

# Series 6, Episode 16

Robert's Farm, Mbale, UGANDA.

*This leaflet contains information on: ECF, dairy cows, layers, farmers groups, GeoPoll*



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

## Vaccinating Cows for ECF

*For more information, SMS "ECF" to 30606*

East Coast Fever (ECF) is a disease which kills cows. It is carried by the Brown-Eared Tick. ECF can be treated, but the cow will not be as healthy or give as much milk as before. It is much better to vaccinate your cow to prevent ECF. The cow is immune for life after 1 dose of the vaccine.

A vet will do the vaccinating. Each bottle of vaccine does 40 cows. If you have less than 40 cows, vaccinate with your neighbours. You cannot vaccinate a cow that is sick, pregnant, or younger than 1 month.

### The Vaccination Process:



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



2. The cow's weight is measured with a **weigh band**. This tells the vet how much antibiotic to give.



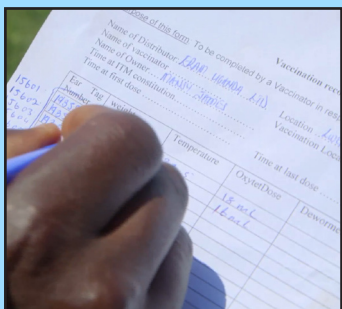
3. The **antibiotic** is injected. This helps the cow to recover from the vaccination.



4. The **ECF vaccine** is injected



5. The cow gets an **ear tag**. This says that the cow is vaccinated for ECF and gives the name of the vet.



6. The cow and its vaccination are **recorded**.

### After your cow is vaccinated

Your cow may look sick for 2 days after being vaccinated. This is normal.

Do not milk your cow for at least 4 days after it has been vaccinated.

You still need to **spray for ticks**, even after your cow is vaccinated. Ticks spread other diseases harmful to your cows.

A vaccinated cow is worth more at market. The ear tag shows everyone that your cow is vaccinated.

# Supplements for Dairy Cows

A cow needs a good diet to stay healthy. A healthy cow will give you lots of good milk. Cows need protein and mineral supplements to stay healthy, come on heat, and get pregnant.

Feed your cow a mix of fresh fodder, dry fodder (like hay) and supplements.

*Fresh fodder like Napier Grass is a good source of protein. Cut fodder into 2 inch pieces to make it easy for you cow to digest.*



## Protein

Protein is needed for building the body, milk production and producing quality milk. You will get more milk over a longer period of time.

For cows giving 5-10 litres milk per day, give 400g **KupaKula**. Give half in the morning and half in the evening.



For cows giving more than 10 litres, add 400g per day for every extra 5 litres of milk above 10 litres. So if your cow gives 20 litres of milk, give 1.2 kg KupaKula.

## Dairy Meal

This is high in **protein**. Your cow will give a lot of milk over a longer period of time.

Give 1 kg dairy meal for every 2 litres of milk over 5 litres per day. So if your cow gives 12 litres, give 3.5 kg dairy meal.

*Give your cow 1 tablespoon of **Diamond V** every day. Add it to the dairy meal. **Diamond V** helps your cow to digest and absorb all of the good food that it eats.*



## Minerals

Minerals are needed for milk production, conception, and body condition. Minerals will help your cow to stay healthy.

Give a milking cow 200g (1 full glass) of **Maclik Super** every day.



Make sure there is always clean water for your cows. Cows need clean water to make good milk.

## Does your cow get enough food?

Look at your cow. The coat should be shiny, not dull.



You should be able to see 3 ribs. If you can see more than 3 ribs, your cow is too thin and needs more food.

## Why use supplements?

They cost money. Is it worth it? YES!

- Your cow will be healthier so it does not get sick as often. Vet bills are expensive. You get less milk from a sick cow.
- You get more milk which means more money.
- Cows come on heat faster – within 60 days of calving.
- **Diamond V** helps cows use feed better and give more milk. You can sell the extra milk to pay for the supplements.

## Better your cows with AI

Use **Artificial Insemination (AI)** and choose which bull serves your cow. You can make a better dairy cow in the next generation. You will get more milk.

**Castrate** the bulls on your shamba to stop them serving your cows. Choose semen from **Coopers CRV Catalogue**. Choose your semen before your cow comes on heat.

Call a vet as soon as your cow comes on heat. There is only a short period of time when AI can be done.



## Mixing feed for Chickens

Mixing your own feeds for your chickens can save you money. However, mixing with a spade is not a good idea as you will never get a good mix.

Use a **Screw Mixer**. This makes sure that all of the ingredients are in every mouthful of feed.

When mixing your feed, you want the cheapest mix that gives your chickens what they need. Ask your livestock officer or call *iShamba* on 0711 082606 to find out how much of each feed to put in your mix. Chicks, broilers and layers need different mixes of feed.



*Screw mixer*

### A good chicken feed has all of these things:

#### Energy



*From maize, maize bran, wheat bran.*

#### Protein



**Cotton seed  
cake**

**Sunflower  
seed cake**

**Fish**

**Soya**

#### Vitamins & Minerals



#### Fats & Oils



**Nuts**

**Sunflower**

**Cotton Seed  
cake**

### Using Soya in your feed

Soya beans contain **trypsin inhibitors**. These stop protein from being digested in your chickens. Your chickens will not get enough protein from the soya beans. They may even get sick.

**Roast** soya beans to destroy the trypsin inhibitors.

It is difficult to get the right temperature when you roast at home.

If you do not roast the beans enough, the trypsin inhibitors will not be destroyed.

If you roast the beans too much, you will lose the protein that you are trying to give your chickens.

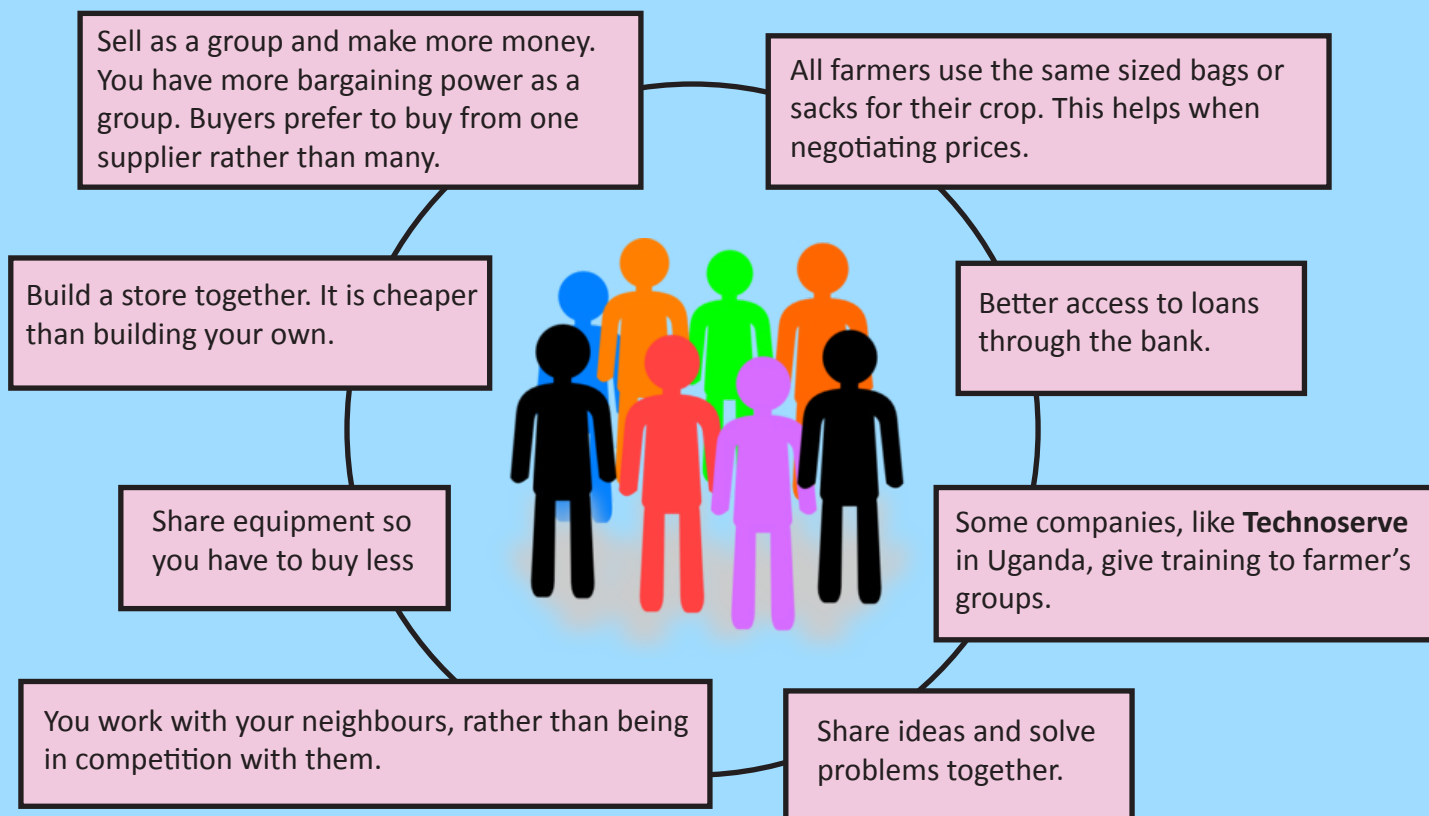
Use a **commercial roaster**. It is easy to get the right temperature.



*Get the right temperature for roasting with a commercial roaster.*

## Form a Farmer's Group

Forming a group with Farmer's nearby has lots of benefits.



When setting up a Farmer's group, you need a proper group structure. There must be:

- A **Chairman** – in charge of the group and leads meetings
- A **Vice-Chairman** – stands in when the Chairman is unavailable
- A **Treasurer** – deals with the money
- A **Secretary** – records meetings and helps with organising meetings.

## Make your voice heard with GeoPoll

GeoPoll sends survey questions to your mobile phone about many different topics. The survey results are used to understand what people do and like. You can even get free airtime for taking part! SMS "JOIN" to 70555.

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

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SMS 30606

