

## BUFFALO MILK PRODUCTION

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The aim of the study was to draw a global picture about the buffalo milk production. The water buffalo species (*Bubalus bubalis*) has three main purposes: draught power, meat and milk production, but almost every single part of the animal is used for processing or handcraft. The two main types (swamp and river) of buffalo have a difference in the yield of milk production. A difference in the length of lactation and in the daily milk production was also found. This milk in some countries of Asia provides the most important source of protein and fat from animal.

In Italy, a dairy type Mediterranean buffalo breed was selected by larger body capacity and significantly higher milk production. The milk produced by these animals is the basis of the famous Italian buffalo mozzarella, and other premium products. The breed was already introduced in several countries of the world including Hungary. In Hungary, traditionally the Carpathian type buffalo from the Balkan countries was spread and kept in the national parks of the country as indigenous animals. Its milking is notable only on one farm at the moment.