

Extension Support to Urban Livestock Farming: A Case of Kyakuwa Dairy Model Farm



Dr. Jolly Kabirizi
Director, Kyakuwa Dairy Model Farm

Kyakuwa Dairy Model Farm



Location: Seguku Cell 4, Makindye Municipality, Wakiso District



Total land area: 0.45 acres:



Year of establishment: April 1990










Our motto: ***“A Farmer’s Footstep is the Best Fertilizer”*** (“The closer you are to your plants & animals each day, the easier it is to observe & respond to their needs.”----**more profits**)



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Why Urban Dairy Cattle Farming?

-  “Walk the talk”----- Practice what we preach
-  Availability of cheap feed sources & good market for milk.
-  Supplement family income
-  Demonstrate good & profitable urban dairy cattle farming.
-  Create employment for youth, men & women
-  Research purposes
-  Agritourism /farm tours

Kyakuwa Dairy Cattle Farm

- **Breed:** Crossbreed Friesians
- **Grazing system:** Zero grazing.
- **Average milk yield:** 15-30 litres/cow/day
- **Milk quality:** breed, feeding & hygiene are paramount
- **Price of milk:** Ushs 2,000 per litre (USD 0.6)



Major Feed Resources at Kyakuwa Farm

1. Purchased feeds

- Green fodder; grass hay, maize silage, crop residues & agro-industrial by-products

Market for fresh grass



2. Feeds produced at the farm

- Hydroponic green maize fodder; feed blocks processed from farm waste & maize stover & sugarcane bagasse haylage

Hydroponic green maize fodder



Extension Methods Used During COVID-19

- Social media (WhatsApp. chat groups; E-mails; Facebook & U-Tube video clips).
- Newspaper articles, TV & Radio programmes.
- Telephone calls & SMS
- Agritourism/farm tours
- Published a book “*Climate smart forages & supplemental feeds for dairy cattle under zero grazing systems in Uganda*”. Copies of the book are being sold through Jumia App (online)



Impact of COVID-19 on Urban Dairy Farming (general)

Impact of social distancing, movement restrictions & lockdown:

- Farmers could not collect fodder from the fields or plant new pastures –inadequate feeding, reduced milk yield & income.
- Input supply chains shortages.
- Product (milk) loses/dumping due to closure of restaurants, hospital & schools (major milk market for urban dairy farmers).
- No farm tours --urban dairy farmers earn income from training farmers.
- Farm workforce absenteeism.

Coping Strategies Adopted at Kyakuwa Farm



Improving nutrition of animals



- Stocked adequate hay, haylage & silage before the lockdown.
- Contracted a youth from Owino market to supply crop residues.
- Increased production of hydroponic green maize fodder
- Recycled farm waste into feed blocks.
- Used breweries spent grain to supplement milking cows.

New opportunities

- A dairy cow is **“the best tenant”** & **“A productive cow will produce a calf each year”**
- Feed contributes over 80 percent of total cost of production in a profitable dairy enterprise.
- ✓ Hay, haylage & silage making as a cash crop & delivery service are new income opportunities for farmers & youths.
- ✓ Opportunities to train youth on processing market garbage into livestock feed for sale to urban farmers.



Dairy Cattle Feeds During Periods of COVID-19

Maize silage



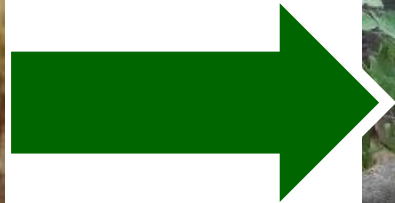
Grass hay



Maize stover haylage



Maize stover



Recommendations (1)

- Private sector should be encouraged to invest in commercial production of Hay, Haylage, Silage & Complete Feed Blocks for urban dairy farmers.
- Develop, package & disseminate simple training materials on production, feeds, health and entrepreneurship for urban dairy sector so as to harmonize messages to the farmers.



Complete Feed Blocks

Recommendations (2)

- Extension system should include **Agritourism** among its service providers and provide legal and facilitation support for its operations since it provides training and other advisory services in the livestock sector.
- Strengthen linkages between private sector, farmers, extension officers & researchers to increase production and productivity of the livestock sector.



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For more information please contact:

Dr. Jolly Kabirizi (PhD)

Tel: +256 777912716

Email: jmkabirizi@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.jollykabirizi.com>

Thank you for your attention

