

Dairy Buffalo Upgrading Research Project PRJ-004254

The Victorian Buffalo Industry Council has been approved to conduct a research project to introduce Bulgarian Murrah Buffalo to Australia with an aim to upgrade Dairy Buffalo in Australia. The project will use imported semen from Bulgaria and detect heat in buffalo cows by using a vasectomised bull, instead of drug-induced synchronization. With buffalo being shy breeders, it is hoped to achieve higher conception rates using the vasectomised bull. Both methods to be used for comparison

By upgrading the quality of milking buffalo in Australia it is hope to provide a pool of genetic material for buffalo dairy farmers in Australia. The Bulgarian Murrah Buffalo semen will be sourced from the Bulgarian Government Dairy Farms. The expertise of Dr George Malinov will be utilized to carry out the procedures in the capacity of Principal Investigator.

The participation of all individuals and associations affiliated with the Australian Buffalo Industry Council (ABIC) is welcomed.

The Murrah was selected because of its milking qualities, conformation, size and its ability to upgrade the milking quality of non-descript buffalo. Although the Bulgarian Murrah is slightly different to the Indian Murrah, they have similar qualities and look more like dairy cattle.

In Australia, because of different weather conditions, we would expect different requirements to that of India and Bulgaria. It will take a considerable number of years before a pure Murrah will be achieved, however we would expect the hybrid to improve the milking quality of dairy buffalo

