



PG 3



Why you should use your available water diligently

PG 6



Umande Ward revives the market to see traders even from neighboring counie visit

PG 7



The current state of the leasing programme in the county

Pellet Making , Best way to Revive Dairy Farming



The Department of Agriculture has taken members of dairy farmer's cooperatives to learn on best ways of making pellets that have high nutritional values for quality and quantity production.

Solio Dairy Farmers to Embrace Feed Pelleting for Increased Productivity



Some of the Members from Solio Dairy Farmers when they visited Loldia Farm Limited in Naivasha

By Mollin Wanjiru

For Dairy farmers to realise increased milk production per cow, proper feeding plays a pivotal role. Proper feeding involves availability of quality feeds when the animal requires them.

The County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in full realisation of the importance of the dairy farming in Laikipia and the role played by farmer Cooperatives in supporting farmers to increase their productivity, is supporting Solio settlement Dairy Cooperative Society to address the challenge of inadequate feeds and pastures through Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP).

Farmers in Solio Dairy Cooperative Society face the problem of lack of enough feeds and pas-

tures, just like many other farmers across the country. The Agricultural sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) in Laikipia is currently implementing the feeds pelleting and formulation innovation concept in the county.

The support given to members of the Cooperative include trainings and demonstrations on feeds establishment, management and preservation. ASDSP is in the process of purchasing assorted fodder seeds to be established 200 acres in the Solio villages as well as procuring pelleting machines used for pelleting the fodder.

As part of the learning process, 28 farmers' representatives from the Cooperative were sponsored by (ASDSP) for a learning exercise in Loldia Farm Limited in Naivasha where they learned on Alfa alfa (Lucerne) establishment, manage-

ment, harvesting, drying, milling and eventually pelleting. The training helped them witness first-hand how the feed pellets are produced and packaged.

The farm was started in 1915 and has now embraced modern farming technologies the farmers can learn from. The farm also has a pelleting machine which helped the actors understand better on how they will be able to pullet Lucerne for use when the pastures are inadequate.

Lucerne has very high protein content (15 – 25%), highly digestible (60 – 75%) and has high levels of energy (ME 8 – 11MJ/kg DM). It comprises of about 50% of all protein supplements in livestock feeds.

Due to its high protein content milk production will increase from an estimate of four liters per cow, to 15 litres and therefore increase their daily income.

Officers from the Livestock section in the county have been conducting capacity building sessions in Solio on pastures and fodder production including demonstrations on silage making and storage. The department has procured pasture and fodder seeds to be distributed and planted on demo farms to help the farmers practice it on the targeted 200 acres.

The learning tour comes at an opportune moment to ensure they are ready to receive 10 pelleting machines from the department.

Addressing Water Shortage, State of Water Resources in Laikipia

By Hon. Peter Matunge

The onset of the rains is expected in the second to third week of March according to the Kenya Meteorological Department Monthly forecast.

Laikipia's water companies, Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company in Laikipia West and Nanyuki Water sanitation Company in Laikipia East, have initiated a water rationing programme to ensure equitable access to the limited water available. It is expected that this situation will continue for the next ten to fourteen days until the rains commence.

As the County Government of Laikipia, we are responding to this situation by providing drought mitigation support particularly to the under-served and vulnerable communities through:

- Water trucking and provision of fuel subsidy for generator driven boreholes. We have deployed four water bowsers to the critical regions in Laikipia North as well as targeted spots in Laikipia West and East
- NAWASCO has invested in additional storage tanks in Baraka and Njoguini
- Equipping of two boreholes at Yard Primary and Reli B
- Initiated Equitable sharing of available water by the two water companies through creating rationing schedule
- Communicating to customers through messages on the rationing schedules in different

| No | Description | Normal situation | Current situation (Dry season) | Deficit |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Surface water production | 13,000m ³ per day | 8,000m ³ per day | 5,000m ³ per day |
| 2 | Ground water production (Boreholes) | 1,400m ³ per day | 800m ³ per day | 600m ³ per day |
| 3 | Total supply | 14,400 m ³ per day | 8,800 m ³ per day | 5,600m ³ per day |
| 4 | Water Demand | | 18,000m ³ per day | 9,200m ³ per day |

Example of NAWASCO's challenge to meet demand for water

- Encouraging customers to have household storage tanks and efficient water use

Laikipia County lies within the Arid and Semi-Arid region of Kenya, where low rainfall of below 600mm is received on average every year.

Climate change is disrupting weather patterns, leading to unpredictable water availability and exacerbating water scarcity. These impacts have affected the quantity of water needed to meet the demand in the county. With the fails of October to November 2021 rains and the delayed onset of the March- April rains, we are faced with acute shortage of water within our catchment area of Mount Kenya and Aberdare forests.

Laikipia's main surface water sources are river Rongai, Timau,

Ontuleli, Likii, Sirmon, Nanyuki, Narumoru, Burguret, Mutatar, Pesi, Suguroi and Ewaso Narok which have either dried up or in the verge of doing so. Our water companies are finding it hard to meet the demand of water in their service areas.

As we look to improving our water security, we urge Laikipians to take advantage of the expected rains and invest in rainwater harvesting and storage. This will help in reducing over reliance on surface water sources and avail more water to our neighbouring downstream communities.

We therefore urge all Laikipians to use the available water efficiently and sparingly, until the situation improves.

Hon. Matunge is the CECM – Water, Environment and Natural Resources in the County.

Laikipia County Government Rebates Programme

Many governments throughout the world are prioritizing energy efficiency as a policy goal. It is largely acknowledged as the most cost-effective and readily available means of addressing a variety of energy-related issues, such as energy security, the social and economic effects of high energy prices, and climate change concerns. Energy efficiency boosts competitiveness and improves customer welfare.

Kenya's manufacturing sector accounts for about 10 per cent of the country's GDP and is the country's third-largest energy end consumer. The total installed capacity is 2,370MW with manufacturing consuming over 60 per cent of the energy.

The Kenyan government has implemented the Time of Use Tariff (TOU) and the Electricity Cost Rebate Program to lower energy and production costs.

Kenya has a substantial amount of idle capacity at night, given that peak demand is currently 1,762MW and off-peak demand is 850MW. Time of Use Tariff (TOU) allows manufacturers to get a 50 per cent discount on electricity during off-peak (between 10 pm and 6 am). However, the TOU tariff is based on a threshold that facilities must achieve beyond which they stand to benefit from the tariff.



The Electricity Rebate Program, on the other hand, was created to help manufacturing enterprises save their electricity costs by reducing taxation on a percentage of their electricity bills. This was accomplished through a modification to Section 15 of the Income Tax Act in 2018, which specifies that manufacturers will not be taxed on 30 per cent of their electricity expenditures.

The County Government has set aside funds to help manufacturers in Laikipia reduce their energy expenses to increase their production capacity. Manufacturers will receive a 30 per cent refund on their monthly energy bills, up to Ksh 100,000, and a 50 per cent refund on annual bills with a cap of 50,000 under the new program.

In addition, county will cover 30 per cent of the fees of permits and licenses that local producers

incur while distributing to neighbouring counties. Around 18 manufacturing fields are expected to benefit from the program.

These include textile, apparel, food, beverages, tobacco, leather, wood, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, botanical products, rubber, and plastic manufacturers, as well as companies that make non-metallic products, electronic, electrical equipment, and machinery for motor vehicles, furniture, mining, and quarrying.

Energy efficiency and conservation measures aim to foster the use of less energy to produce goods and services without compromising quality and quantity. Kenya can further enhance ongoing efforts to improve energy efficiency through longer-term sustainable measures.

Laikipia Land Resources Mobilization and Utilization



By Julius Murage

Laikipia being a cosmopolitan County and largely rural in settlement with a geographical area of 9462km², ranks it as the 15th largest County in Kenya by land size. It is among the richest areas of exploitation for its surplus geographical resources and potency.

The existence of its resources both renewable and non-renewable in hand with the mobilization of human resources by the County Government such as;

- ◆ 1038 km of the road network to ease accessibility, waste recycling programs to avoid wastage of resources,
- ◆ leasing programs to avail equipment required for projects,
- ◆ resource departments to man-

age and guide the ways of using,

- ◆ provision of fertilizers, certified seeds and occasionally pesticides for control armyworms, Quelea birds, locust. and
- ◆ MLND to boost agriculture in complement with constructed storage facilities like kinamba, Sipili, and Mutanga grain storages to improve the lives of farmers among others is a stretch of resources utilization, extracting new means of added support to the County

The extractive activity of red sand harvesting along riverbeds in Laikipia North, excavation of gravel and murrum for road construction, and crushing of ballast is a great stronghold for construction and use of concrete blocks in

the county. A mineral exploration survey report of 2020 by the County Government revealed that there are some deposits of iron ore in parts of Laikipia which set a big benefit and attraction of investors in the mining industry advantage to the economy of Laikipia County as employment follows.

The large stretches of land, ranches in the County produce high-quality beef stock, embryo transfer for Boran breed nationally and regionally. The ranches and the neighbourhood cluster-grazing communities have a functional model allowing vulnerable households to graze in the ranch during drought on agreed terms.

Wildlife, landscapes, unique local cultural practices, Thompsons falls, proximity to Mt Kenya, Meru, Aberdare, and Samburu game parks have greatly boosted tourism within the County through the provision of hospitality services to the tourists by more than 90 registered hotels and lodges which seven are classified in the range of 1-5 stars. The annual sports events such as Kuki's Laikipia games contribute to tourism and cohesion amongst the people in Laikipia.

From Abandoned Structures to Functioning Markets in Umande



By Jackline Mariga

Traders at Mugumo and Maili Nane, Kararu are experiencing increased business activity since the market places opened one year ago. The efforts by the County Government of Laikipia led by Umande ward administrator David Kamweru to incentivize the traders with three months revenue exemption has attracted many traders.

The marketplace was also upgraded by the county government to ensure better access.

Currently, the Mugumo market operates every Tuesday while the Maili Nane one happens on Thursdays. The markets have

served as a reprieve to the residents as they also sell their fresh produce on the said days.

With these markets operational, they are allowing local communities to shop local produces from their neighbourhood. There is also an opportunity for a revitalized local economy.

Since the lapse of revenue exemption, the Mugumo market has witnessed an increase in traders' earnings and revenue collected. This is the same case at the Maili Nane market.

According to the Ward Administrator it has been interesting for other traders visiting the markets from neighbouring counties. This has helped buyers to get products and other items in one place.

"The unhealthy competition experienced before made the structures remain unoccupied despite there being no charges. Fortunately, the issue has been resolved after I convened a meeting to address the issue." commented Mugweru.



The State of Leasing Programme in Laikipia County

| COMPLETE BRIGADES | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| WARD | KM ACHIEVED (Currently) | | START DATE | COMPLETION DATE | NEXT DESTINATION |
| Brigade 1 - Tigithi | (R1&2) 210.4 Km Graded | 63.3 Km Gravelled | 30th August 2021 | 17th Dec 2021 | Salama |
| Brigade 2 - Githiga | (R1&2) 197.65 Km Graded | 64.5 Km Gravelled | 23rd August 2021 | 18th Dec 2021 | Marmanet |
| Brigade 3 - Olmoran - (Mahiga/Naibrom) | 32.2 Km Graded | 9 Km Gravelled | 9th September 2021 | 16th Nov 2021 | Sossian |
| Brigade 4 - Olmoran - (Wangwachi) | 76.55 Km Graded | 20.9 Km Gravelled | | 10th Dec 2021 | Rumuruti |
| Brigade 1 - Salama | (R1) 32 Km Graded | 27 Km Gravelled | 20th Dec 2021 | 7th April 2022 | Mukogodo East |
| Brigade 2 - Marmanet | (R1) 120.8 Km Graded | 16 Km Gravelled | 20th Dec 2021 | 25th April 2022 | Segera |
| Brigade 3 - Sossian | (R1) 156 Km Graded | 3.5 Km Gravelled | 17th Nov 2021 | 18th Feb 2022 | Umande |
| Brigade 4 - Rumuruti | 93.45 Km Graded | 7.1 Km Gravelled | 28th Dec 2021 | 6th May 2022 | Tigithi |
| Brigade 1 - Mukogodo East | (R1) 36 Km Graded | 17 Km Gravelled | 7th April 2022 | 4th July 2022 | Thingithu |
| Brigade 2 - Segera | (R1) 33 Km Graded | 26 Km Gravelled | 25th April 2022 | 15th July 2022 | Marmanet |
| Brigade 3 - Umande | (R1) 31 Km Graded | 27 Km Gravelled | 21st February 2022 | 6th May 2022 | Nanyuki |
| Brigade 4 - Tigithi | N/A | N/A | 9th May 2022 | 3rd June 2022 | Igwamiti |
| Brigade 5 - Ngobit | (R1) 66 Km Graded | 32 Km Gravelled | 24th March 2022 | 15th July 2022 | Mukogodo East |
| Brigade 1 - Thingithu | (R1 and R2) 148.32 Km Graded | 84.52 Km Gravelled | 7th July 2022 | 9th Aug 2022 | |
| Brigade 2 - Marmanet | N/A | N/A | 18th July 2022 | 9th Aug 2022 | |
| Brigade 3 - Nanyuki | N/A | N/A | 9th May 2022 | 9th August 2022 | |
| Brigade 4 - Igwamiti | N/A | N/A | 6th June 2022 | 9th Aug 2022 | |
| Brigade 5 - Mukogodo East | N/A | N/A | 7th July 2022 | 9th Aug 2022 | |

| Brigade 5 - Work Plan for the Dozer and accompanying Grader | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Ward | Target | Start Date | End Date |
| 1 | Muk. East | 25 Km | 21st Feb 2022 | 17th April 2022 |
| 2 | Ngobit | 5 Km | 19th Apr 2022 | 27th April 2022 |
| 3 | Salama | 5 Km | 29th April 2022 | 10th May 2022 |
| 4 | Githiga | 10 Km | 12th May 2022 | 27th May 2022 |
| 4 | Rumuruti | 5 Km | 31st May 2022 | 7th June 2022 |
| 5 | Marmanet | 22 km | 10th June 2022 | 27th June 2022 |
| 6 | Muk. West | 40 Km | 28th June 2022 | 9th August 2022 |

Summary Of Road Improvement (4th November 2019–Feb 2022)

| No | Ward | Km Graded | Km Gravelled |
|----|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Salama | 58.38 | 43.65 |
| 2 | Olmoran | 209 | 69.95 |
| 3 | Sossian | 189.2 | 73.2 |
| 4 | Marmanet | 174.4 | 46.4 |
| 5 | Igwamiti | 148.32 | 75.6 |
| 6 | Githiga | 188.88 | 63.3 |
| 7 | Rumuruti | 103.1 | 15.31 |
| 8 | Ngobit | 85.6 | 37.9 |
| 9 | Tigithi | 163.26 | 85.16 |
| 10 | Thingithu | 102.1 | 30.25 |
| 11 | Segera | 49.3 | 24.6 |
| 12 | Nanyuki | 53.9 | 24.85 |
| 13 | Muk. East | 33.2 | 18.8 |
| 14 | Umande | 38.5 | 8.5 |
| 15 | Muk. West | 129 | 129 |
| | TOTAL | 1726.14Km | 746.47Km |

LHS Nanyuki; Nutritional Education Saves Lives of Patients with HBP

By Ann Ngunjiri.

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a common non-communicable disease that has become a major global public health challenge. According to the WHO, one in every four adults has high blood pressure and the figure is expected to rise from 25% to 29% by 2025. In Kenya, hypertension is reported to be more prevalent in the central region, as reflected at LHS - Nanyuki, Medical Outpatients' Clinic (MOPC), which records a high number of hypertension patients residing not only in Laikipia County but also from neighboring Meru and Nyeri counties.

Hypertension is also known as the 'silent killer' disease. If left untreated, the disease can progress silently until it causes chronic complications such as heart failure, stroke, and chronic kidney disease.

In addition to clinical management, the alarming increase in the number of hypertension cases calls for nutritional education as a major intervention to help manage the disease. Every Thursday, which is hypertension clinic day at LHS-Nanyuki, nutritionists take the time to educate patients about the disease and advise them on the proper interventions to



prevent further complications.

Apart from genetic factors, individuals' kind of lifestyle can predispose them to hypertension. "Excessive consumption of alcohol, reduced physical activity and the adoption of unhealthy diets high in salt, refined sugar, processed proteins and unhealthy fats and oils can all cause high blood pressure," Grace Njuguna, Clinical Nutritionist noted.

During the omission of counseling sessions, patients' questions are promptly answered, and they are urged to apply the knowledge acquired to live a healthy. DASH-Approach (Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension) and lifestyle modifications are recommended as effective ways to control the disease.

"We should always be mindful of

what we eat, where we eat, when we eat, and how we eat," Ms. Njuguna said. "You would rather spend an extra coin on eating healthy and managing the disease than on treating incurable complications caused by HBP," she added.

The impact of nutritional education at the outlet has been observed as the number of people admitted as a result of severe hypertension conditions has decreased. The majority of patients' attitudes have shifted from denial to acceptance of their conditions, which is the first critical step to treating the disease.

Nancy Wanjiku, a hypertension patient, has been attending her clinics at LHS-Nanyuki since 2016. She testified that her condition has remained stable over the years as a result of healthy eating and taking her medications as prescribed.