

# **BUFFALO POPULATION (*BUBALUS BUBALIS*) AND THEIR MANAGEMENT CHARACTERISTICS IN KOSOVO**

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## **Summary**

Nowadays native domestic animal breeds are hardly found in modern commercial management production. A high intensive breeding focuses mainly on maximize economic approach and do not take into consideration other aspects as: biodiversity, interaction between genotype and different environments, social heritage, etc. The basic aim of this study was to identify the buffalo population in Kosovo and focus on their breeding characteristics in Kosovo.

Buffalo population in Kosova belongs mainly to Mediterranean type which is spread in many countries of the Balkan Peninsula. This specie up to years 80<sup>th</sup> has had of high significance breeding value, mainly used for its products (milk and meat) and work. In the last decade the number has dropped rapidly (approximately 20 times less). Now, is considered that population size is > 400 heads, in total. Buffalo's in Kosova are characterized by black color, long and rare hair, curved horns, the average ear, shining eyes, the average developed udder. The live body weight varies from 500-700 kg per mature animal. Buffalo farmers in Kosovo consume milk and dairy products within their family, mainly. These products are rarely sold to neighbors or in local markets. For the period of about 310 days of lactation, produce approximately 700-1000 kg milk. Females enter in the first lactation < 30 months of age. Inclusion of this specie in the conservation program of endangered animals, deep study of the components of their products, the economic effects of buffalo management and overall impact in the rural development, and their importance in relation to genetic biodiversity require immediate attention of all stake holders (government, academia, farmers institutions etc.) in Kosova.

**Key words:** Biodiversity, population, interaction, breeding, genotype, environment.