



MBARARA ZONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Located 4 Miles on Mbarara - Kasese Road TEL: 04854-43745

FACTS ABOUT DAIRY IN SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA



- The dairy industry contributes 9% of the GDP of Uganda.
- South Western Agro Ecological Zone of Uganda contributes 49% to the national milk production.
- Within an average herd of 100 animals and a milking herd of 30, a farmer loses an average of 270litres a day from lack of dry season feeding options
- MBAZARDI has introduced silage and hay feeding technologies within the zone to combat the losses incurred by the farmers during the dry season.
- The pastures introduced include Chloris gayana, Bracharia mulato and Napier grass
- A good breed milker served hay and silage increases from 7 to 15ltrs a day



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SILAGE MAKING PROCESS USING PLASTIC BAG SILO

STEP 1: Select a good strong plastic bag with high density (from fertilizer bags to shopping bags) with capacity from 5-50 kg of fresh chopped green fodder. Imported plastic bags used in silage making are now available.

STEP 2: Turn the tied side of the bag inside out before adding the chopped materials

STEP 3: Harvest the fodder at early flowering stage to achieve high feeding value.

STEP 4: Wilt the forage in the sun for about 1 hour to reduce the moisture content.

STEP 5: Chop the forage into small pieces of about 1-3 cm long before ensiling.

STEP 6: Mix the molasses with water in a ratio of 1:2

STEP 7: Thoroughly mix the chopped materials with a carbohydrate source like diluted molasses or maize bran on a clean tarpaulin/ surface. Mix ratio of 1:10 (additive: chop material).

STEP 8: Fill the chopped materials into the plastic silo Weigh the material.

STEP 9: Compact the materials by stumping on the materials to exclude all the air

STEP 10: Continue adding and compacting the materials until the silo is full

STEP 11: Tightly seal the plastic bags with a string and keep them in airtight condition till feeding time.

STEP 12: Store the filled silos under shade away from direct sunlight and rodents

STEP 13: Open the silo after a minimum of 21 days after ensiling

STEP 14: Visually inspect the top of the silo before feeding. Remove any moldy materials on the top where necessary.

STEP 15: Open one silo at a time to minimize exposure of silage to air.



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