

# Series 4, Episode 2 I

Lydia's Farm, KITUI



*This leaflet contains information on: Kenbro chickens, chicken houses, feeding chickens, harvesting and storing sorghum, harvesting water, feeding and spraying cows, and solar lights*

## Harvesting water in pans

Water pans are essential for any farm, and can save your crops if the rains fail. A water pan should be protected from the run using fodder trees, which will also give you a good source of food for your animals.

The water entering the pan should be as clean as possible. So, keep the ditches to the pan strong and planted with fodder trees or short grass to hold the soil but let the water through.

Line your pan with dam liner or strong plastic. Keep your water pan clean and fix any holes with plastic and contact glue.



*Always fix holes in your pan liner to stop water leaking out*

## Solar lights to make life easy

Solar lights are a good option to keep your house bright and reduce costs.

d.Light has a solar light which can charge your phone, and give you 100 hours of light. The light can be used as a lantern or a torch, and is safe to use with your animals at night, as it will not cause a fire.

You can buy d.Light solar lanterns from any Total Petrol Station or Sollatek distributor. The lanterns come with a 2 year warranty, and will be replaced if there is anything wrong with them.



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



## Harvesting sorghum for profit

Sorghum is a good crop to grow in semi arid areas. The plants are drought tolerant and actually stop growing if the rains fail, waiting for more rain - unlike maize, which will die. Sorghum can only be grown where the temperature stays above 10oC, and likes clay soils.

EABL is buying all the white sorghum in Kenya - if you want to supply them and get a good price and a steady contract, grow GADAM or SILA and contact their local agent.

Harvest sorghum when it is mature - do not harvest when the grains produce milk when squeezed. Cut the heads off the plants and dry the heads on a tarp to 13% moisture.

You can store the grain on the head or thresh it. Store in sacks, off the ground in a dry clean room. Mix the grains with Super Actellic at a rate of 50g per 90kg bag before storing, to prevent pests.

Do not store wet sorghum, as it will go mouldy. Nobody will buy mouldy sorghum.

*For more information, SMS ‘BREWERIES’ or ‘SORGHUM’ to 30606*

## Minerals for cows to come on heat

Cows will only come on heat if they are healthy and fed correctly. Cows need minerals and good feeds.

To make sure your lactating cows come on heat within 3 months of calving, feed each cow **MacLik Super** at a rate of 1 tablespoon per day.



## Minerals for pregnant cows

Cows can get very sick if they are pregnant and are not well fed with the correct minerals.

You need to give pregnant cows minerals to help them stay healthy and produce good calves.

Give each cow **MacLik Plus** at a rate of 2 handfuls per day until she calves.



## Spraying cows correctly

Ticks give your cows fatal diseases.

You should spray your cows every week. To spray your cow correctly, start at the tail, and work forwards, remembering to spray the udder and between the legs.

Use an acaricide like **Grenade from Coopers**. Use a sprayer for best results.

*For more information, SMS ‘COOPERS’ to 30606*



## Cow sheds for healthy cows

A cow shed should have the following things:

- A dry, self-draining floor, sloped to let the slurry drain out of the shed
- A good roof over the sleeping and eating areas
- No sharp or dangerous parts which might cut the cow
- 3 troughs - one for water, one for fodder and one for dry feeds and supplements
- A mineral brick



## Chicken breeds for dry areas

Kenbro chickens from Kenchic are good for semi arid areas as birds for meat. Sasso chickens from Kenchic are good in the same areas for laying.

You can cross the Kenbro or Sasso chickens with your local chickens to make a sturdy improved local bird. Keep one improved rooster for every 10 local hens, and remember to change your rooster often to reduce inbreeding. *For more information, SMS ‘KENCHIC’ to 30606*

## Feeding Kenbro and Sasso chickens

For the first 8 weeks, feed the chicks **Fugo Chick and Duckling Mash**. From week 8 to week 18, feed the chickens **Fugo Growers Mash**. If you want the chickens to lay, feed them **Fugo Layer Compleat Meal** from week 18. Give each bird 2 handfuls of layers meal and 2 handfuls of local feed every day.



## Brooders for chicks

To give your chicks the best start in life, make a round brooder with the following things:

- Jiko (one per 300 chicks) for the first 3 weeks. Warm chicks will move around the brooder, cold chicks will huddle in a corner or under the jiko.
- Feeder (one per 50 chicks)
- Drinker (one per 50 chicks)
- Wood shavings on the floor



## Caring for chicks

Chicks need to be fed as much chick and duck mash as they can eat. They should also be given water with **liquid paraffin or vegetable oil** for the first week to help them digest their food. Put one drop in each drinker.

When the chicks arrive, mix a packet of vitamins and glucose (which comes with the box of chicks from Kenchic) with the water in one drinker.



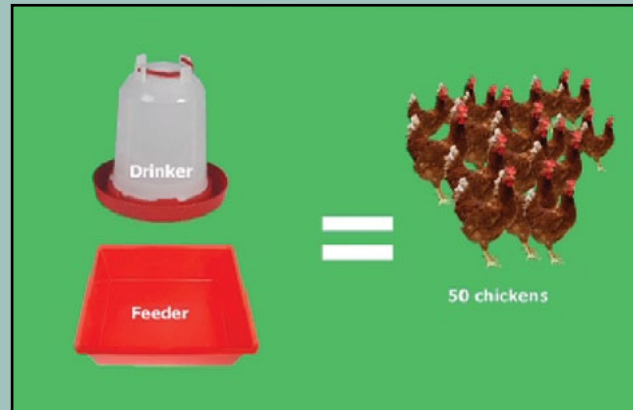


## Good chicken houses

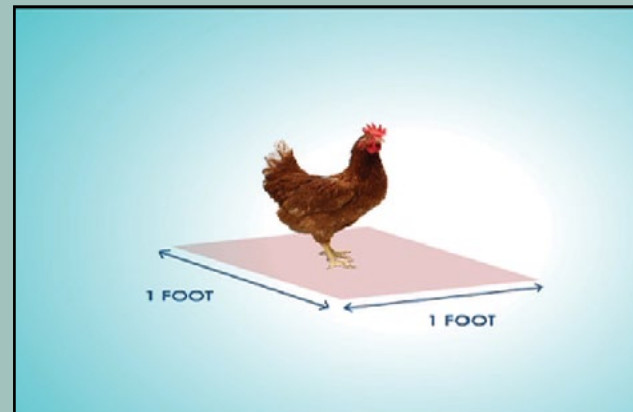
A good chicken house should be clean, dry and secure. The house needs to have good ventilation on the North and South sides, with the East and West sides closed off to stop wind. Make curtains for the open sides, and close them at night to keep the chickens warm.



The house should have one feeder and drinker for every 50 birds. This means each chicken can get enough food and water, so all the chickens will grow at the same speed.



Each chicken should have 1 square foot of space inside the house. This will stop problems of henpecking.



Remember to keep the house clean, and remove any bush growing around the house to stop rats and mice getting in. Rats and mice can give chickens fatal diseases.

*Produced by Mediae*



*Sponsors*



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Saturday 1.30 - 2.00pm (English)

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