

THE INDIAN DAIRY TRUTH REPORT

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Every effort has been made to rely on publicly available data, government sources, and documented practices available at the time of publication. For transparency, a separate *Data Sources and References Sheet* has been provided (link shared below), detailing the primary data sources, reports, and references used in this document. However, no representation is made regarding the completeness or absolute accuracy of the information contained herein. Calculations and models presented are illustrative in nature and are intended to explain system level processes rather than predict specific outcomes. This document has been prepared independently and without regard to the objectives or opinions of any specific reader. Nothing in this document should be construed as legal, medical, financial, or professional advice.

The authors recognise that data, policies, and interpretations evolve over time. Accordingly, this document may be revised and updated based on new information, improved data availability, or constructive feedback, with the intent of ensuring ongoing accuracy and clarity.

Feedback, corrections, or additional data references may be shared at vov.collab@gmail.com
Submissions will be reviewed and may be incorporated in future versions at the authors' discretion

THE INDIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY:

A SYSTEM BUILT ON REPRODUCTION, EXTRACTION, AND DISPOSAL

1 Impregnation

Cows do not produce milk unless they are pregnant. Artificial insemination is routinely used to control and maximise reproduction.



pc - Panay News

Total No. of Bovines

[Cattle, Buffaloes, Mithun and Yaks]

30.37 Crores [303.7 million]*

19% Male

81% Female

No. of Artificial Inseminations

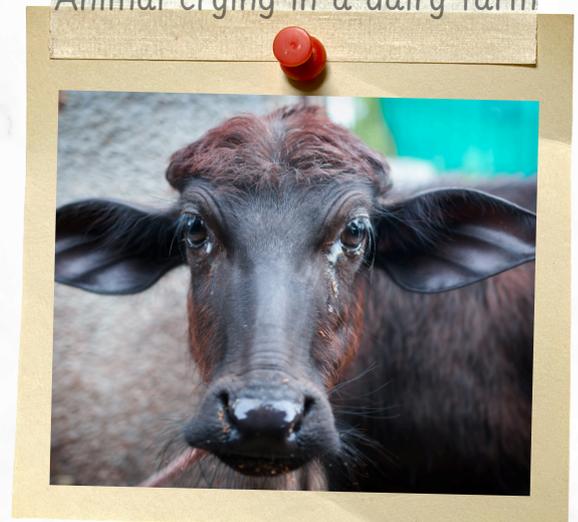
8.83 Crores [88.3 million]

Total Milk Produced

23.96 Crore Tonnes [239.6 million]

*nos. include calves, males, milk and non-milk producing bovines

Animal crying in a dairy farm



pc - fighterforanimals.com

2 Birth & Separation

Milk production begins only after a calf is born. Calves are separated early to divert milk for sale.

3 Commercial Milking

Milk meant for the calf is extracted for sale and distribution. Cows are milked daily, often for months after each pregnancy.

4 Re-impregnation

Each pregnancy results in the birth of a calf, which is required for milk production to begin. This cycle continues until milk yield declines.

5 Decline in Productivity

After multiple pregnancies, the milk output of the mother bovines reduces. They are then classified as economically unviable.

6 Disposal

Unproductive animals are sold, abandoned, or sent to slaughter. This marks the end of their role in the dairy system.

“..male calves born at the farmer’s house have become a liability.”
“Farmers often let the male calves free...”

- Animal Husbandry Report

Discarded animals transported



pc - ANI Pixels

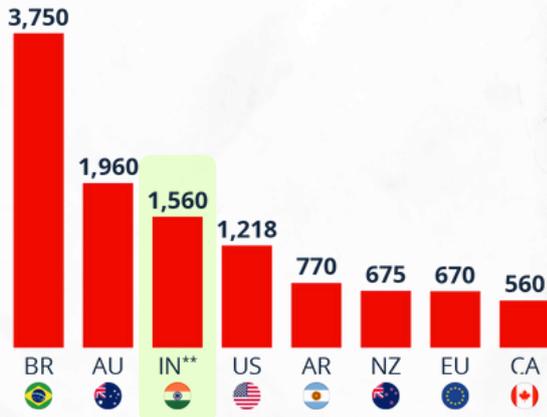
Disposal

What does it mean?

1 Beef Industry (carabeef)

The Biggest Exporters of Beef in the World

Volume of beef and veal exported in 2025, by country (in thousands of tons)*



* Forecast as of April 2025 ** Exports carabeef or buffalo meat
Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service

- ◆ India does not have a single national law banning cow slaughter; rules vary across states.
- ◆ Slaughter restrictions primarily apply to indigenous (desi) cows, not to all bovines.
- ◆ Buffaloes, crossbred cows and mithuns together make up over 53% of the bovine population and contribute more than 73% of India's milk.

Buffalo Meat Export

Quantity in kgs

125.4 Crore kgs (1254 M)

Value in INR

₹34392 Crores (343.92 B)

2024-25

"The export value of Frozen Buffalo Meat, India's single largest livestock export item, recorded healthy growth.."

- Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics

2 Leather Industry

"The industry is bestowed with an affluence of raw materials as India is endowed with 20% of world cattle & buffalo and 11% of world goat & sheep population...."

- Council for Leather Exports (CLE)

Leather Export

Raw hide and skins & Leather

Value in INR

3775.67 Lakhs

2024-25

3 Left on the streets

- ◆ Indigenous cows are largely not permitted for slaughter in many states due to religious and political factors.
- ◆ After milk production declines, many cows are abandoned on streets.
- ◆ Gaushala have limited capacity, leaving most abandoned cows unsupported.
- ◆ Stray cows often face road accidents or consume plastic waste while foraging for food.

Too Many Cows, Too Few Shelters

No. of Cow Shelters

7676

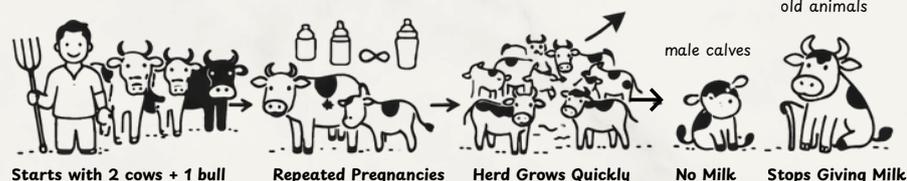
No. of Stray Cows

~ 50 Lakh (5 Million)

Dairy System: Rapid Growth, Low Productivity

We created a mathematical table to estimate the growth in the number of bovines in a typical dairy farm over a span of 20 years assuming that milk production is fostered through yearly forced pregnancies and no animals are sent to slaughter. Based on practical industry assumptions, the table shows how rapid herd growth results in a rising share of non-milk-producing bovines over time.

~ 73% non milk yielding bovines in just 10 years



*See point No. 16 of Data Sources and References Sheet

Lesser known facts

Khaal Bachha refers to a dummy calf made from the skin of a dead calf that dairy workers place near a mother cow to trick her body into continuing to produce milk after the real calf has died or been taken away. This practice exploits the cow's maternal instincts to maintain milk flow despite separation from her offspring.



pc - ANI Pixels

Buffalo Horn Export 4.77 Lakh kgs

[April - Dec 2024]

India is also an exporter of buffalo horns, which are yet another way to extract "value" from these animals



pc - ANI Pixels

All numerical information presented in this report is supported by detailed citations compiled in the accompanying [Data Sources and References sheet](#).

Videos to watch



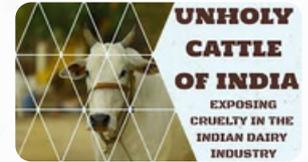
[Maa Ka Doodh Documentary \(Hindi\)](#)
[Maa Ka Doodh Documentary \(English\)](#)



[Deadly Dairy Documentary \(Hindi\)](#)
[Deadly Dairy Documentary \(English\)](#)

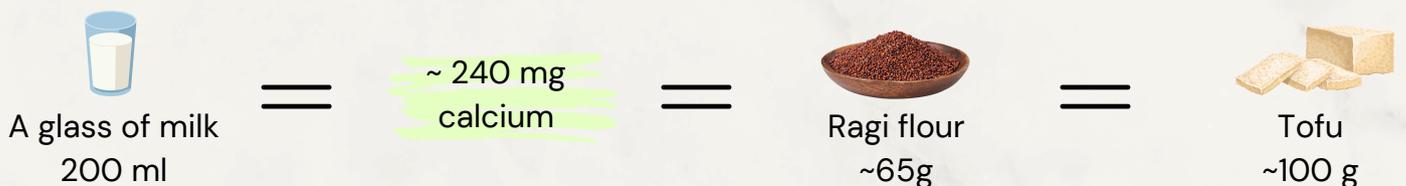


[Oxytocin Investigation](#)



[Unholy Cattle of India](#)

What about protein and calcium?



Health Disclaimer: The health and nutrition information provided in this section is for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical, dietary, or professional advice. Readers are encouraged to consult qualified health professionals for individual guidance.

Data Sources and References Sheet

The Indian Dairy Truth

Annotated References & Data Citations | Version 1 | Published on 2nd Feb 2026

Every data point presented in *The Indian Dairy Truth Report* is grounded in publicly available, credible sources, including official government statistics and well-documented public records. Below, we provide the direct lineage and source references for each claim.

1. No. of Dairy Animals - 30.376 Crores (303.76 M) (note: 20th Livestock Census 2019)

Source: [Animal Husbandry Report 2024-25](#) - Page 4

20th Livestock Consensus	Male ('000s)	Female ('000s)
Cattle Exotic	3611	47746
Cattle Indigenous	43941	98165
Buffalo	9283	100569
Yaks	26	32
Mithuns	173	214
Total	57034	246726
%	18.78%	81.22%
Grand Total	303760	

Source: [Source: 20th Livestock Census Report](#) - Page 18

2. No. of Artificial Inseminations performed during 2024-25 - 8.83 Crores (88.3 million)

Source: [Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025](#) - Page 95

3. Total Milk Production during 2024-25 - 23.964 Crores Tonnes (239.64 million tonnes)

Source: [Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025](#) - Page 23 & 24

(i.e. Total Milk Production 247.87 million tonnes minus the 3.32% of goat milk)

4. "...male calves born at farmer's house have become a liability."

"Farmers often let the male calves free..."

Source: [Animal Husbandry Report 2024-25](#) - Page 39

5. Buffaloes, Crossbred Cows, and Mithuns together make up over 53% of the bovine population.

Source: 20th Livestock Census Report - Page 13 & 14

	Total (in million)	
Bovines	303.76	%
Buffaloes + Exotic Cattle + Mithun + Yak	161.666	53.23%
Indigenous Cattle	142.106	46.78%

6. Buffaloes and crossbred cows contribute 73 % of India's milk.

(Species-wise Milk Contribution in 2024-25)

Indigenous buffaloes contribute 31.18%

Non-descript buffaloes contribute 11.97%

Crossbred cattle contribute 30.8%

Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025 - Page 24

7. India is the Third Largest Exporter of Beef in the World.

Source: Statista

8. Quantity of Buffalo Meat : 125 Crore kgs in 2024-25.

Source: Rajya Sabha - Sansad Export of Meat 2025

9. Export value of Buffalo Meat : ₹34,392.36 crore in 2024-25.

Source: Rajya Sabha - Sansad Export of Meat 2025

10. "The export value of Frozen Buffalo Meat, India's single largest livestock export item, recorded healthy growth..."

Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025 - Page 99

11. Leather Export Value in INR - 3775.67 Lakhs (Value of Export during 2024-25)

Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025 - Page 103

12. “The industry is bestowed with an affluence of raw materials as India is endowed with 20% of world cattle & buffalo and 11% of world goat & sheep population.”

Source: Council for Leather Exports (CLE) - Leather Industry, Page - 1

13. Number of Gaushalas in India: 7,676

Source: Rajya Sabha Document-2023

14. Number of stray cattle in India: ~5 Million (50,22,000)

Source: 20th Livestock Census Report - Page 19

15. Buffalo Horn Export : 4.77 Lakh kgs (April - Dec 2024)

Source: Animal Husbandry Report 2024-25 - Page 246

Row 294 - Buffalo Horn Buttons - 132990.5 kg

Row 295 - Buffalo Horn - 344042.60 kg

Total - 4,77,032 kg

16. Bovine Growth Rate Simulation Model Detailed Calculation [Link](#)

17. Nutrition Data

Nutrition-related values referenced in this document are drawn from the Indian Food Composition Tables (2017) and from publicly available nutrition labels of selected commonly available food products. These values are indicative in nature and may vary based on brand, formulation, sourcing, and preparation methods. The nutrition information is provided for general informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as medical, dietary, or professional health advice.

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The references listed are provided for informational and transparency purposes only. No representation is made regarding their completeness, accuracy, or continued validity, and inclusion of any source does not imply endorsement. Interpretations or illustrative use of data reflect the authors' understanding at the time of preparation and may be updated. This material should not be treated as professional advice.

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