

# Series 4, Episode 19

Joseph and Grace's Farm, Njoro, NAKURU

*This leaflet contains information on: Kenbro chickens, breeding chickens, selecting eggs, chicken houses and feeds, fodder, solar lights, soil testing and storing orange flesh sweet potato*



## Chicken houses

Chickens need a clean, dry house with good ventilation and space to be productive.

A good chicken house should be big enough for each bird to have 1 square foot of space. The birds should have good laying boxes, 1 foot by 1 foot by 1 foot, and enough boxes so that 6 chickens can share 1 laying box.

Perches should be 1" round poles, across one end of the house.

The house should have a clean dry floor - use wood shavings for the floor to soak up feces and keep the chickens warm.

For birds which range during the day, you need to put some water and some feeds in their house so they can eat at night.

Remember to have a separate house for chicks, which is **clean and dry and away from other animals and people.**

## Chicken houses

Kenchic's Kenbro chickens are a good option for farmers in dry areas. The chickens are hardy and grow quickly, and are good for meat.

You can feed Kenbro chicks on **Fugo Chick and Duck Mash** for the first **8 weeks (2 months)** - you should not mix this feed with anything else, and give the chicks as much as they want to eat.

From **8 weeks to 18 weeks (2 to 4 months)**, feed the growers on **Fugo Growers Mash**. You can give each chicken two handfuls of Growers Mash and 2 handfuls of local feed, like crushed maize, sorghum, vegetables and grasses.

If you want the birds to lay eggs, give each bird 4 handfuls of **Fugo Layers Compleat Meal** every day after 18 weeks. You can supplement with local feeds, also.

Remember to always give your chickens clean water.

**For more information, SMS 'CHICKEN FEED' to 30606**

## Breeding chickens

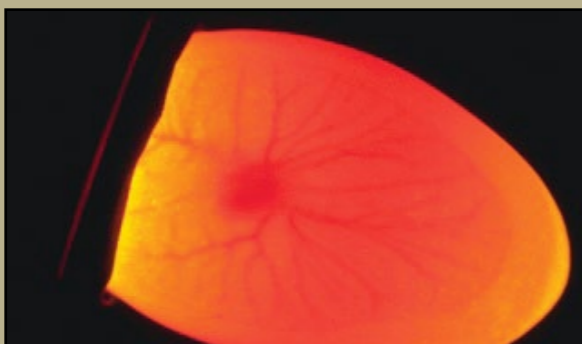
To improve your flock, you can cross chickens of different breeds. First, you must select the type of chicken you want. To breed good layers, choose a good rooster from a good laying hen. Cross with a (unrelated) good laying hen.

To get chickens for meat, cross fast growing, large roosters and hens. Remember, always have one rooster for every 8-10 hens.

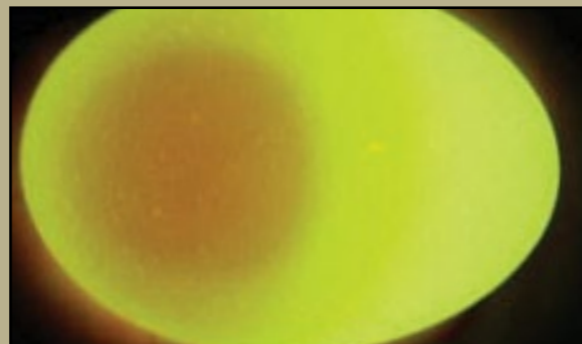
## Choosing eggs to hatch

To make your chicken business more profitable, only choose eggs to incubate that are smooth, clean, medium sized and all the same size. Big eggs might have double yolks and will not hatch. Small eggs will only hatch small chicks.

To check if your eggs are fertile, you can **candle** your eggs. To make a **candler**, stick a round piece of card with a small hole in it on to a torch. Then, place the egg over the hole and turn on the torch.



A fertilised egg looks like this



An egg which is not fertilised looks like this

For more information, SMS 'CHICKEN BREED' to 30606

## Test your soil for better profits

Putting the wrong fertiliser on your soil can damage your crops. You must also change the fertiliser you use every 2 years to keep your soil healthy.

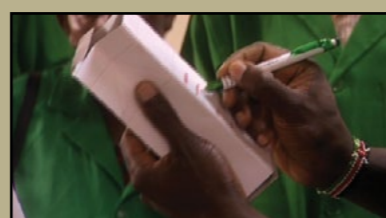
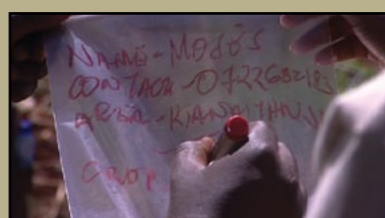
DAP and CAN make your soil acidic. In Kenya, our soils are already acidic in most places, and you can ruin your soil by applying DAP every year. You need a fertiliser to add what your soil is missing. For example, if you have low Phosphorous (which slows growth and makes your plants purple) then you need a high phosphorous planting fertiliser, like 12.46.0.

To know which fertiliser to use, do a soil test. You should do a soil test every 4-5 years. **Mea Fertilizer** makes blends of fertiliser which are good for different types of soil. Their **Mazao** range does not acidify your soil.

To take a soil test, first dig up the subsoil from 5 places around your shamba, then mix the soil samples with each other.



Put 4 handfuls in a soil sample bag or plastic bag, and label the bag with your name, address, location, phone number and the crops you want to grow.



Send the sample to:

Mea Ltd Laboratory, PO Box 1018 Nakuru, Stanley Mathenge Road. 054 2212220

For more information, SMS 'FERTILIZER' to 30606

## Orange Flesh Sweet Potato for markets

OFSP is a good crop for marginal areas, and is very nutritious for your family. You can get good yields for your crop, and good prices if you harvest at the right time. Sell medium size, healthy roots. Small roots should be eaten at home or fed to the animals. Large roots are not good quality and should be cooked.

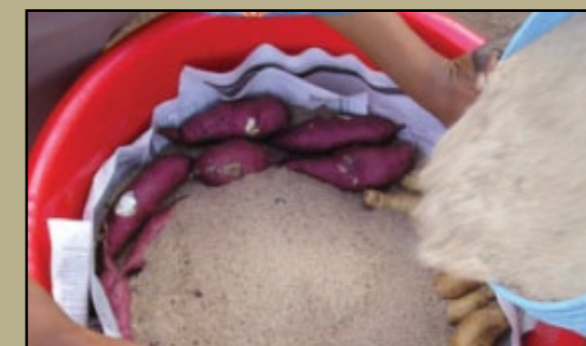
## Storing OFSP roots to plant next season

OFSP roots can be stored in the dry season to use for planting in the next rains. Use the **Sand Storage** Sprouting method to get a large number of planting vines. This means you will get a better crop.

1. Carefully select small or medium roots which are healthy and have no diseases
2. Line a **basin or bucket** with newspaper
3. Put the roots around the base of the basin
4. Cover the roots with clean dry sand
5. Put more roots on the top of the sand and cover again
6. Repeat until the basin is full, then cover the top layer with **5cm of sand**
7. Store in a dry place away from animals
8. **6-8 weeks before the rains, take out the roots**
9. Plant in rows **50cm** apart on their side
10. Cover with soil and sprinkle with water
11. Water the roots every **3-4 days**
12. Each root will make several vines
13. When the rains start, take **cuttings** from the vines which have sprouted
14. When taking cuttings, cut the **top end of the vine** to avoid pests and diseases
15. Plant the **cuttings** in your shamba on ridges 3 feet apart and water well
16. You will **harvest in 90 - 120 days**



Line a clean basin with newspaper



Layer the roots in the basin with sand, and cover the top layer. Store in a dry place.



You can get enough cuttings from 40 roots to fill one acre of land



Remember to choose healthy, clean cuttings and plant them in ridges or mounds 1 metre apart, with 30cm between the vines

For more information, SMS 'Orange Flesh Sweet Potato' to 30606



## Fodder for livestock

Different types of fodder have different nutrition types for your animals. Lucerne has protein, which will help your animals grow and produce milk.



Napier has energy, to keep your animals healthy.



To feed your animals, chop the fodder into small pieces and mix with minerals in a clean trough. Remember to mix different types of fodder together to give your animals the best diet.

## Storing fodder

Cut fodder when it is green. Dry and store the fodder in sacks or bales to keep for the dry season.

Milk prices increase in the dry season. If you can feed your animals well in the dry season, you can make a lot of money.

To store fodder well, your store should be secure, well ventilated (make walls of mesh wire), dry (with a good roof), and with enough space for you to get in and move the fodder around. Try to store the fodder off the floor. Mouldy fodder should not be fed to your animals.

You can make bales of mixed fodder, like grass, lucerne, Calliandra and Leucanea, to give your animals a balanced diet.

## Solar lights

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.

For more information, SMS 'DLIGHT' to 30606



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