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Popular Article

Breeds of Cattle in Gujarat: Important for Improvement of Socio-Economic Status

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Introduction

The livestock sector plays a significant role in the world's food system, helping to reduce poverty, provide food security, and advance agriculture. About 1.3 billion people depend on livestock for their livelihoods, food security, and nutrition, which accounts for 40% of global agricultural output. Livestock are crucial to the development of sustainable food systems. For instance, manure is a vital source of organic fertilizer, and livestock used as draught animals can boost productivity in regions with little access to mechanization. Livestock is a valuable resource for vulnerable communities. Increased incomes, altered diets, and population expansion have all led to a rise in demand, making the livestock sector one of the fastest-growing agricultural sub-sectors in middle- and low-income nations. This presents a major opportunity for smallholders, enterprises, and job creators across the entire livestock supply chain. If expansion is not properly controlled, it runs the risk of escalating difficulties with public health, environmental damage, and equity across the board.

In Gujarat, total livestock population is 26.8 million showing decrease of 0.75% over previous Livestock Census-2012 and among that 9.6 million are Cattle (showing decrease of 3.51% over previous Livestock Census-2012), which are cover 35.9% of total livestock population.



Nari cattle

- ❖ **Synonyms:** Sirohi
- ❖ **Breeding tract:** Nari cattle are native to Sirohi and Pali districts of Rajasthan, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts of Gujarat.
- ❖ **Milk Production/ lactation:** 1119 to 2223 Kg
- ❖ **Milk Fat percentage:** Average milk fat is 4.64 % (ranges from 3.1 to 8.3 %).
- ❖ **Colour:** The majority of cows have white or greyish white coats, whereas bulls typically have white, greyish white, or black coats.
- ❖ **Horn Shape & Size:** These are capable of great migration, are medium in size, and can thrive on pasture and in an open housing arrangement in all types of weather. Horns have a spirally curved shape and point forward or outward. Most often, the forehead is broad and slightly concave.
- ❖ **Weight:** Average 366 Kg in Males and 258 Kg in Females.
- ❖ **Special point:** Excellent in draught power in both plains and hilly forest areas.



Dagri cattle

- ❖ **Synonyms:** Gujarat Malvi
- ❖ **Breeding tract:** Dagri cattle are distributed in Dahod, Chhotaudepur and parts of Mahisagar, Panchmahals and Narmada district of Gujarat.
- ❖ **Age at First Parturition:** 48-60 months
- ❖ **Milk Production/ lactation:** 75-650 Kg
- ❖ **Calving Interval:** 15.8- 18.2 months
- ❖ **Milk Fat percentage:** Average milk fat of 4.08 % (range from 3 to 5.5 %).



- ❖ **Colour:** The tint of the coat is primarily white, occasionally with a touch of grey.
- ❖ **Horn Shape & Size:** Small-sized animal with a compact physique and a straight forehead. Horns can be straight with sharp points or upwards curved in the shape of a lyre.
- ❖ **Weight:** Average 224 Kg in Males and 170 Kg in Females.
- ❖ **Special point:** Less feed requirement, survives mainly on grazing, hardly stall fed.



Gir cattle

- ❖ **Synonyms:** Sorathi
- ❖ **Breeding tract:** The native tract of the breed is the area around forests of Gir including Junagadh, Bhavnagar, Rajkot and Amreli districts of Gujarat.
- ❖ **Age at First Parturition:** 38-55 months
- ❖ **Milk Production/ lactation:** 2000-2200 Kg
- ❖ **Calving Interval:** 14.47-19.73 months with average of 16.97 months.
- ❖ **Milk Fat percentage:** 4-5 %.
- ❖ **Colour:** There are three different strains of Gir cattle, and their coat colors range from reddish-brown to nearly black and white to completely red.
- ❖ **Horn Shape & Size:** Horns have an odd curvature. They begin at the base of the crown and curve downward and backward before inclining slightly upward and forward and assuming a spiral inward sweep before ending in a fine taper, giving the impression of a half-moon.
- ❖ **Weight:** Average 500-540 Kg in Males and 300-350 Kg in Females.



- ❖ **Special point:** India's best breed for milk production. The ears were long and pendulous, folded like a leaf. Their insides face forward, and their ears hang constantly.

Kankrej cattle

- ❖ **Synonyms:** Vadhiyari
- ❖ **Breeding tract:** It gets its name from the North Gujarati taluka of Kankrej. The breeding tract is located in the southern portion of the Rann of Kachchh, stretching from Ahmedabad to Disa and from Radhanpur to the southwest corner of Banaskantha District, Kankrej Taluka, and Tharparker District (now in Pakistan).
- ❖ **Age at First Parturition:** 39-56 months
- ❖ **Milk Production/ lactation:** 1700-1900 Kg.
- ❖ **Calving Interval:** 13.33-21.02 Months with avg. of 16.12 months
- ❖ **Milk Fat percentage:** 4.7-5% with avg. of 4.8%
- ❖ **Color:** Silver-gray to steel-gray or iron-gray.
- ❖ **Horn Shape & Size:** Strong, lyre-shaped horns with an upward and outward curvature. Compared to other breeds, their skin has a longer, more curved shape.
- ❖ **Weight:** Average 550-570 Kg in Males and 330-370 Kg in Females.
- ❖ **Special point:** Cattle of the heaviest breed. Large wide ears and horns in the shape of a lyre. The gait of the Kankrej is unique to the breed; it is smooth, the body moves very little, the head is kept conspicuously high, the stride is long and even, and the hind hoof is positioned far in front of the fore hoof imprint. Breeders refer to this gait as 1¼ paces ("Sawai chal").

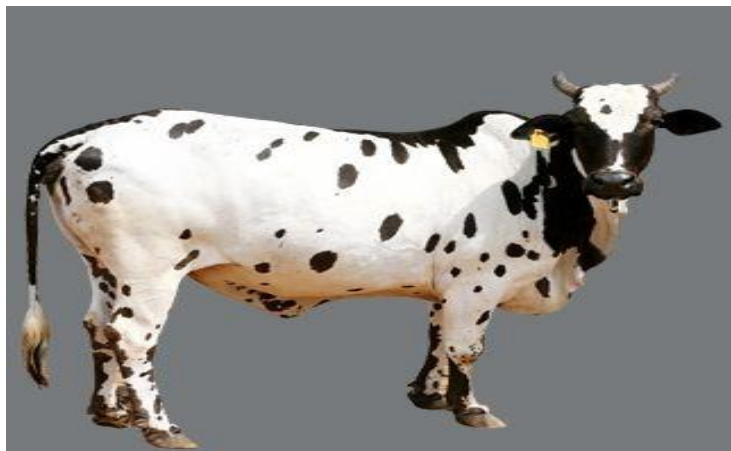


Dangi cattle

- ❖ **Synonyms:** Kanadi
- ❖ **Breeding tract:** Dang district of Gujarat and Ahmednagar and Nasik Districts of Maharashtra.



- ❖ **Age at First Parturition:** 46-56 months with average of 53 months
- ❖ **Milk Production/ lactation:** 430-600 Kg
- ❖ **Calving Interval:** 17-21 months
- ❖ **Milk Fat percentage:** 3.8-4.5 % with avg. of 4.3 %.
- ❖ **Colour:** Unevenly spaced red or black dots throughout the body of a coat of a particular shade.



- ❖ **Horn Shape & Size:** There are also a considerable number of animals having horn tips that point inward as well as downward.
- ❖ **Weight:** Average 310-330 Kg in Males and 220-250 Kg in Females.
- ❖ **Special point:** The Dangi breed is renowned for its exceptional ability to operate in dense rain, in rice fields, as well as on incline roads. Depending on the terrain, they can travel 20 to 24 miles per day while carrying heavy lumber at a speed of 2 to 3 miles per hour.

