Solar lights

Solar lights are good things to have on your farm. They are healthier and cheaper than kerosene, easier to use and strong. They let you check on your animals at night, without being afraid of starting a fire.

Charging a solar light for only 6 hours can give you light for 4 hours at night if you use the brightest light, or for 100 hours if you use the lowest light. Solar lights give you five times more light than kerosene lamps, this helps your eyes.

Some solar lights also let you charge your phone. The team gave Bernard and Regina two solar lanterns like the one in the pictures for their family.

For more information, SMS 'DLIGHT' to 30606

Series 2: Episode 3

Bernard & Regina's Farm - Makueni

This episode contains information on sorghum, forming groups, goat health, calf health and solar lighting

Keeping your calf healthy

The Coopers expert noticed that the calf was under sized and not well, which means it is not well fed.

Feeding your calf

On the first day, let the calf drink the first milk, **colostrum**, from its mother. Then, it should drink according to the calendar here. If you want milk for your family or to sell, feed the calf a **milk replacer** like **Trilk** after it has had the first drink from its mother. Mix 11 tablespoons of the Trilk with 1 litre of warm water. Feed the calf twice a day.

If your calf's coat is not the right colour, it is not getting the right minerals. It needs Maclik Mineral Brick, which gives it the right minerals. Your calf will also need fresh, clean water and plenty of good food once it is old enough to eat.

Deworming your calf

You must deworm your calf to keep it healthy. Deworm first when it is one month old, then every 30 days until it is 6 months old. Follow the instructions on the label. Coopers makes **Nilverm** for deworming livestock.

Deworming your calf will keep it growing strong

Calf Care Calendar

DAY 1	COLOSTRUM FROM MOTHER
Week 1 (after day 1)	4 litres of mother's milk OR 2 litres TRILK every day
Week 2	5 litres of mother's milk OR 2 litres of TRILK every day
Week 3	6 litres of mother's milk OR 4 litres of TRILK every day
Week 4 to Week 9	6-8 litres of mother's milk OR 4 litres of TRILK every day
30 days old	De worm
Week 9 to 4 months	Reduce the amount of milk or TRILK as the calf starts to eat grass or hay
From 4 months	Calf on grass and mineral only, no milk
Every 30 days until 6 months old	De worm

For more information, SMS 'CALF' to 30606

Growing sorghum for better income

In dry areas, it is best to grow crops that can stand drought and mature quickly, like Sorghum.
The experts recommend Gadam, which is ready to harvest in 3-4 months and gives 12 bags per acre.

This is almost three times more than Serena and Serendo varieties produce. Gadam also gets better prices - from 17 to 25 Shillings per kilo instead of 8 to 12 Shillings. Gadam has a good market, as the breweries buy it.

To supply the breweries, you should join a group with Smart Logistics. You can feed sorghum to your family too, and the stalks are good for the livestock.
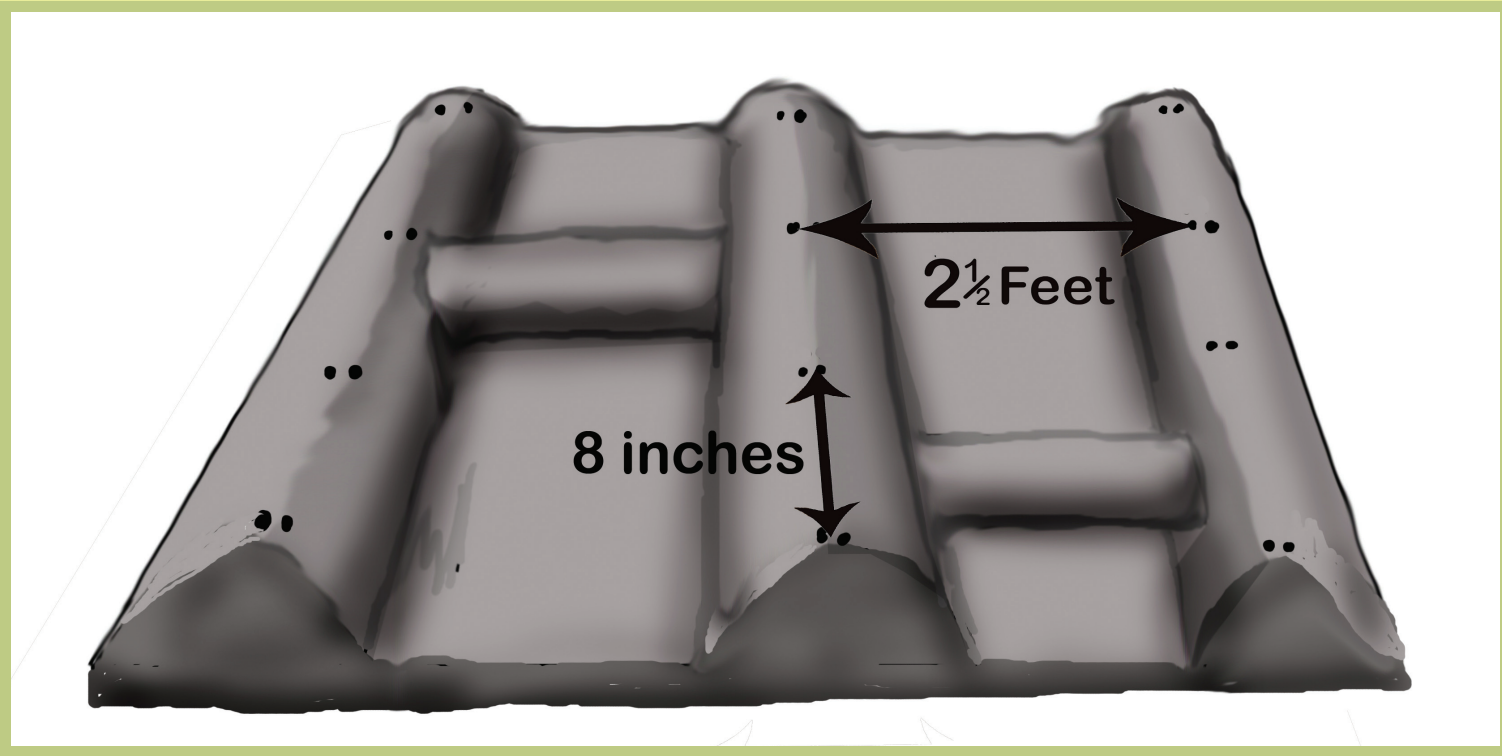
Planting sorghum

Remember to always use certified seed. You must plant sorghum correctly so it grows well. Prepare the land and plant before the rains come. First, dig rows of trenches 2 ½ feet apart. Then make ridges across the trenches with soil. These will trap any rainwater and direct it into the soil. Then mix **manure** with the soil.

Dig holes for the seeds ½ a foot apart on top of the trenches. Add a spoonful of **DAP** fertiliser to each hole, mix with the soil then add **2 sorghum seeds**. Cover with soil.

When the plants are knee high, add **NPK**. Birds may eat the sorghum before it is ready. Ask your dealer for a repellent spray.

For more information, SMS 'SORGHUM' to 30606

2½ Feet

8 inches

It is important to plant sorghum properly.

Cluster groups

If you join a cluster group you can get better prices and markets. Smart Logistics helps farmer groups to grow Gadam sorghum. Your group will sign a contract with Smart Logistics to grow sorghum. They supply certified seed and fertiliser for you to plant your crop. The cost of the seeds and fertiliser are taken off what they pay you for the sorghum.

When you harvest, they will come to collect the sorghu in any amount above 1kg. The more your group sells, the better the price. You will get a receipt and then be paid within 3 days.

Smart Logistics will get you insured, so that if the rains fail, you will still receive some money.

For more information, SMS 'GROUPS to 30606

You will get a receipt, and will be paid quickly when you join a group.

Making goats healthy

The goats were not healthy, but were well fed. The expert had a look and checked for these things:

Loose fur means they have worms.
Bad teeth mean they cannot eat well.
Bad hooves mean it is difficult to walk and find food.
Ticks will make goats sick.

Deworming goats

It is important to deworm your livestock so they grow better. Use a dewormer like Nilverm. Always dose according to the instruction on the label. You should deworm your goats before the dry season, and then every 3 months.

Trimming hooves

Goats' hooves should be trimmed in the dry season. You need a trimming knife, which you can get from an agrovet.
Hold the knife in your right hand, and the goat's hoof in the left hand. Cut the long edges of the hoof until the hoof is flat.

Feeding goats

Goats need clean water, good feed and minerals. Do not leave feed on the ground as this spreads disease. Always feed your goats from a trough. For minerals, give your goats a mineral brick like the Maclik Mineral Brick from Coopers. This is good for cows, goats and sheep, and has all the 15 minerals they need to stay healthy.

For more information, SMS 'LIVESTOCK' to 30606

Make sure your livestock has no worms by deworming every 3 months.

Trimming your goats hooves means they will be able to find more food