



Nabuin ZARDI

LIVESTOCK & FISHERIES RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Hay for livestock dry season feeding

Hay is dried forage used to feed livestock. It is one of the feeding strategies during times of scarcity in the dry season or during drought. During times of plenty in the wet season, excess grass is harvested and made into hay. Hay can be made out of grass, legumes or mixture. Good quality hay is made at the flowering stage of the grass and legumes. Hay can be made from both natural and planted pastures. Grasses like *chloris gayana* (Rhodes grass), *panicum maximum* (guinea grass), *Brachiaria* species. Legumes such as *centrosema pubescens* (centro), *Macroptilium atropurpureum* (siratro), *Desmodium intortum* (green leaf desmodium), Lablab and other legumes.



Hay can be made out of grass, legumes or mixture

HAY MAKING PROCESS

Cut grass at flowering when weather conditions are favorable to ease drying

Harvesting



Harvesting
the grass at
flowering
stage

DRYING.

Spread the grass in layers of about 1ft (30cm) to dry. The grass should be turned at least once a day for good drying. The grass should be dried quickly with minimum exposure to the hot sun. This can take 1-3 days to dry depending on weather conditions.



Drying the grass.



Bale the dried grass using a simple baling box and a string

Bale the dried grass using a simple baling box and a string. The box is made by a local carpenter with dimensions of 90cm long, 45cm width and 60cm deep. After tying with a string, a box is then lifted and the hay bale is released.

For Information

P.O Box 132 Moroto

Tel: +256 454660693, +256 0454463663, Fax: 0454463507

Email: naronabuinzardi@yahoo.com, www.naronabuinzardi.go.ug, www.naro.go.ug

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION