



Series 3, Episode 7

Peter & Virginia's farm, NAKURU

This leaflet contains information on: livestock housing, certified seeds, planting sorghum, solar lights, and rainwater harvesting.

LIVESTOCK HOUSING

Animal Health

All animals need to be kept together in a house with their own kind. Keeping them with other animals allows diseases to spread quickly because of poor hygiene. This can kill your animals. Each animal has different needs so each house needs to be built differently.

Chicken House

The chickens need a place to roost and lay their eggs. The chicken house also needs to be well ventilated so fresh air can pass through it. You must spray disinfectant through the whole house before the chickens arrive to stop the spread of disease. Each chicken needs 1 square foot of space to live in.

Goat House

The goats need a house where they can live together, with enough space to move around. It is important for goats to be wormed every 3 months. Worms spread easily between animals, and can easily kill a small animal, so must be taken seriously.

Cow Shed

It is good to build a zero-grazing pen for your cows. This means that they have shelter and good food and water, which will help them gain weight and increase production of milk and meat. Food must include hard feed, fodder and supplements to keep your cows healthy.



The chicken house must be spacious and clean.



Each type of animal needs its own type of house to live in.



A place to put the food and fodder for cows is always very important to their health.

DROUGHT RESISTANT CROPS

Weather causes problems for farmers, rains are harder to predict and drought is a big issue that farmers have to deal with daily. Farmers must adapt to these problems and change their farming methods to make any money.

Maize is a very thirsty crop and needs a lot of water and long rains to do well. Maize is not good for dry areas. Change from maize to sorghum farming – sorghum uses much less water, and takes only 90-120 days to harvest.



Sorghum can be grown in areas where there is less rain.

Sorghum Farming

Sorghum is a strong crop, which is resistant to drought, unlike wheat or maize, which need a lot of water. It is also early maturing, which means the crop will be ready quickly and you can plant more often.

Sorghum has many uses, from human food, animal feeds, brewing and even bio-fuel! These all mean that sorghum gets a good price at market – remember to choose a good variety.

Flour, ugali, porridge, mandazi and even cakes can all be made from sorghum, so it is easy to sell.

Sorghum is also a good food for animals. The stover can be made into good, rich fodder for animals, and the seed can be added to dry cow food or feed for local chickens, A good diet for any animals is the key to good production.

Planting Sorghum

To plant sorghum, follow these steps:

- Plough and weed the soil before the rains.
- Use string to measure out where to dig furrows or trenches 50cm/2 feet apart.
- Add 10g/1 capful of DAP fertiliser and manure to the furrows, mixing with the soil.
- Sprinkle seeds in furrow and cover. Water well or wait for the rains.
- Thin the sorghum when it is knee high, and top dress.

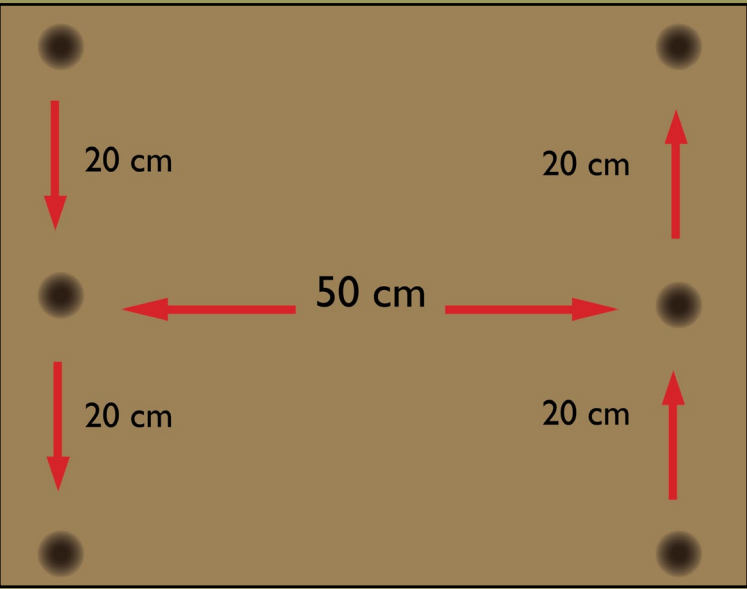


Plant the seeds correctly for a full harvest.

Bean Farming

Beans are also a good drought resistant crop to grow because they don't need a lot of water. Beans are very widely grown in Kenya and eaten by everyone.

Beans are nutritious and easy to use in cooking, so they are a popular thing to grow and eat. It is good to grow sorghum and beans together, so the beans can improve the soil for the sorghum, and the sorghum shades the beans.



Plant the bean seeds at 20cm apart for optimum results.

Planting Beans

- Level the ground and weed before panting
- Use string to mark furrows 45cm apart and in straight lines.
- Dig the furrows, and add 10g/1 capful of DAP fertiliser and farmyard manure and mix with the soil.
- Plant 2 seeds per hole, 15cm apart.
- Cover with soil and water well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SMS ‘SORGHUM’ or ‘BEANS’ TO 30606

USING CERTIFIED SEED

Many farmers have problems with their crops growing at different speeds, sizes or not at all. This is often because of the seed quality. If you saved seeds from the last harvest and the last harvest had disease, you should not plant them. Often seeds like this do not grow or get diseased quickly. Certified OPV or hybrid seeds are resistant to disease.

Seed Farms

Getting your seeds from a Seed Farm can be a great way to stop your crops from under-performing. Seeds from a Seed Farm, like Leldet in Nakuru, are always certified and are usually disease and drought resistant.

Leldet sells Chickpea, Cowpea, Groundnut and Sorghum. The seeds at the Leldet Seed Farm are grown, harvested, dried, treated and inspected by KEPHIS before packing on site. This means you know and can trust where the seeds have come from, allowing you to buy and grow more quality crops.

New certified seed might seem expensive. Leldet sell smaller seed packets and ‘Sample Packs’. This means you can test this small quantity on your farm before spending a lot of money. Also, new seed should give you a bigger harvest, so you get a better profit than using older or diseased seed.



Seed farms can sell sample packs to see if the seeds will grow well on your farm.

Protecting Seeds

Sometimes a farmer can't afford good quality seeds, and must use saved seed. You should always treat saved seed to protect it from pests and disease. You can use APRON STAR or other seed treatments to treat the seed.



Use Apron Star to protect your seeds against pests and disease.



Spread the treated seeds in the shade for 20 minutes.

How to Protect Your Seeds

- Remove any deformed or diseased seeds from your store.
- These will not germinate and will give you a poor crop.
- APRON STAR contains 3 types of chemicals:
- ACTARA – protects the seed against pests in soil.
- SCORE – protects against fusarium and other soil diseases.
- RIDOMIL – protects against damping off.
- Put the pre-measured package (20g) of APRON STAR into a clean bag or container and mix with 20ml of water.
- This much mixture can cover 4kg of seed.
- Seal the bag and shake well. Leave for 10 minutes.
- Pour the seeds onto a clean sheet in the shade for 20 minutes.
- Make sure you plant the seed within 48 hours of treating so they do not spoil.

These seeds are now protected against all types of diseases and pests that may harm its growth.

Always read the label and wear protective clothing when handling chemicals!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SMS ‘SEED’ to 30606

RAINWATER HARVESTING

Water is always a problem in Kenya, and people spend a lot of time collecting water for their farms.

To save time for the shamba, buy or make a rainwater tank to hold all the water that comes with the rains. However, a tank without a cover collects dirt, disease and dead insects. This makes the water dirty and unsafe for people and animals.

Drinking dirty water can lead to all sorts of health problems, especially in children. This is why it is a good idea to collect clean rainwater and protect it well.

Using plastic or metal guttering around your roof is a good way to catch water when it rains. The water can be stored in a tank just like the one in the episode and can be used for cooking, cleaning, drinking and even for the animals!



An uncovered storage tank means dirty water.

SOLAR LIGHTING

If you have home work or like to read, and you use a kerosene lamp, you have some problems.

Kerosene lamps are not good:

- They give out a weak light.
- They are bad for the eyes and lungs.
- They can be dangerous and start fires easily.

A solar lamp, like the one from dLight, uses the sun to charge it and has a brighter light. These lights are much better than the kerosene lamps because:

- They last for at least 4 hours when charged.
- They save money as you do not need to buy kerosene.
- They are water resistant, so you can leave them outside.
- They are good for your health.
- They are safe around children and do not start fires.



Solar lights are good for those who want to study after dark.

Produced by Mediae



Watch us on Citizen Television on

Saturday 1.30 - 2.00pm (English)

Sunday 1.30 - 2.00pm (Kiswahili)

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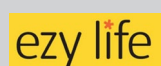
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