

Series 6, Episode 24

Hellen and Frederick's Farm, Kisii, KENYA.

This leaflet contains information on: caring for calves, soil testing, storing maize, East Coast Fever (ECF)

If undelivered, please return to The Mediae Company, PO Box 215-00502, Karen.

For more information, SMS "COW" to 30606

Caring for Calves

Build a good Cow Shed

Have a storage area for your feeds and supplements.

Put the feed in raised troughs.

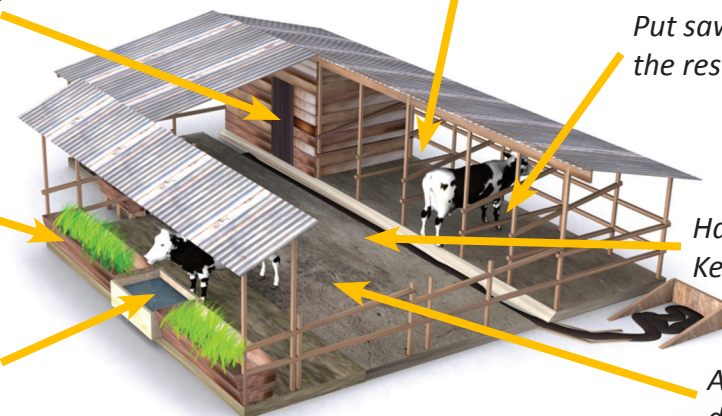
Make sure clean water is always available.

There must be good airflow through the cow shed.

Put sawdust on the floor of the resting area.

Have a concrete walk way. Keep it clean.

A sloped floor will help drainage.



Feeding Calves

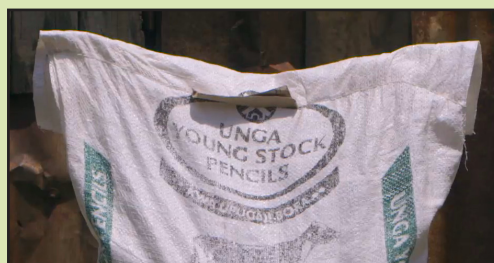
Give your calf colostrum within 3-4 hours after birth. If the calf will not suckle, milk the colostrum from the cow and feed it to the calf. Colostrum is good for the calf's immune system. It will not get sick as often.

A calf needs to drink 10% of its weight in milk. It should drink as much water as it wants.

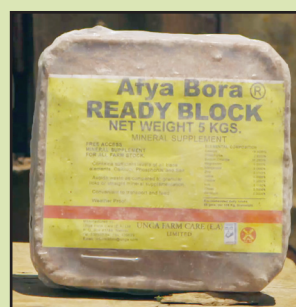
7 days after it is born, give the calf a handful of Fugo Calf Weaner Pellets. These help the stomach to get ready to digest fodder. Fodder in small pieces can be given from 2 weeks.



At 3 months when weaned, give the calf Young Stock Pencils for it to grow well. It should come on heat at 10-15 months.



Don't forget to give the calf minerals.



Soil Testing

Do a soil test every 2-4 years to find out what you need to add to your soil to make it better. You will be told which fertilisers to buy. You will not waste money on fertilisers that you do not need. A soil test can also tell you which crops will grow best in your soil.

How to take a soil sample



1. Take samples in a zig zag across your field. You need at least 10 samples from each field.



2. Use a soil auger or panga to take a sample 1ft deep.

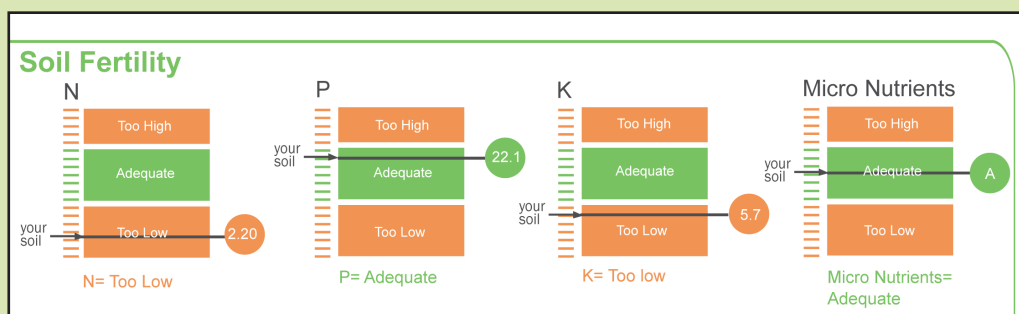


3. Put the samples from the same field in a plastic bag.

Label the bag clearly with your name, phone number, field and crop.
To find the nearest SoilCares laboratory, SMS your name & county to 20727.

Getting your soil test results

Your SoilCares test results will tell you the fertility of your soil, which means how good it is for growing crops. It will also tell you which fertilisers to use and when to use them.



These soil test results show:

- Nitrogen (N) levels are very low.
- Phosphorous (P) levels are ok as they fall into the green 'adequate' box.
- Potassium (K) levels are too low.
- Micronutrients are ok.

Improve your soil with fertilisers

Your soil test results will tell you which fertilisers to apply.

Usually you will be told to add an NPK fertiliser at planting.

This NPK fertiliser has equal parts of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.

When you top dress at 6 weeks, you may be told to use CAN or UREA.

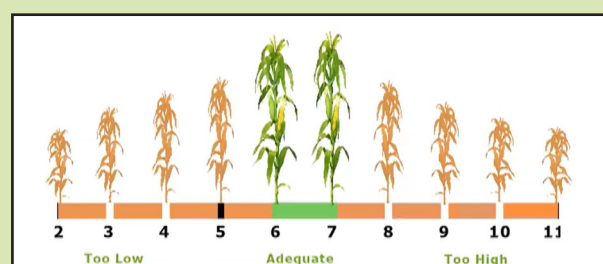
MEA makes a wide range of different fertilisers for different soils. Ask your agrovet for help.



Correcting the soil acidity

You want your pH to be between 6 and 7.

If your soil is too acidic (low pH), the crop will not be able to take up all of the nutrients that it needs. It will not grow well.



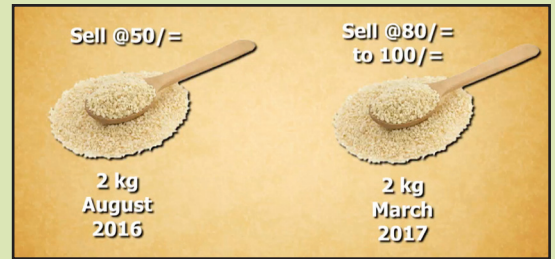
Reduce acidity by adding agricultural lime at planting.

Storing Maize

Maize prices change depending on how much there is available.

When everyone is harvesting, the prices will go down as there is a lot at the market. If you wait a few months, there will be less maize at the market so the price will go up.

If you store your maize well it can last for months, or even years.



PICS bags



A PICS bag can store your maize for up to 5 years. If there are no holes, you can use a PICS bag many times. Do not wash the bags.

A PICS bag has 2 plastic inner bags and an outer sack. When tied properly, the inner bags keep air away from your grain so pests cannot survive. You do not need to dust with chemicals. It is not good to use chemicals on food.

Each PICS bag holds 90 kg of grain.

Access PICS bags by contacting Bell Industries on **0722806861**. You can also call iShamba on **0711 082606**.

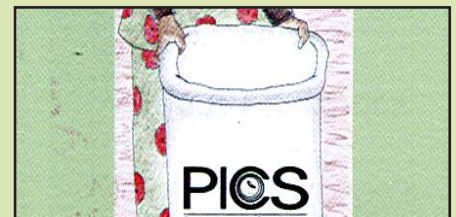
Using a PICS bag



1. Make sure your grain is dry and clean.



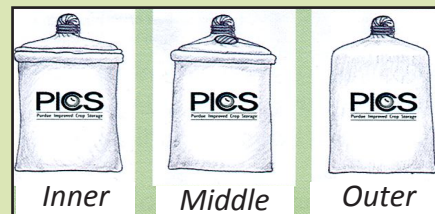
2. Check the 2 inside bags for any holes or tears. Do not use bags with holes or tears.



3. Put the 2 liner bags into the outside bag. Fold over the top.



4. Fill the inside bag with grain. Pack the bag tightly to get rid of air.



5. Twist the top of the inner bag and fold it over. Tie firmly with strong string. Repeat for the middle bag, then the outer sack last.



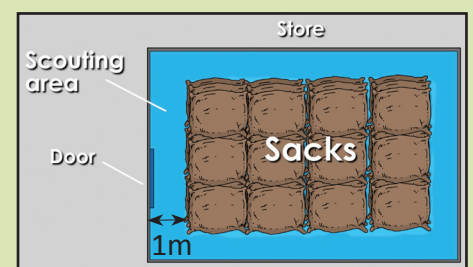
6. Store PICS bags in a cool, dark store. Stack on palettes 5 inches above the floor.

Your Maize Store

Keep your store clean and dry. Make sure there are no holes for rats to get in.

Leave 1 metre between the bags and the wall. If the bags are touching the walls or floor, your maize will go bad.

Stack sacks flat and not upright. This is so they cannot fall over.



East Coast Fever (ECF)

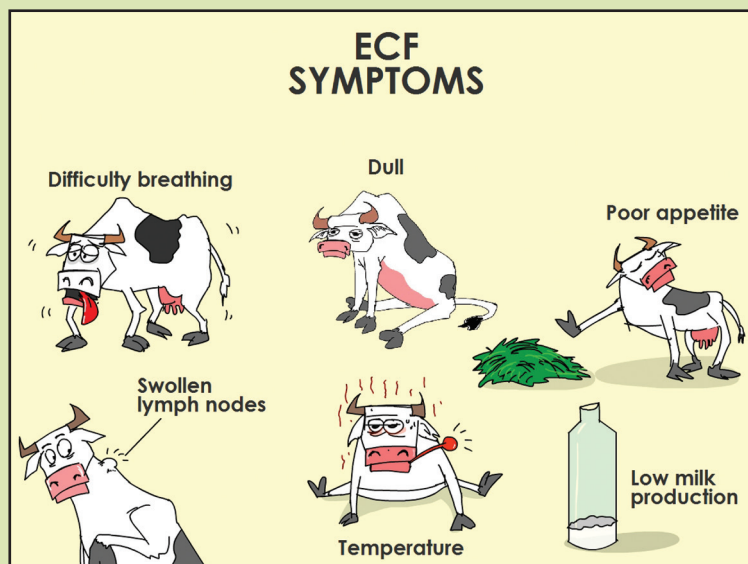
ECF is a disease carried by the Brown Ear Tick. ECF can kill cows.

ECF can be treated, but it is expensive and your cow will never give as much milk.

A vet can come to **vaccinate** your cows to stop ECF. 1 vaccine is enough for 40 cows. If you have less than 40 cows, form a group with your neighbours and vaccinate together.

Your cow needs to be vaccinated only **once** and it is protected for life.

Cows that are pregnant or sick, or calves less than 1 month cannot be vaccinated.



What happens when your cow is vaccinated?



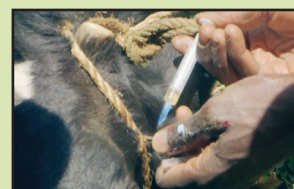
1. The cow's **temperature** is taken to check it is healthy.



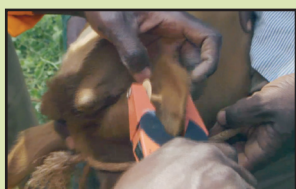
2. The cow is **weighed**.



3. The cow is given an **antibiotic**.



4. The cow is given the **ECF vaccine**.



5. Each vaccinated cow gets an **ear tag**.



6. The vaccination is **recorded**.

After your cow is vaccinated it may look sick for 3 days. This is normal.

As the cow has had antibiotics, you cannot drink the milk for 3 days after vaccination. You must still milk your cow or it will get sick. It is ok for a calf to suckle.

The ear tag will show others that your cow is vaccinated. You will get a better price at market.

Produced by Mediae



Watch us on Citizen TV on:
Saturday 1.30pm (English)
Sunday 1.30pm (Kiswahili)

For another leaflet
or more information,
SMS 30606

