Step 7.

Open the polythene bag to start feeding 1 to 2 weeks after treatment. In cooler areas such as Nyandarua open after 3 weeks.

Cost of treatment

- Cost of treating 100-kg batch of maize stover is KES 450 (Costs as at Dec. 2007).

Benefits from urea-treated crop residues

- Animals produce more milk and grow faster
- Treated material could replace napier
- Farmer gets higher incomes
- Animals fed treated materials give high quality manure.

Animal Performance

Performance of animals fed with treated material together with calliandra, leucaena and sweet potato vines will be similar to those fed on Napier grass.

**CAUTION**

* NEVER FEED UREA TO LIVESTOCK IN ITS GRANULAR OR SOLUTION FORM. IT MAY LEAD TO POISONING OR BLOAT AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH OF ANIMALS.
**Introduction**

Crop residues such as maize stover, wheat and rice straws are abundant in the dry seasons. They are however low in protein content and are poorly digested by livestock.

Their quality can be improved by treating with ordinary urea fertilizer.

**Steps in urea treatment**

**Step 1.**

Chop maize stover using a panga or chaff-cutter.

**Step 2**

Weigh 100 Kgs of material and spread on a polythene sheet or tarpaulin.

**Step 3.**

Put 4 to 5 litres water in a watering can or garden sprayer, then weigh 400 to 500 g urea* and mix with the water (Urea readily dissolves in water).

**Step 4.**

Sprinkle the solution on the material on the ground, then mix thoroughly by hand or use a shovel.

**Step 5.**

Compact material firmly inside a polythene or plastic bag preferably the thicker gauge (1.5 to 2 m in size, tied at lower end with sisal twine).

**Step 6.**

- Repeat steps 2, 3, 4 and 5 until the polythene bag is filled up.
- Then tie the polythene to ensure it is air-tight. (1.5 to 2.0 m bag can hold about 150 to 200 kg feed material).