

# Series 4, Episode 24

Kaburu's farm, MERU



*This leaflet contains information on:  
chickens (feeding and housing),  
cows (feeding, housing and vaccines),  
sorghum and solar light.*

## KEEPING HEALTHY CHICKENS

It is important to keep your chickens in a clean and healthy place so they don't get sick and die.

### Building a Safe Chicken House

When building a house for your chickens it is important to remember these things to make sure it is safe and clean for your animals:

- It is well protected from other predators, such as other wild animals and birds.
- It has been disinfected properly to stop the spread of disease.
- The house is well away from humans and other animals.
- It has a cement floor that is easy to clean daily.
- It also has good ventilation for the chicks.
- Add a footbath to the front of the house to stop contamination.

*Make sure you treat the wood you use to build the house first; the will stop termites eating the wood and will save you money in the future.*



***Chicks need a safe and clean house to live in.***

### Feeding Your Chickens

Chickens need fresh feed every day in clean feeders, as well as clean, fresh water too. Make sure you change both regularly and wash with soapy water to stop diseases.

For the first 1 – 8 weeks of the chicks life, feed them Chick and Duck Mash from Fugo, at around 2kg per chick.



***Feed chick and duck mash for the first 8 weeks.***

Between 9 – 18 weeks, feed the young birds on Growers Mash, at around 7kg per bird.



***Introduce growers mash to the chicks slowly.***

When they reach 18 weeks, start the on Layers Compleat Meal at 3 handfuls a day



***Once the first of the eggs start to arrive, move the chickens slowly onto Layers Compleat Meal.***

***For more information, SMS 'CHICKENS' to 30606***



## GROWING AND SELLING SORGHUM

Once you have your sorghum ready for harvest, it is important to know how to keep your sorghum until it is ready to be either picked up by an agent or sold.

### Harvesting Sorghum

It is good not to leave the sorghum in the field too long once it is ready as it can be eaten by birds or will go mouldy when it rains. Once the sorghum is mouldy, it is spoiled and cannot be sold.

### Rattooning

Cutting the sorghum off at the base of the stalk is a good idea as it can mean new stalks can grow back, to give you a second harvest. This is called 'rattooning'.

These new stalks will grow back quickly as the root system is already in place. However, **don't cut the stalk more than once** as it will encourage pests and diseases in the soil.

### After Harvesting

After harvesting the sorghum, it is important to store it correctly to make sure it doesn't spoil or go off, making it unable to sell.

First, cut the stalks from the sorghum heads and use to make fodder for your animals. Dry the grains or **dry the heads on a tarpaulin or plastic**. Do not leave it on the floor to mix with stones and mud.

Then thresh and winnow the sorghum to clean it. Add the grain to a sack and call your agent to collect it. While you are waiting, make sure it is stored well.

Do not store the bags on the floor or against the walls as this will make the sorghum damp and it will go mouldy. Instead, store it on pallets that are off the ground. This will protect from damp and weevils.

To test if your sorghum is dry, place a grain in your mouth and chew, but do not swallow. If it cracks in your mouth it is dry enough and can be sold.

EABL want to buy White or Gadam sorghum from farmers, which they use to make beer.



*Using pallets means the sorghum is not stored on the floor.*

**For more information, SMS 'SORGHUM' to 30606**



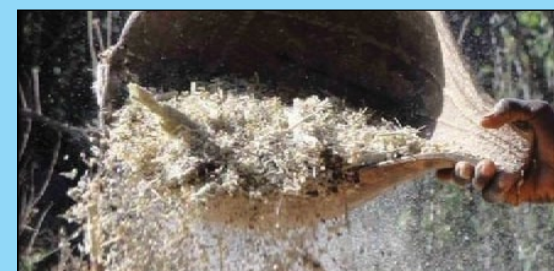
*Rain can make the sorghum go mouldy.*



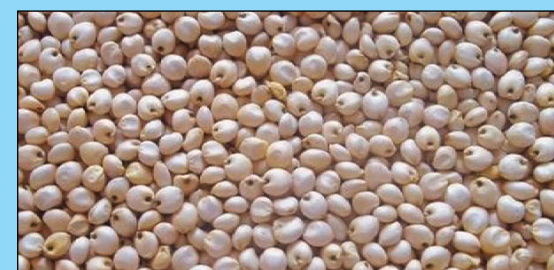
*Cutting the sorghum at the base will encourage new growth.*



*It is important to dry the grains on material so it isn't dirtied on the ground.*



*Winnow the grains to get rid of any rubbish which will make your grains poor in quality.*



*White sorghum has a strong market.*

## KEEPING COWS FOR MILK

### Feeding Your Cows

Cows must get a lot of fresh food and water in order to produce a lot of milk. You can supplement the food with good quality fodder, which must be fed in a trough.

Kupa Kula Advanced from Coopers helps lactating animals to produce more milk by giving the cow more energy and protein.

Kupa Kula Nutrition is another balanced and healthy supplement for heifers. It helps them to grow faster and bigger and to produce more milk in a shorter time after calving.

Diamond V helps the animals to digest the food you give them, such as the dry fodder, and to get all the goodness out of it.

Mix one tablespoon of Diamond V every day for every grown animal to either Fugo Dairy Meal. Only give one teaspoon for the calf.

*Make sure the troughs are in good condition and can hold the food and water, otherwise you will lose the food and supplements out of the holes.*

### Vaccinating Your Chickens Against ECF

East Coast Fever, or ECF, is a tick borne disease, spread by the brown ear tick. It can kill a cow very quickly and is very expensive to cure; between 3000ksh and 5000ksh. However, it is easier, quicker and cheaper to vaccinate the cows before they get the disease so they do not get sick.

There are many symptoms of ECF, which you must look out for:

- Swollen lymph nodes.
- Lack of eating
- Lying down
- High temperature

There are also many reasons why the ECF vaccine is a good idea:

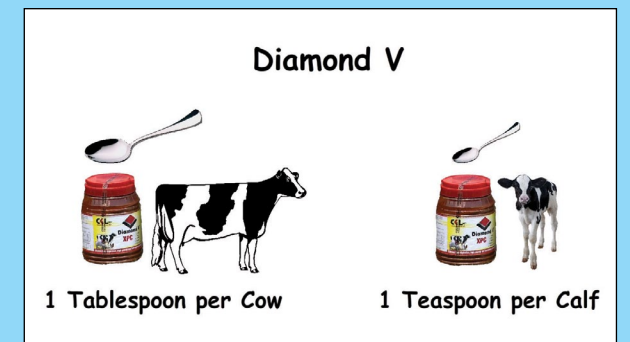
- The vaccine lasts for life
- It is an investment and can save you money in the future
- The vaccine can be used on up to 40 cows
- Another benefit is vaccinated cows can be sold for more at the market.

**For more information on cow feeds, SMS 'COW FEEDS' to 30606**

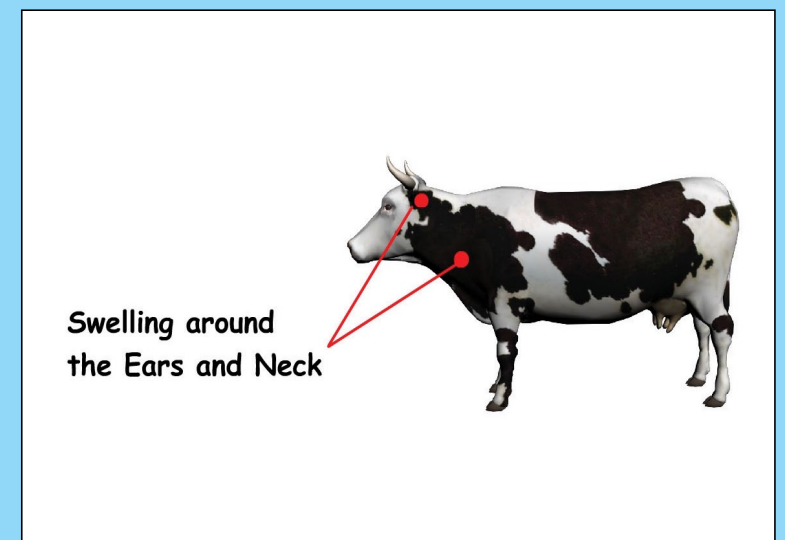
**For more information on ECF, SMS 'COW ECF' to 30606**



*Kupa Kula helps cows produce more milk. Give 6 handfuls per cow per day.*



*Diamond V helps with the cow's digestion.*



*Swollen lymphnodes is a clear symptom of ECF.*



## USING SOLAR LIGHT

Solar lights can save you time, money and keep you healthy.

d.Light makes a solar light which can give you 100 hours of light on a low setting and 4 hours of light on a very bright setting. The light can also charge your phone. It can be used as a torch or a lantern.

This will save you money from buying Kerosene and charging your phone, and will keep you healthy. Kerosene lights can make you sick, and the light is poor. Students should study using solar lights instead of Kerosene to save their health and their eyesight.



**d.Light solar light is better for your wallet as solar light is free.**



**The solar light can even charge your mobile phone.**

**For more information, SMS 'SOLAR' to 30606**

**Produced by Mediae**



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+254 (0) 715831853  
info@galvmed.org



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+254 020 6978000  
ccafs@cgiar.org



+254 (20) 3675 000 +254 (703) 033 000  
info@agra.org



+254 20 4223725  
aatf@aatf-africa.org



+254 722 734 468  
pmuthangya@eucord.org



+254 020 6978000  
cip.nbo@cgiar.org



+256 41 4320556 / 4321885  
asareca@asareca.org



+254 (20) 4223633  
cip-nbo@cgiar.org



+254 (0) 722 734 468  
pmuthangya@eucord.org



+254 20-3754333/4/5/7  
ke-com@tns.com



+254 (0) 722365784  
ifad@ifad.org



+254 20 420 6000  
info@coopers.co.ke



+254 724 253 312 | +254 735 440 267  
info@mea.co.ke



+254-020-6978000  
information@unga.com



+254 20 322 8000  
syngenta.east\_africa@syngenta.com



+254 20 2301518/20  
info@kenchic.com



+243 20 210 6793 / 0703 896996  
dlightafrica@dlightdesign.com