

GLOBAL
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

SNV



For Professional Dairy Farmers

Module 8 RECORD KEEPING



This training module is part of 8 training modules:

1. Calf rearing
2. Nutrition and feeding
3. Hygienic milk production
4. Housing
5. Management of Napier
6. Health care
7. Fertility and reproduction
8. Herd Record keeping

These modules have been developed through a collaboration between



For More Information, Contact:
Global Agricultural Development Foundation
sigridkootstra@hotmail.com

www.gad-foundation.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

8. HERD RECORD KEEPING

8.1. Purpose of record keeping

8.2. Individual cow records

CHAPTER 1. PURPOSE OF RECORD KEEPING

What to do?

Start with record keeping

Why?

Writing down of farm facts will help you to make better decisions about your farm management

- Better breeding lines/no inbreeding
- Insight in realized milk production
- More income
- Less costs
- Registration in order to treat and / or execute
- Effective prevention/treatment program

What do you need?

- Record charts
- Pen
- Good observing eyes
- Cow recognizing

A. Write down!

Write down useful information about your cow, then it is easy to check if

- There has been a problem already with the cow
- You want to be prepared for inseminations on time
- You want to make sure all animals stay in good health

B. Keep records about:

- Dates
- What happened on this date for example?
 - Calving
 - Vaccination
 - Artificial insemination
 - Health problems
 - Milk production per cow
- Anything that is abnormal

You write this down in a diary or stable card later you transfer information to the cow card

No	AM	PM	TD	No	AM	PM	TD
475	14.4			754	6.2		
494	8.2			769	11.2		
503	5.4			790	10.8		
510	5.0			794	16.4		
519	14.2			854	8.4		
536	12.6			855	12.0		
543	8.8			856	10.4		
549	11.4			864	4.2		
587	12.4			870	4.2		
596	13.0			872	11.4		
599	18.0			877	4.8		
606	5.4			894	4.2		

C. Cow recognizing

If you want to make sure you keep up a correct management you have to know:

- Which cows are yours
- Which cow had which treatment
- The history of the cow

Put an ear tag in the ear of your calf/cow or make a drawing of your cow and put it on the cow card so you know which cow card belongs to which cow.



D. What information is important?

1. When your cow:
 - Has had medication / health issue
 - Calved down
 - Was inseminated
 - Had a change in milk yield
 - Temperatures of the cows with a problem
2. You also write down
 - Daily milk yield on a stable card
 - Total lactation production on a cow card that belongs to that cow

It is very important you write down the date on the stable card or alternatively use a diary/calendar

CHAPTER 2. INDIVIDUAL COW RECORDS

What to do?

- Write relevant information about your cows
- Detailed information in a diary or on a piece of paper (stable card)
- Summarized information on an individual cow card (dairy cow history card)

What do you need?

- Cow cards
- Diary/Calendar
- Pen

A. Dairy Cow History Card

DAIRY COW HISTORY CARD

KSB No.		Name	Ear Tag No.	Born
DRSK No.				

GRAND SIRE..... GRAND SIRE
 SIRE..... DAM.....
 GRAND DAM GRAND DAM

B

BREEDING RECORD

BIRTH WEIGHT.....KGS AGE AT FIRST SERVICE.....DAYS
 AGE AT CONCEPTION.....DAYS WEIGHT AT FIRST SERVICE.....KGS

HEAT DATES	SERVICE BULLS	P.D. DATE	GENTAL EXAMINATION	DRY OFF DATE	EXPECTED CALVING DATE	DATE CALVED	CALF SEX NO	CALVING INTERVAL	REMARKS

MILK PRODUCTION RECORD

C

LACTATION	DAYS	MILK (KGS)	B F %	LACTATION	DAYS	MILK (KGS)	B F %	LACTATION	DAYS	MILK (KGS)	B F %

GENERAL HEALTH AND TREATMENT RECORD

D

DATE	DISEASE	TREATMENT	DATE	DISEASE	TREATMENT

VACCINATIONS RECORD								DEWORMING RECORD	
DISEASES	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DRUG USED	DATE
F.M.D.									
BQ / ANTHRAX									
RIFT VALLEY FEVER									
L.S.D.									
BRUCELLOSIS									

E

B. Dairy Cow History Card - Breeding Record

- See for more information the Module Fertility and Reproduction

C. Dairy Cow History card - Milk production records

On the individual cow card you write information about the individual cow. Milk production is a summarized total off the daily milk production. It will help you to make decisions about:

- Fodder requirement per cow
- Selection of cows in your herd
- Bull selection
- Culling of cows in your herd

MILK PRODUCTION RECORD

LACTATION	DAYS	MILK (KGS)	B F %
1 st	305	4215	3.7
2 nd	412	6428	4.0

- **LACTATION:** 1st Lactation starts after the first calving until you decide to dry the cow off before the 2nd calving
- **DAYS:** Number of days between the calving date and the dry off date
- **MILK (KGS):** Total amount of milk starting 3 days after calving until the dry off date
- **B F %:** Butter fat content: you need to send four times per lactation a milk sample for analyses to DRSK (dairy recording services of Kenya)

C. Stable card - Daily milk production records

You keep records about daily milk yield.

		Date: 12 - 05 - 2016	
Cow name/no.	Milk AM (ltr/kg)	Milk PM (liters/kg)	Total day
Kichwa Ndogo	10	8	18
Mukia	8	6	14
Total production/day:			32

Destination milk	AM	PM	Total
Liters/kg for home use	1	1	2
Liters/kg for calf	2	2	4
Liters/kg sold to KCC	15	11	26
Total day			32

Cow number/name	Remark	Action
Kichwa Ndogo	In - heat	Call inseminator
Mukia	Inseminated	Bull used: Impact

D. Dairy Cow History Card – General health and treatment record

On the individual cow card you can write information about each cow. General health and treatment. Information about the health of a cow will help you with decisions about culling the cow or if diseases are repeating often (f.e. clinical mastitis, abortion etc..) Keep individual records for each individual cow.

GENERAL HEALTH AND TREATMENT RECORD

DATE	DISEASE	TREATMENT	DATE	DISEASE	TREATMENT
12-02	Mastitis	Injecting teat left rear quarter			
		1 tube terrexxine			

D. Stable card – General Health and treatment record

Under health record you can write down when the cow was sick, which disease was diagnosed by the veterinarian, the treatment and medication that was given to the cow.

Cow name/number: 212

Date	Problem	Treatment	Medicine	Remark
20-02-2014	Mastitis	Injection in left hind quarter	Terrexxine	Milk separate for # days

E. Dairy Cow History Cards - Vaccinations and deworming records

VACCINATION AND DEWORMING RECORDS

DISEASES	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DRUG USED	DATE
F.M.D.	23-04-16	23-10-16	23-4-17					
BQ/ANTHRAX	23-05-16							
RIFT VALLEY FEVER								
LSD	23-06-16	23-12-16						
BRUCELLOSIS	08-03-14							

E. Stable cards – Vaccinations and deworming records

Cow name/no. 6754		Cow name/no. 5432	
Date	Vaccination	Date	Vaccination
23-05-2016	BQ/Anthrax	05-05-2016	Brucellosis
23-06-2016	LSD		

Keep individual records for each individual cow.

F. Feed records

On some cow cards, you find the table for register your feeding. It is important to know how many costs you spend to your feeding.

FEED RECORD

NUMBER OF COW: 4567
NAME:

ROUGHAGE

DATE	PERIOD OF DAY	KGS OFFERED	KGS LEFT	NET INTAKE	CONCENTRATES (Kgs)	MILK (L) PRODUCTION	EXPECTED PRODUCTION	DEFICIT	REMARKS
22-05					5	12			
23-05					6	14			

G. Financial records –example-

All activities on the farm are geared to raising an income for you and your family.

It is crucial to keep track of the money coming in and going out so you can make the right decisions.

Budgeting or financial management is a separate module but you also need to keep record of your financial data: costs (money coming in) and income (money going out)

Cost			Income		
Date	Description	Value	Date	Description	Value
02-01-2014	50 kg fertilizer	KSH 2.200,=	30-01-2014	Male calf	KSH 1000,=
03-01-2014	Mastitis treatment	KSH 400,=	20-01-2014	4000 KG milk	KSH140.000,=
15-01-2014	Concentrate	KSH 6.700,=			
	Total	KSH 9.300,=		Total	KSH 141.000,=
		Income	141.000,=		
		Costs	9.300,=		
			-		
		Credit	131.700,=		

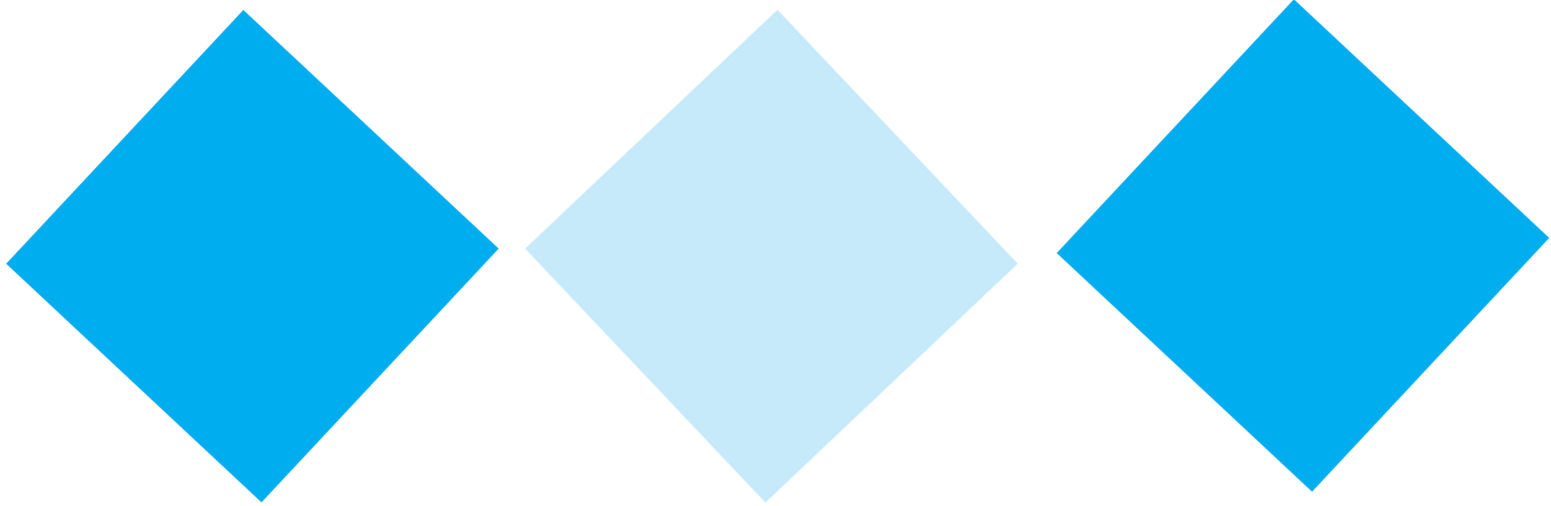
Write down all your costs and income. Calculate at the end of the month/year:

- Earned money this month/year
- Lost money this month/year

Do the same for the costs of:

- Young stock
- Labor
- Feed
- Housing
- Health care

Then you know exactly if you're making a profit from keeping dairy cows.




**INVESTING IN
DAIRY
PAYS!**

VISIT

WWW.COWSOKO.COM

- ✓ Buy a Cow
- ✓ Meet Dairy Experts
- ✓ Visit Dairy Farms
- ✓ Buy Inputs
- ✓ Biogas