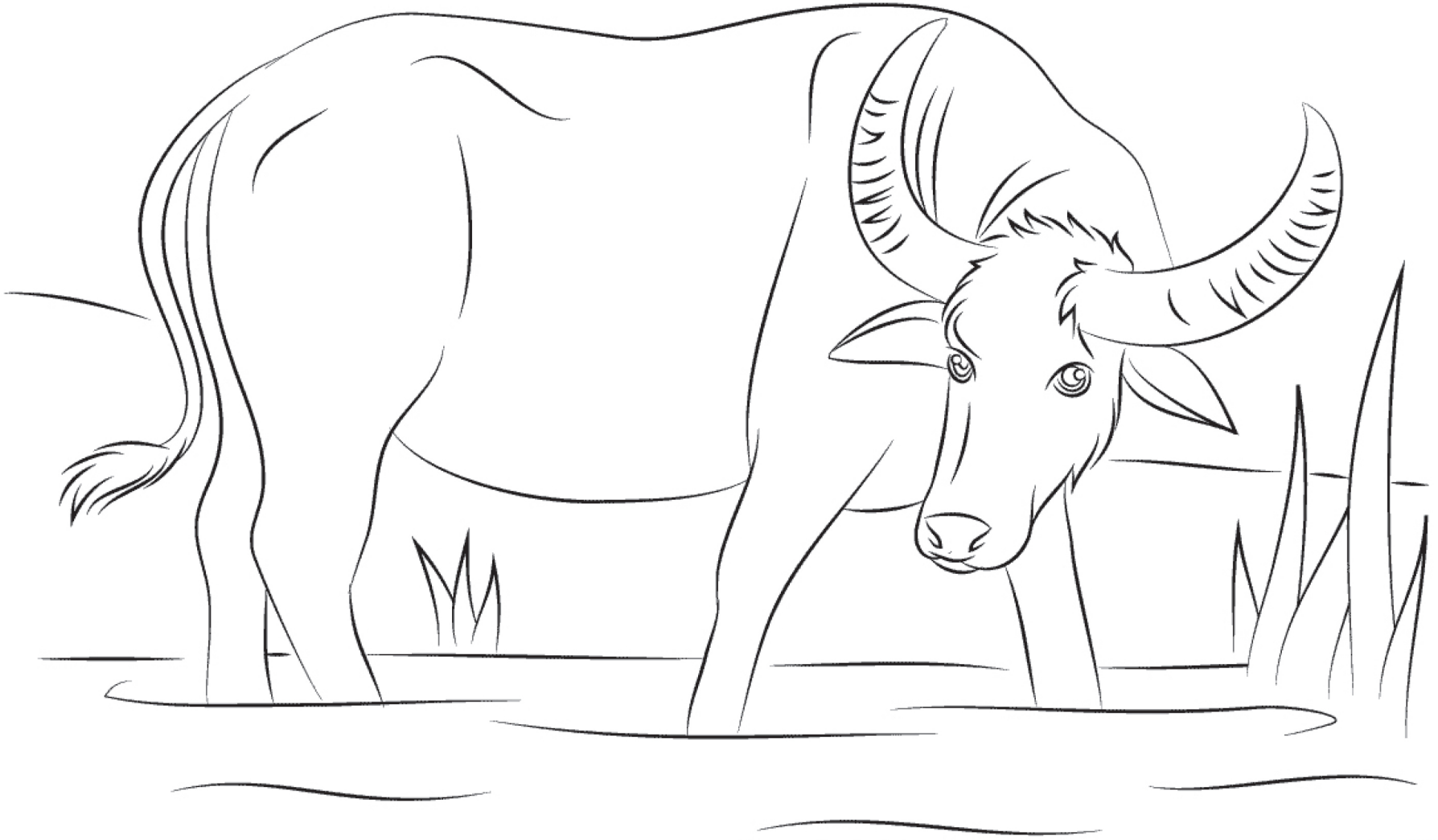
River Water Buffalo *(Bubalus arnee)*



Lazy 5 Ranch

Range: South Asia
Height: up to 6 feet tall
Weight: up to 2,600 pounds
Diet: Herbivore
Gestation: 10-11 months
Life Span: about 25 years

THE FARM AT WALNUT CREEK

Domestication of water buffalo occurred over 5,000 years ago. In Italy, water buffalo milk is used to make some of the finest mozzarella cheeses. Water buffalo have high butterfat content (8%) in their milk. Higher butterfat means more nutritional energy per cup of milk. Being a member of the bovine family, the water buffalo is a ruminant which eats grass, hay and other roughages. A ruminant has a four-compartment stomach; the animal will chew its food, swallow to begin digestion, then regurgitate that food to chew it again. When the water buffalo chews their food for the second time it is called “chewing the cud”. The most distinguishing feature of the water buffalo is the backward curving of horns on both males and females.

Fun Fact: Water buffalo can close off their nostrils and completely submerge themselves under water.