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CNFA
Cultivating New Frontiers
in Agriculture



LIVESTOCK REARING MODULE 1: LIVESTOCK NUTRITION

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE FOR AMALIMA LEAD FARMERS

FOOD FOR LIVESTOCK

SHOW CARD 1



Clean water



Grass



Shrubs & Trees



Supplementary Feed

NOTES & TIPS 1

- Livestock, like all living creatures, need food and water to grow and maintain their body activities .
- For livestock to stay healthy and in good condition they need to **graze** and **browse** from the veld, drink **clean water** and be given **supplementary feed**.



Healthy Livestock

- Healthy livestock fetch good prices in the market.
- They also give birth to healthy calves and kids.
- They also have more energy for work in your plots.
- When animals are healthy they produce more milk to nourish their calves/kids and your family.

Supplementary Feed

- Livestock production in Zimbabwe is severely limited by lack of sufficient, good quality nutrition.
- Livestock cannot get all the nutrition they need from natural veld alone.
- It is therefore important that farmers supplement their livestock with homemade and purchased supplements.

IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN WATER

SHOW CARD 2



1



GIVE LIVESTOCK CLEAN WATER ALL THE TIME E.G. WATER FROM A BOREHOLE.

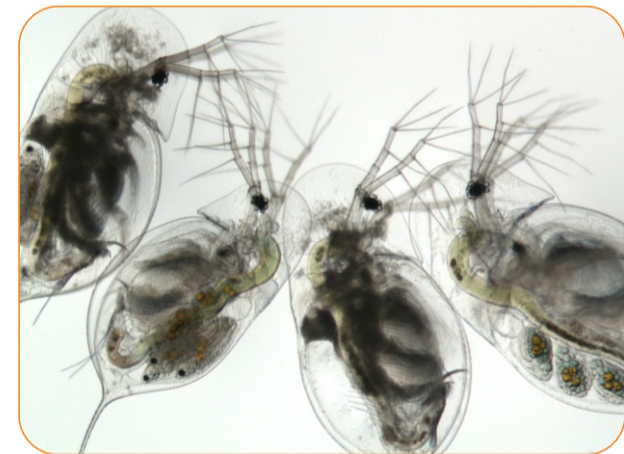


2

Livestock must always be given clean water to reduce infections by water borne diseases and internal parasites.

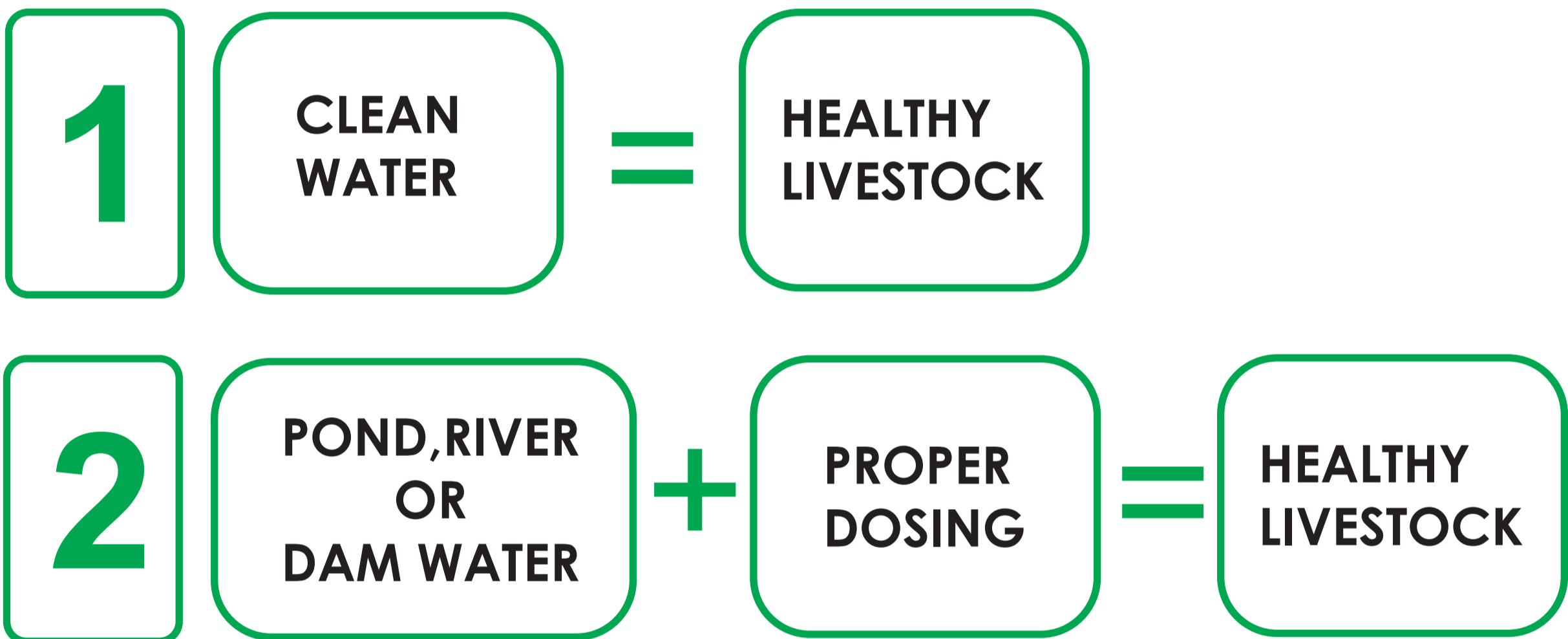


IT IS IDEAL AND RECOMMENDED TO AVOID ALLOWING LIVESTOCK TO DRINK FROM RIVERS, DAMS OR PONDS.



- Livestock must drink enough water everyday.
- If you can give them CLEAN WATER that is ideal.

The Options Farmers Have



Unclean Water

- Parasites present in the water.
- Parasites in dirty water affect livestock after animals drink it.
- The parasites feed on the animal's blood and the digested feed meant to nourish the animal, leading to poor health.
- Examples include tape worm, wire worms, and liver flukes among many others.



- It is ideal that you give livestock clean water all the time.
- If you cannot prevent your livestock from drinking from rivers and dams, ensure that you dose your livestock at the correct intervals and dosing the correct amounts.



Dose your livestock at least 2 times per year. At the beginning of the rainy season and at the end of the rainy season.

Dosing Amounts

- For all your livestock, draw 1ml for every 10kg of your animal's weight.
- For example, if your measuring tape determines that your calf is *50kg* you should administer a dose of *5ml* to the calf.
- Read and follow instructions prescribed on the label.

PROPER DOSING

SHOW CARD 3



SECURE THE ANIMAL

1

**MEASURE THE ANIMAL AND
CALCULATE THE CORRECT
DOSAGE.**



2



**HOLD AND POSITION
THE ANIMAL**

3

ADMINISTER THE DOSE



4





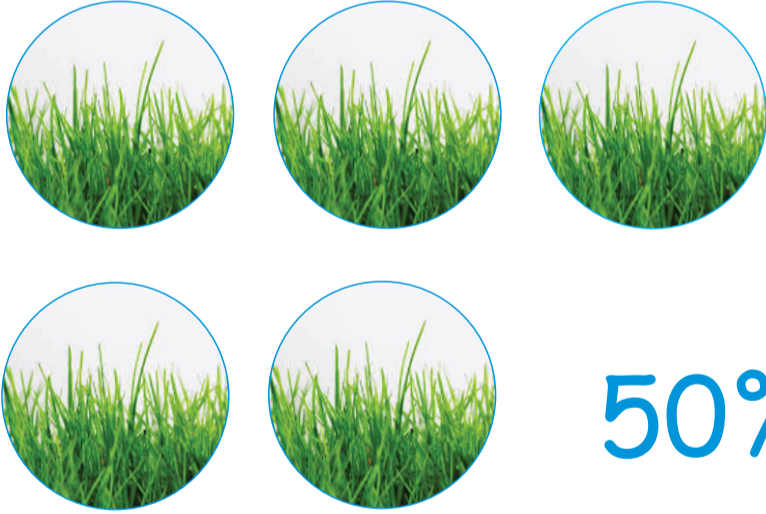


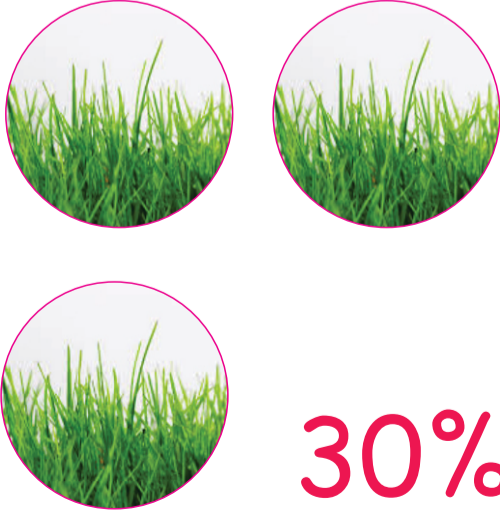

HOW SHOULD LIVESTOCK FEED?

SHOW CARD 4

FEED

- Livestock should have access to grass and shrubs to graze and browse.
- Animal preferences for grazing and browsing differ.

FEED PREFERENCES

LIVESTOCK	GRAZING	BROWSING
 CATTLE	 90%	 10%
 SHEEP	 50%	 50%
 GOATS	 30%	 70%

HOW SHOULD LIVESTOCK FEED?





SHOW CARD 5

WATER



WATER IS MORE VITAL FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF AN ANIMAL'S LIFE THAN ANY OTHER FOOD COMPONENT.

- Ensure that your livestock has access to clean water everyday.
- Ensure that the amounts are adequate.

LIVESTOCK	AMOUNT OF WATER NEEDED PER DAY
 CATTLE	 50 litres per animal per day
 GOATS & SHEEP	 5 litres per animal per day

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING

SHOW CARD 6

HOME MADE FEEDS

Harvested Crop Residue



Hay



PURCHASED FEEDS

Feed



Licks / Blocks



SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING

NOTES & TIPS 4

- Supplements are given as additional feed to livestock to provide nutrients that may be lacking in natural feed sources such as the veld.
- They are especially important during the dry season when there is very little grass.



Farmers are encouraged to give supplementary feeds to pregnant and lactating animals, kids, calves and working cattle throughout the year.

- Doing this helps increase milk production to better nourish the calves and kids.
- This also helps to maintain an animal's good condition for the next pregnancy.
- Giving supplements to these animals also helps improve the survival rate for calves.

Classes of Supplements

- There are two types of supplementary feed. There are those that you can make at home and those that are purchased.
- **Homemade Feeds** - these can be made by farmers for their livestock. They include, hay, crop residues (maize stover, millet and sorghum straws) and homemade livestock licks or blocks.
- **Purchased Feeds** - a variety of these are available in the market. They have all the nutrients that are required by livestock.

HOME MADE LICKS OR BLOCKS

SHOW CARD 7

1



Gather bones together and burn them.

2



Pound and crush the burnt bones.

3



Add anthill soil and salt to the crushed bones.

Mix 1 part anthill soil with 4 parts bone powder to 2 parts coarse salt.

4



Mix. Add water and continue mixing until you get a thick paste.

5

- Pour the paste into a mould. Add okra juice to improve hardening so the lick does not break easily.
- Let it dry over night then take it out of the mould and dry for 5 to 7 days.



You can enrich your crop residues with salt and molasses. This makes the residues more palatable and more nutritious as well.

Crop Residue Treatment

- Dissolve 1 part salt in 4 parts water and sprinkle over the residues before feeding the animals.



- You can also mix 1 part molasses in 4 parts .



IN TIMES OF DROUGHT

SHOW CARD 8

i

Drought is common. Try to have a strategy beforehand so that you avoid huge losses when drought occurs.

1

Some farmers form Village Savings & Loan Groups in order to raise enough funds to buy stock feed so that their livestock survive the drought.

2

Harvesting of crop residues or stover for feeding the **most vulnerable stock**. (lactating cows, weaners, and pregnant livestock)

3

Preparation of home made licks or blocks.

4

Strategic marketing of livestock in order to purchase supplementary feeds so that the bulk of the livestock survive the drought.