

A NOTE ON SCINDHE BREED OF CATTLE.

BY

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THIS breed is found in large numbers in Karachi, Hyderabad (Scind) and along the valley of the Indus. Scindhe is one of the purest and most distinct of Indian breeds of cattle. It is one of the best breeds of Dairy cattle in this country which can be obtained in fairly large numbers. In its own district Scindhe is a dual purpose animal. The cow is a good milker and the bullock, although not so swift or agile in his movements, as that of certain other breeds, is a steady worker. However it is as a milch herd that the breed is known outside Karachi and it should be developed as such. The purity of the breed is largely due to the isolated nature of the district in which the cattle have been bred for centuries. The most remarkable feature of this breed is their adaptability to varying climatic conditions when removed from their natural habitat. Although, they are reared in a bare desert country, they have been found thriving well in a damp moist climate like that of Rangoon. In their native soil, they have to search diligently for their feed. Now Scindhe cattle are exported to Mesopotamia, Formosa, Burma, Baluchistan, the Northwest Frontier Province, Mauritius, Borneo, Ceylon etc. In fact no other Indian breed of cattle can adapt itself to the varying climatic conditions, as the Scindhe does. They are naturally bred to overcome hardships and appear to be immune to many contagious diseases. The Scindhe breeds true to the type showing thereby that there is no admixture of other blood.

The Scindhe is invariably red in colour with occasional white spot or markings on the under or hinder parts of the belly; some are fawn and roan in colour. The most common colour is a fine dark red. Grey or white animals are not true Scindhe cattle. The animals both male and female are of medium size and weight. In shape they are compact and symmetrical with true wedge shape in the case of cows. The head is short, the forehead broad and generally slightly protruding. The ears are large and slightly drooping and the eyes clear and well set apart. The horns vary

considerably in shape and type, but the most common form, is a short thick type. The muzzle is broad and the neck is generally short and fairly thick. The whole frame of the animal is deep and wide and is set on short legs. The chest is broad and there is the development of the loose skin on the dewlap and naval of the cow and on the sheath of the bull. Hump is of medium size, but well developed in bulls. The tail is long and fine with a long black switch. The udder of the cow is well developed, but a little fleshy and pendulous. The teats are of good size and evenly placed. Milk veins are prominent. The animals have good bone, thin skin and fine hair. They are docile and easily handled. The average yield of a cow is 2500 lb. although there are instances in which the cows have produced up to 10,000 lb. The cows can be milked without calves by weaning the latter at birth. The heifers are fit for service at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 years if properly fed and reared.

As a Dairy animal, Scindhe may be safely recommended for any part of India. As the animals are small, feeding will not cost much and they can keep their condition even on scanty rations. They should do well on West Coast.

The following records of the yields of Scindhe cows in different parts of the country will clearly indicate that the breed can readily adapt itself to altered conditions of life:—

Number of Cow.	Length of lactation. days.	Milk yield lb.	Average daily yield lb.	Remarks.
24	417	6651·7	13·3	
	221	3840·7	17·5	
	520	8243·0	15·9	
	337	4070·5	12·0	
Average ...	374	5701·4	14·6	
25	373	6767·0	18·0	
	253	4564·0	18·0	Went dry after inoculation.
	317	6139·3	19·4	
	393	6861·0	17·5	
Average ...	334	6083·0	18·2	
26	298	2119·0	7·0	
	339	3500·0	10·2	
	531	5972·0	11·2	
	368	3666·5	9·9	
Average ...	384	3814·3	9·6	
29	283	3481·0	12·3	
	339	4390·0	12·9	
Average ...	311	3935·0	12·6	
33	308	3868·0	12·6	
	306	3601·0	11·7	
Average ...	307	3734·0	12·1	
38	366	5036·0	14·0	
39	372	5307·0	14·3	
149	254	3024·5	12·0	
	296	3755·5	13·0	
Average ...	275	3390·0	12·5	

The average for the 8 cows is 4625 lb. in 340 days with a daily average of 13·4 lb.

The above figures show the milking qualities of some of the foundation stock of this breed maintained at the Hosur Cattle Farm

The average for 8 cows at the Willingdon Cattle Farm Karachi is :

First Lactation : 4426 lbs. in 334 days.

Second Lactation : 3422 lb. in 247 days.

The highest yield of one cow in the above was 5647 lb. in 373 days with an of average 15.1 and 5158 lb. in 366 days average 14.1.

The average for 8 cows at the Agricultural College, Mandalay was .

First Lactation 2718 lb. in 284 days.

Second Lactation. 2706 lb. in 289 days.

The highest yield of a cow 4126 lb. in 378 days with a daily average of 10.9 lbs.

The average milk yield of 6 cows at the Military Dairy Farm Mhow was 3967 lb. in 310 days. One cow, in 268 days gave 5263 lb. with a daily average of 19.6 and another yielded 4869 lb. in 311 days, the daily average being 15.6 lb.

The quality of the milk yielded by the breed is also high, the percentage of fat being 5 on an average.

The average weight of a cow is 700 lb. and that of a bull 900 lb. The bull is fit for service at about 3 to 3½ years. Although owing to the comparative slowness of movement of the bullock, the Scindhe may not be suitable for classification as an ideal dual purpose breed, yet, it is an example of a dual purpose type of no mean order. One can see hundreds of Scindhe bullocks engaged in the cartage traffic of Karachi simply to realise how useful the male stock is for draught purpose. They are slow, but steady in their work.

It is proposed to use the Scindhe bulls from good milking dams at Hosur on the cows of the West Coast in South Kanara and Malabar Districts in order to increase both the size of the animals and their milk yielding capacities

Bulls of this breed will be ready for issue in the middle of 1929, prices and particulars can be obtained from the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, Hosur Cattle Farm.