

Get more milk and meat

Most farmers feed their cows on local pastures but there is never enough grass. So cows produce less milk. Have you thought of planting grass and legumes to make more food for your cows? Animals will give more milk and meat when they feed from good pastures.



HOW DO WE PLANT GOOD PASTURES?

Get good grass and legume seed from Kenya Seed Company.

Use 4 kg grass seed mixed with 1 kg legume seed and 2 bags of TSP fertilizer (or 60 to 80 bags of farm yard manure) to plant 1 acre of pasture.

FERTILIZING YOUR PASTURE

Spread 1 bag of CAN 3 times in a year when there are rains (or apply 20 to 30 bags of farm yard manure).

HOW DO YOU FEED YOUR ANIMALS?

One animal will need:

- 1- 2 acres of improved pasture per year in areas receiving more than 900 mm of rainfall.
- 2 1/2 acres in areas receiving 700-900 mm.
- 5 acres in areas receiving 500-700 mm.



Pasture can be planted with wheat by mixing grass seed with fertilizer or broadcasting grass seed after planting wheat

CARING FOR YOUR PASTURES

Remove the weeds by hand or use herbicide (2-4 D Amine - 1 soda bottle in 20 litres of water to spray quarter of an acre).

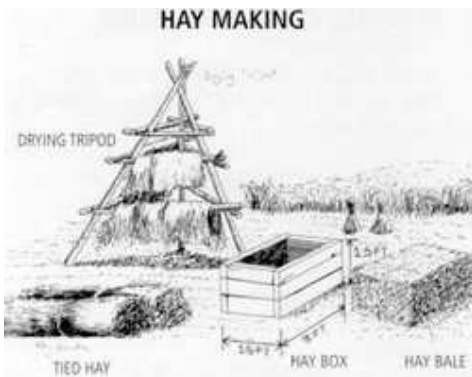
- Let grass grow for 3 to 4 months before 1st grazing.
- Graze or cut grass every 6 to 8 weeks.

PLANT WELL

Prepare a fine and firm seedbed as for finger millet.

Plant the grass in lines 1 ft apart or broadcast and then use a tree branch to cover the seed lightly with soil.

Graze animals when the grass is at the early flowering stage. Move animals from paddock to paddock. If there is a lot of grass and you wish to keep some for the dry season, cut this grass and make hay. Keep one paddock for use during the dry season: Do not graze this one but let it become standing hay, and use this for grazing during the dry season.



1 hay bale (bundle) of 12 - 15 kg and 6 kg of legumes (e.g. desmodium, stylo) is enough for a medium to large cow and 5 - 10 kg of milk per day.

BENEFITS

- More grass from a small area: 200 - 400 hay bales per acre.
- Feeds are available throughout the year.
- Milk and meat production increases
- Animals remain healthy throughout the year.

Hence, more milk, more money, and good standard of living for the family.

WHY NOT PLANT GOOD FODDER ON YOUR FARM?

Recommended pasture grasses, legumes, trees

ARID AREAS	SEMI ARID AREAS	OTHER AREAS
Rainfall 500-700 mm	Rainfall 700-900 mm	Rainfall Above 900 mm
Grasses		
Pikot Rhodes Coloured Guinea Buffel	Boma Rhodes Nasiwa Setaria Coloured Guinea	Boma Rhodes Nandi Setaria Coloured Guinea
Legumes/Trees		
Stylosanthes	Stylosanthes	Desmodium Calliandra, Sesbania

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Compiled by JN Kamau, Dr FN Muyekho and C Lusweti

KARI Headquarters Library

resource.center@kari.org

KARI Kitale PO Box 450 Kitale