

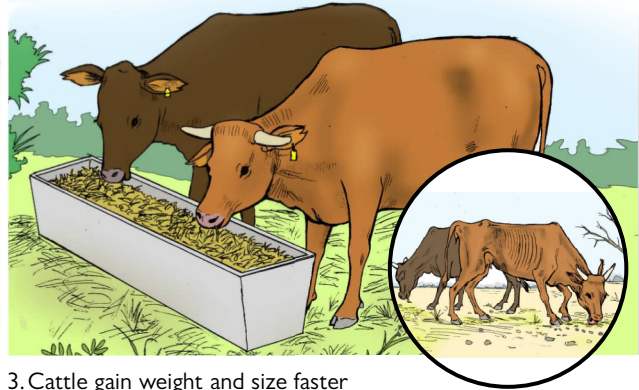
LIVESTOCK FODDER

Livestock supplemented with fodder during the lean season are healthier, more productive and more valuable.

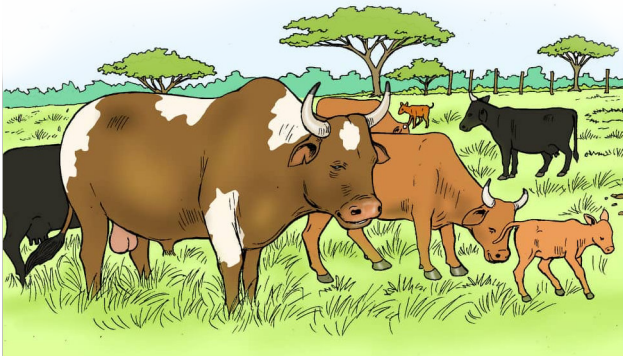
BENEFITS OF FODDER



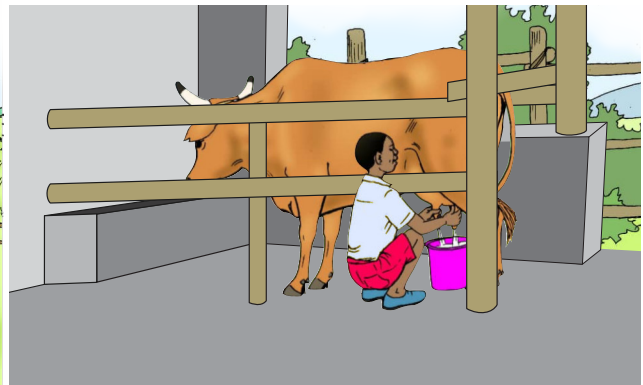
1. Raises healthier livestock (larger, stronger).
2. Healthy livestock tolerate disease and have stronger immune systems.



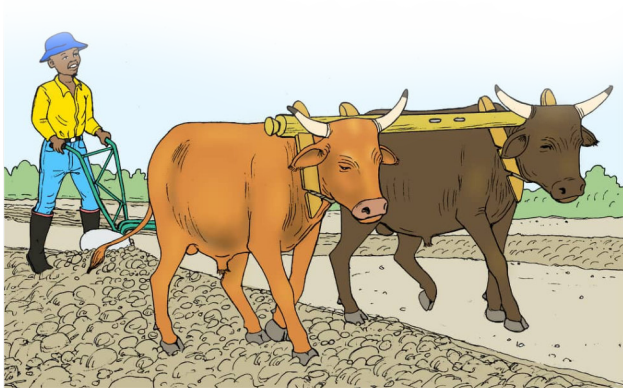
3. Cattle gain weight and size faster (800 grams a day v. 150 grams a day).



4. Lower animal mortality.
5. Healthy females produce a calf per year.
6. Bulls mate and reproduce more successfully.
7. Increased conception rates, reduced still births and abortions.



8. Increase milk production from healthier dairy cows (8 litres instead of 5 litres).



9. Stronger animals mean better draught power.

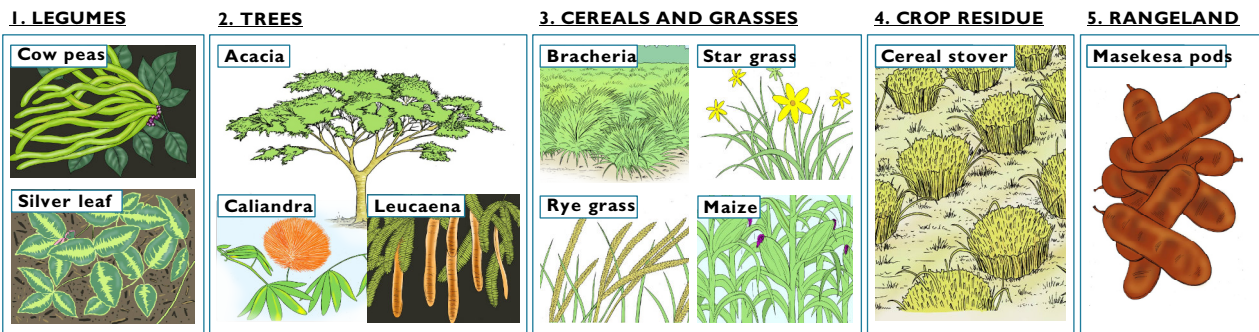


10. Stronger, larger animals increase market value.
11. Beef cattle improve their market grades, increase their return on investment and increase farmer's network.

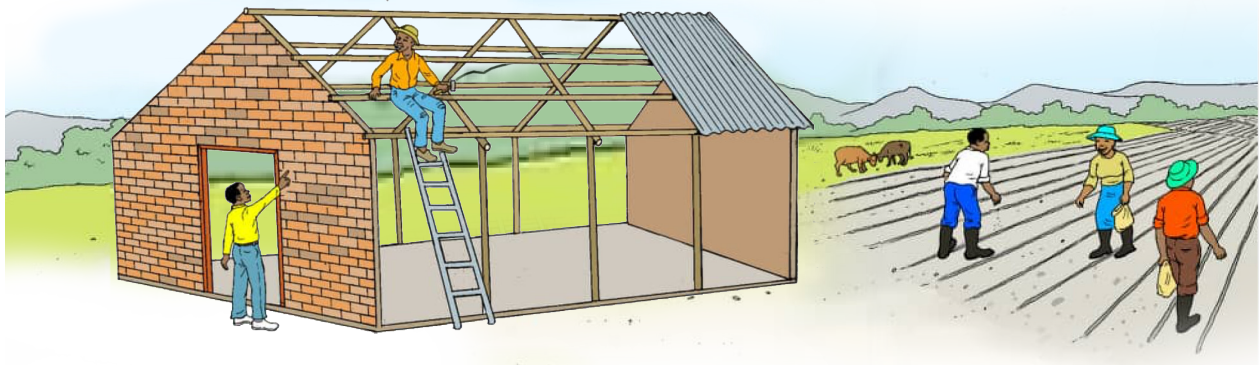
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Common fodder crops:

1. **Legumes:** velvet bean, lab lab, pigeon pea, caccia, silver leaf, cow pea, sun ham and fine stem stylium.
2. **Trees:** leucaena, caliandra, mulberry and acacia.
3. **Cereals and grasses:** sugar graze, maize, sorghum, millet, sugar cane, bracheria, rye grass, star grass, panicum and bana grass.
4. **Crop residues:** cereal and legume stover.
5. **Rangeland:** grass and legume hay and pods such as acacia, dychrcostachys, and masekesa.

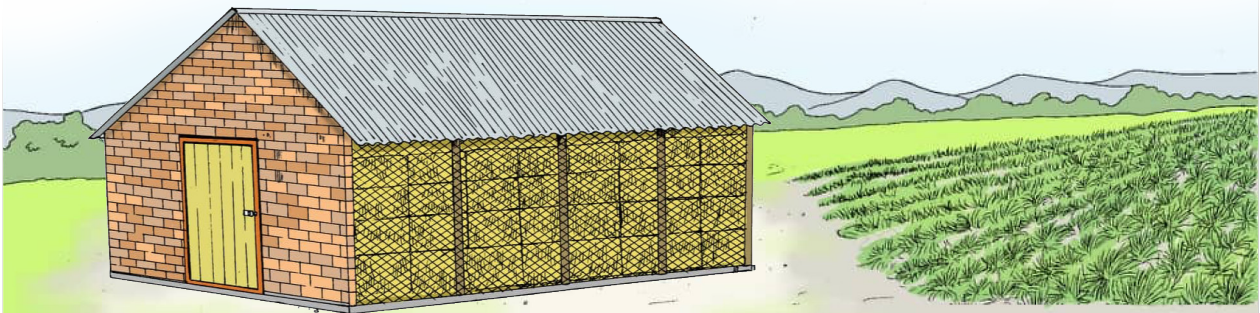


Crops differ in their nutritional content with legumes rich in protein, while grasses/cereals are rich in energy and fiber.



Planting Fodder

1. Prioritization key – plan ahead, allocate labor, and adequate resources.
2. Early planting ideally dry planting before **15 November** for seasonal rainfall - most fodder are long season varieties.
3. Farmer who is committed to fodder raises better livestock.



Storing Fodder

1. Critical aspect of fodder success.
2. Preserves quality.
3. Proper storage shed with roof on top made of bricks with ventilation.