

PLANNING OF FODDER/FEED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DRY SEASON

Level 1

Topic	Training & information Content
1.1	Planning of fodder/feed requirements for the dry season
1.2.1	Integrated soil fertility management I
1.2.2	Integrated soil fertility management II
1.3	Use of natural resources, compost making, farmyard manure, manure storage and use
1.4	Growing maize and sorghum for fodder and estimating time of harvest and yield
1.5	Brachiaria, Panicum, & Napier (cut and carry) grass management
1.6	Growing fodder trees and use of feed
1.7	Estimating of dry matter content, feeding value and yield of various fodder crops
1.8	Guidelines for Tropical pasture management and grazing management
1.9	Scaled mechanization of forage production and pasture management (harvesting practices)
1.10	Operating farm equipment and self-propelled tractors
1.11	Mechanization of feeding management
1.12	Economics of forage and pasture production



Planning of fodder/feed requirements for the dry season **(Level 1)**

1. You will learn about (learning objectives):

- How to plan and prepare for dry season feeding



Planning of fodder/feed requirements for the dry season (Level 1)

2. Dry season: The need for feed planning

- Drought (prolonged dry season) leads to pasture and water stress
- Overstocking leads to decline in quantity and quality of pastures as well as overgrazing



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2.1 Reasons for Dry season feeding

- Milk production equals feeding enough, good quality feed
- Calves and young stock also grow if fed on balanced feed rations



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2.2 Causes of feed shortage in the dry season

- Lack of rainfall
- Poor quality of grasses and forage crops
- Little or no fodder.



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3. Dry season feeding principles

- Provide clean, fresh water at all times
- Supplement dairy cows with fodder (maize silage, hay, chopped Napier grass) because fresh forage (freshly chopped grass, grazing etc.) is no longer available
- Feed at least twice daily at 12 Hours interval.



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4. Strategies for the Dry season

1. Use “Tumbukiza” planting method
2. Irrigation/watering crops
3. Planting drought resistant grasses and fodder crops
4. Planting fodder trees
5. Making silage
6. Making hay
7. Utilizing and storing crops residues
8. Making Urea Molasses Blocks (UMB)



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4.1 Tumbukiza

- This technique is borrowed from smallholders to use their small parcels of land intensively
- At the bottom there is a heavy dose of farm yard manure



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4.2 Irrigation/Watering crops

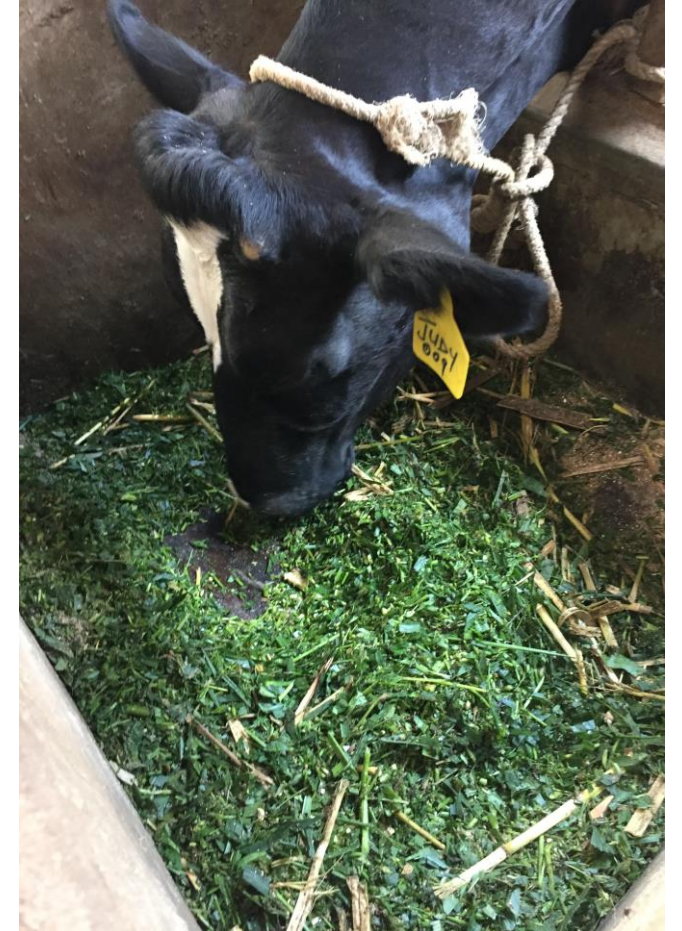
- Water the forage crops planted with overhead sprinkler irrigation or drip irrigation.



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4.3 Planting Drought resistant grasses and fodder crops

- Includes among others;
 - Napier
 - Brachiaria
 - Desmodium
 - Lab lab
 - Fodder trees



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4.4 Conserving crop residues

- Collect crop residues.
- Store in a dry place.
- Put up a good store to conserve crop residues.



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5. Silage making

- Through silage making fodder can be stored for longer periods.



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6. Hay making

- Hay making is a method to dry cut green fodder during sun and wind and prevent it from rotting and decomposing



Baled grass hay

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7. Fodder trees

- Suitable fodder trees include;
 - Leuceana
 - Sesbania
 - Moringa
 - Gliricidia
 - Pigeon pea
 - Calliandra
 - Mulberry tree



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8. Supplementation with Urea Molasses Blocks (UMB)

- Molasses Urea Mixtures are an ideal supplement to provide energy, protein and minerals to ruminants
- Urea is highly poisonous to animals if given in excess



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