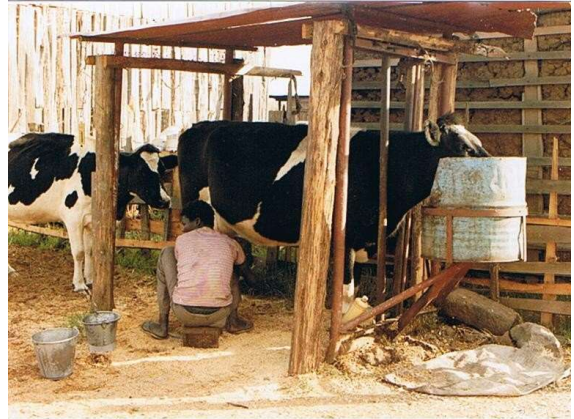


SMALLHOLDER MILKING PARLOUR

AIM: TO SUPPORT THE DESIGN OF MILKING PARLOURS SUITABLE FOR SMALLHOLDER PRODUCTION

1. Why do I need a milking parlour?

- ❖ Parlours provide protection against the weather (sun, rain, wind, dust) for both cows and milkers.
- ❖ A parlour lets you milk in a clean and dry environment every time you milk – i.e. clean the parlour after each milking and keep it clean between milkings.
- ❖ Parlours help keep your cow still and calm.
- ❖ Parlours support clean milking and milk handling.
- ❖ When you milk in a parlour, you can give your cow the amount of concentrate they need to produce the optimum amount of milk.



2. Key points for building a 'low cost', well designed parlour

- ❖ Use **locally available resources**, e.g. wooden poles for supports and thatch for a roof.
- ❖ Use an appropriate design – *see next page*.
- ❖ Make sure your parlour is **only** used for milking.
- ❖ Put the parlour close to the kraal so it is easy to move animals around.
- ❖ Make sure the entrance to the parlour is wide enough for cows to easily walk in to, but not so wide that they can turn around.
- ❖ Remember to check that there are no sharp places, e.g. nails where cows can injure themselves.
- ❖ Ensure your parlour is well ventilated.

Floor: use a **hard, flat surface** which is **easy to clean** and **durable**, e.g. cement or concrete on top of a base of stones.

- Prevent the floor becoming waterlogged and help rainwater and water used for cleaning drain away by:
 - Being 10 – 15 cm above ground level;
 - Making a drain line away to lower areas, e.g. a kitchen garden

This also helps the surroundings to dry up quicker.

Roof: Thatch or a hard roof. Ideally slightly sloping so water runs off and does not settle.

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If you have five cows or less, one parlour should be sufficient. *See fact sheet H04 for an example of an integrated smallholder dairy unit.*



Parlour with sloping roof and raised concrete floor to allow water to drain away.



Parlour with feeding trough, thatch roof and floor sloping away to allow easy draining.

3. Cleaning the parlour after milking (*also see factsheet M02*)

- ❖ Always clean the parlour after milking to get rid of dust, dirt and disease, plus to ensure it is ready for the next milking.
- ❖ Sweep the floor of the parlour to remove dust and dirt.
- ❖ Sprinkle with water to settle dust and make the ground firm.
- ❖ Clean the drainage every second day.
- ❖ Wash the roof and walls with water at least twice a year to avoid dust gathering and falling into milk.
- ❖ Paint the walls with lime once per year

AND REMEMBER to:

- ✓ Only use stainless steel or aluminium buckets and cans.
- ✓ Follow all milk hygiene practices, *see fact sheet M01*.
- ✓ Regularly use a Rapid Mastitis Test (*see fact sheets M03*) to check milk for early signs of mastitis.



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 on zdtpinfo@primeconsultants.net. Follow us on www.zambiadairy.com, Facebook (facebook.com/zambiadairy/) and Twitter (@DairyZambia).

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