



Kenya Livestock Breeders Organization

Kenya StudBook
Dairy Recording Service of Kenya

Milk Recording

The business environment for Dairy farmers in Kenya is undergoing some rapid changes, a lot of which are outside the direct control of the farmer. (e.g. milk quota, quality etc.). However, the fundamentals of production and breeding management are areas where the dairy farmer can directly impact on profits through informed decision making. Now more than ever, it's crucial the farmers know what their cows are producing with regard to the milk constituents.

Why Record Milk in Dairy Cows?

The Benefits of milk recording

- Quickly identify cows which are most profitable
- Identify and isolate cows with subclinical mastitis infection
- Identify which cows produce most milk
- Know the butterfat % and protein % for each cow
- Know which cows to breed
- Improve the reliability of your EBI
- Increase the sale value of surplus stock - buyers will pay more for milk recorded animals
- Identify poor performing cows that are not paying their way or covering their feed costs and need to be culled.
- Authenticate milk production of the registered cows.
- Increase value of bull calves and female calves from pedigree cows.

Add value of the live animals and their off springs.

Better Management and Breeding Reports

The KLBA database is now providing very useful reports to help farmers make better short term and long term management decisions. Three "Test Day" reports (1. Animal Detail, 2. SCC Hi hitters and 3. Farm summary) are sent after each recording as well as an Annual Summary at year end.

These reports identify which cows are performing well and which cows are not.

Throughout the year, other management reports are also sent. Such reports like EBI, Calving, Fertility and Breeding Charts, help the dairy farmer pursue a profitable breeding program.

Who Keeps the Milk Records?

- The dairy farmer at the farm level.

- The Kenya Livestock Breeders Organization through Dairy Recording Service of Kenya (DRSK) at the national level.
- Payment for production certificates are as follows-
- Cow entry 100/= Once in lifetime.
- Lactation Report/certificate 500/= at the end of lactation.
- Herd Average Report/certificate 350/= on farmer's request.

What is Milk Testing?

This is the analysis of milk for Butterfat, protein level, minerals and vitamins.

Who does the milk testing?

This is done by the Ministry of Livestock Development through the six Butterfat test laboratories in Voi, Karatina, Nakuru, Eldoret, Nairobi and Kisumu.

Charges for sampling are currently free.

Lactation Certificates

A certificate is issued at the end of the lactation, while herd average and lifetime production certificates are issued on request. The certificate as a report shows the days the animal has been on milk, calving interval, quantity of milk produced, and butterfat content in kg and %.

Data Analysis

Livestock recording center analyses the milk data from DRSK ranking the animals in terms of their production, it also ranks all the animals with production data, breeds. The analysis calculates the Breeding value which is used in selecting dams which will be dams of sires.

The breeding value is used as a selection tool for dams which will be mothers of the next generation.

How do I start?

Call the KLBA Office at in Nakuru on 051 2216996 and have the following details to hand;

1. Your Herd Number.
2. Number of milking animals.
3. The date you want your first test.

Who will train me?

Your local technician will spend first milking with you, working at your pace until ready. This low cost, low hassle system provides a great opportunity for you to get the necessary data required to drive a profit based dairy breeding program – we urge you to avail of the new technology.