. Hence, area specific recommendations regarding type of livestock to be reared is being made. However, the final choice will rest with the farmer.

6.2 Area Specific Recommendations for Cattle Breeding

Zone	Target farmers/ Cattle Breeders	Recommended breeding strategy
Zone-IV (Very High Hills) Temperate dry climate Altitude more than >2200 meters, amsl	Farmers keeping Hilly cattle in inaccessible areas.	Selective breeding among the local hilly cattle for their conservation.
	Farmers in areas connected by road.	Cross breeding with Jersey, Cross bred Jersey.
Zone-III (High Hills) Temperate Altitude 1801 to 2200 meters, amsl	Farmers who want to keep hilly cattle by choice.	Selective breeding among the local hilly cattle for their conservation.
	Farmers who want cattle of breeds other than hilly cattle.	Cross breeding with Jersey, Cross bred Jersey.
Zone-II (Mid Hills) Sub humid Altitude 801 to 1800 meters, amsl	Farmers who want to keep hilly cattle by choice.	Selective breeding among the local hilly cattle for their conservation.
	Farmers who want cattle of breeds other than hilly cattle.	Cross breeding with Jersey/ Red Sindhi/Sahiwal breeds or Cross Bred Jersey depending upon the choice of farmer.
Zone-I (Low Hills) Sub tropical Altitude 200 to 800 meters, amsl	For all farmers of this Zone.	Cross breeding with Jersey or Holstein Friesian or Red Sindhi or Sahiwal breeds or Cross Bred Jersey depending upon the choice of farmer as to which kind of breed he wants to rear.

Note:

1. Details of Areas falling under above shown Zones are at '**Annexure-1**'.
2. The above is only recommendatory in nature. The farmers can rear breed of their choice for which all kinds of semen straws available with the Department as mentioned in the recommended policy would be made available in the veterinary institutions so as to provide them to the farmer as per his/her preference.
3. All crossbred bulls used in AI programme would be 50% crossbreds of Jersey with indigenous component coming from either Sahiwal or Red Sindhi breeds.

6.3 Breeding Policy for Buffaloes :

For Buffaloes the State will continue with Murrah semen for upgradation.

7.0 Implementation:-

The Deputy Director of the concerned District/ Assistant Directors posted in Palampur, Bharmour, Pangi, Kaza, Sperm Stations and Semen Banks will ensure implementation of the breeding policy in the area of their jurisdiction.

8.0 Amendments to the Policy:-

The Policy will be subject to revision as and when deemed necessary by the Animal Husbandry Department.

By Order

Secretary (AH) to the
Himachal Govt. of Pradesh

Annexure-1

DETAILS OF AREAS FALLING UNDER VARIOUS AGRO CLIMATIC ZONES

Zone	Climate altitude (mts, amsl)	Region	Areas of the Districts falling under various Zones.
Zone-IV	Temperate dry >2200	Very High Hills	Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, Pangi and Bharmour Tehsils of Chamba, Bara Bhangal and Chota Bhangal of Kangra District.
Zone-III	Temperate 1801-2200	High Hills	Shimla (excluding Rampur Tehsil), Kullu (excluding Anni, Nirmand, Sainj and Banjar), Chamba (Tissa, Chamba and Dalhousie), Parts of Mandi, Kangra and Sirmour Districts.
Zone-II	Sub-humid 801-1800	Mid Hills	Palampur and Kangra Tehsil of Kangra District, Parts of Shimla, Mandi, Solan, Kullu, Chamba and Sirmour district.
Zone-I	Sub-tropical 200 -800	Low Hills	Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and parts of Sirmour, Kangra, Solan and Chamba Districts.
