



## MAKING CONCENTRATES 'ON FARM'

**AIM: TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON MAKING HOME MADE CONCENTRATES**

### 1. QUALITY FEED IS IMPORTANT FOR MILK PRODUCTION

- ✓ Good quality sources of **energy** and **protein** are necessary for good milk production.
- ✓ Each adult cow should eat 25 – 30 kg of fresh fodder, or maize silage per day, to reduce feed costs and maintain good digestion.
- ✓ Higher value feeds (e.g. concentrates) should be fed to cows that will give the highest amounts of milk (i.e. during the first 3 months of milking).
- ✓ *Page 2 of this fact sheet provides information on how to feed dairy animals efficiently.*

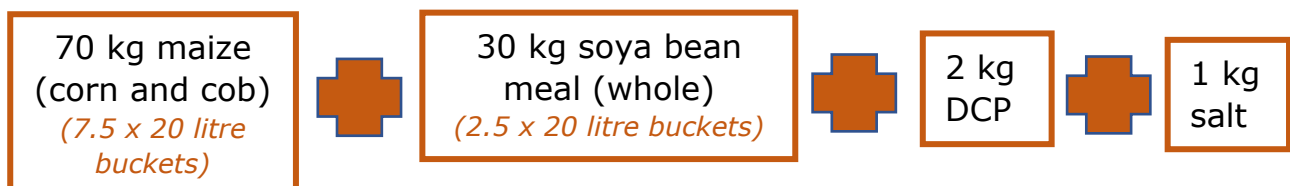
### 2. REDUCING THE COST OF FEEDING

- ✓ Feed costs are one of the major costs of dairy farming.
- ✓ Feed costs can be reduced by making concentrates on your farm from sources of **energy** (e.g. maize) and **protein** (e.g. Soya beans, Sunflower cake).

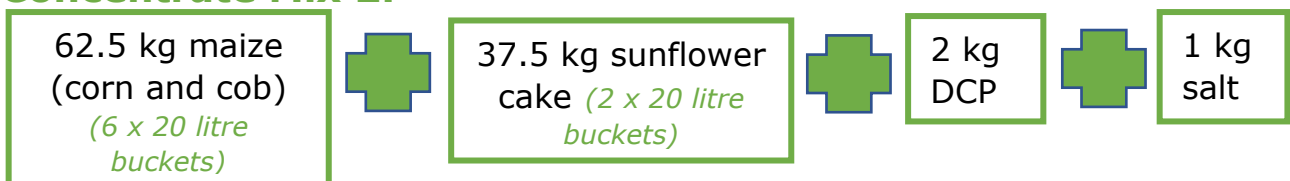
### 3. MAKING CONCENTRATES ON FARM

- ✓ To make 100 kg of concentrate mix which is equivalent to 100kg of Dairy 19:

#### Concentrate Mix 1:



#### Concentrate Mix 2:



✓ **REMEMBER TO MIX WELL.**



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### 4. FEEDING CONCENTRATES TO ACHIEVE GOOD MILK PRODUCTION

- ✓ Animals should always have access to clean, fresh **water**.
- ✓ Each cow should eat **25 – 30 kg of fresh fodder, or maize silage per day** in addition to any concentrates. *(See table below and fact sheet on feeding dairy animals for suggested ration)*
- ✓ Milking cows should be separated from beef animals and non-producing cows. They should be fed separately and according to milking stage (e.g. first 100 days).

DAILY RATION		
STAGE OF LACTATION	CONCENTRATE (KG)	COMMENTS
<b>LAST MONTH BEFORE CALVING</b>	2 Kg Dairy meal	Supports production of foetus and prepares the cow for milk production.
<b>FIRST 100 DAYS</b>	Increase from 2 to 8 Kg dairy meal over 2 WEEKS. Then, 8 Kg dairy meal per day (4 Kg AM and 4 Kg PM)	Slow increase of concentrate dairy meal with 17-19 %CP (Crude Protein). This ration should be given to cows that are expected to produce at least 20 Kg of milk per day before 100 DAYS. <b>Cow to be inseminated on heat if more than 40 days after Calving</b>
<b>100 – 200 DAYS</b>	4 Kg maize bran: (2 Kg AM and 2 Kg PM)	From 100 days, milk volumes start to drop naturally. Supplementing with concentrates will have minimal effect on increasing milk volumes. Feeding concentrate is optional. Continue feeding with good quality fresh fodder or silage. <b>Remember to PD (Pregnancy Diagnosis).</b>
<b>200 – 300 DAYS (Or until cow is dry)</b>	0 Kg	If poor body condition, continue with 2 Kg Maize Bran per day until the cow is in good condition.
<b>DRY – until 1 month before calving</b>	0 Kg	The cow should be in proper condition before drying off.

The ZDTP is focused on supporting dairy farmers to improve their productivity, milk quality and linkages to urban markets. The views expressed in this publication are those of the implementers of the programme and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Government. For further information, please contact ZDTP Country Manager Tania Thomson on [tania@primeconsultants.net](mailto:tania@primeconsultants.net) or +260 96 456 4206