

Mixed farming to earn Barungi Shs600m a year

Nice Barungi is a mixed farmer. Besides rearing birds, she has planted more than 4,000 eucalyptus trees on her farm. Going by the current prices of mature trees Barungi expects to earn Shs600m next year, writes Edgar R. Batte

Nice Barungi started farming in October 2013 with eight acres of eucalyptus trees, in Bushenyi District. Her motivation to go into tree farming was to basically have a long term investment venture that needed less supervision. She also needed a future fallback position when her children finally enroll in a world class university.

Starting
"Farming in general is my passion. I love nature and natural things really have a big portion of my heart and life. I can take a day looking at my flowers, goats or birds. It gives me satisfaction," she explains. The land was acquired at Shs40m. She has about 4,000 trees on the eight acres of land. She planted 500 tree seedlings on each of the acres, some died owing to the harsh sun, and she replanted. Each seedling cost her Shs500. In total, she spent Shs2.5m to cover the entire land. She spent Shs500,000 on the labour that planted the trees. To maintain the land, she paid out Shs800,000, but the maintenance was for a while.

Shs40

AMOUNT OF MONEY NICE BARUNGI USED TO BUY HER FARMLAND



At a certain stage when the trees shed their leaves, they create organic manure for the plant upon rotting. In about 10 years, she will be harvesting. She projects to sell each tree at

Shs120,000 which will fetch her about Shs600m. She says that not much work and technical knowledge is required if one is to go into eucalyptus tree growing. She hired someone that was recommended to her as knowledgeable on trees, pruning and spacing. "Tree planting is a passive investment that each of us can undertake with minimal costs. I challenge all of us to make use of our ancestral land back home to tap into this venture. It takes minimal supervision and is almost 100 per cent risk free," Barungi explains. Mohammed Kakiika an expert in agroforestry confirms Barungi's remarks. "You do not spend a lot on trees. After a year, all you need is cutting the grassing to avoid wild fires," says Kakiika.

Other ventures
And while her money slowly grows



Dehsd dshds shds dhsdus shds dhsdus dhsdus dsd his stock of groundnut bags.



Barungi tends to her chicken. The farmer sells more than 100 trays of eggs per week to customers including retail shops. PHOTOS BY EDGAR R. BATTE

Biosecurity
Barungi also uses proper biosecurity at the farm to keep away disease outbreak. Her target weight is usually two kilograms for broilers, five weeks for broilers. "My buyers are friends and restaurant owners. Most of them buy in quantities of 50 birds," she says.

Record keeping
She is keen on keeping records. "I have a stock book for each batch of hens I purchase. I record numbers coming, record deaths, record eggs sold and at how much and who. I record how many trays are collected from each house and number of birds," Barungi explains. She also records every expense with chick cost price, feeds, water and treatment plus labour, water and electricity. At the point of sell, she totals expenses and divides them by the number of birds remaining. The factors the price below which cannot sell. That is how the price determines her profit.

Costs
From her records, she spends Shs150,000 on labour, Shs water and electricity per month. She employs one person to run the poultry project. Barungi pays salary of Shs2m per month poultry enterprise. For now, she is investing her salary. "I am a hands-on person. I hours every day for my birds early in the morning before and when I return from work I supervise their feeding," she says.

Lessons and ch
Life has dealt the farmer hard lessons. For instance, the poultry caretaker for the house and the home died and killed 70 her chickens grown to three months managed to get her out of the batch. Another loss helping a neighbour who cross breed his local hens of cocks. The hen was Newcastle disease. It spread the disease to his hens and they died. Barungi, when each a knife being picked lessons she picked was that nothing is blame. From then on mistakes other farmers are economical they fail to give them feeds and supplement feed them on left-garbage taken in

Advice
To profit from poultry farmers to be hard workers and have knowledge and poultry practice. Keeping records is important to a farmer since it lets a farmer make business sense of their venture. "Add value to the business and if possible get in touch with your final consumers," she adds.

Q/

How do i control East Coast fever?

ASK THE EXPERT

Compiled by
Christine
Katende

Send your
questions to
features@
ug.nationmedia.
com

East Coast Fever is ravaging dairy herds around my farm. Help me with some functional information. Johnson Rutaaro (Nakasongola)

Dear Johnson
East coast fever is common among exotic breeds of cattle. This disease accounts for most of the deaths of the livestock.

It is very lethal to those farmers practicing zero grazing or smallscale farmers because it kills the animals within a month of attack.

Most dairy farmers are advised to report to vets when they spot the signs and symptoms in the first week.

The symptoms may include the swelling of the lymph nodes, loss of appetite, weakness in mobility and poor sight among others.

The first clinical sign of the fever in cattle appears seven to 15 days after attachment of infected ticks.

This is seen as a swelling of the parotid (salivary gland), for the ear is the preferred feeding site of the

vector.

Transmission

The primary vector for this dreadful disease is Rhipicephalus appendiculatus which infects the animal by patching itself on the body parts.

Controlling the disease

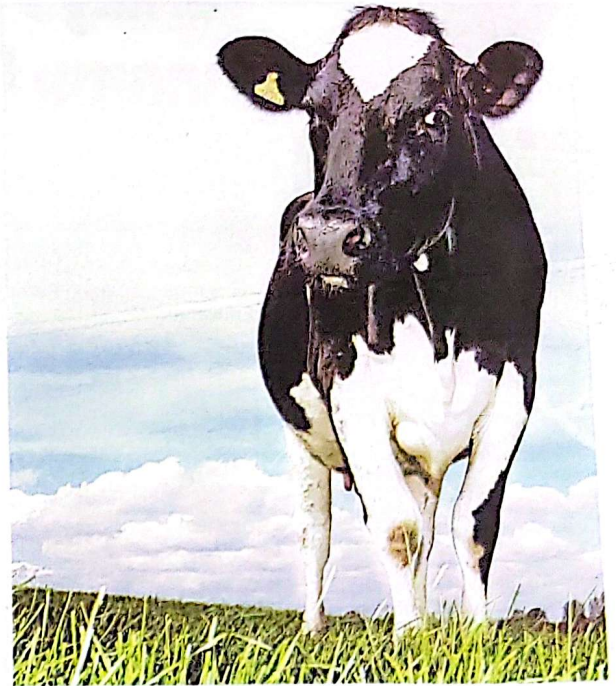
Regular dipping of cattle should be done. The cows can also be sprayed regularly with acaricides. This should be done on a weekly basis. But this rate has to be increased when tick infestation is high.

However, one should note that continued use of acaricides may lead to resistance of ticks and unacceptable residues in milk and meat. It is important to note that the use of acaricides is expensive and poses a threat to the environment.

Cattle immunisation: This offers life-long immunity to the animal. But it has not been adopted for widespread use because of logistical difficulties associated with production and distribution of a live vaccine and lack of commercial uptake.

Integrated control: This is a more effective approach, particularly for dairy farmers.

Answered by Prof Muleke the Dean of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Egerton University.



Planting Bananas and coffee

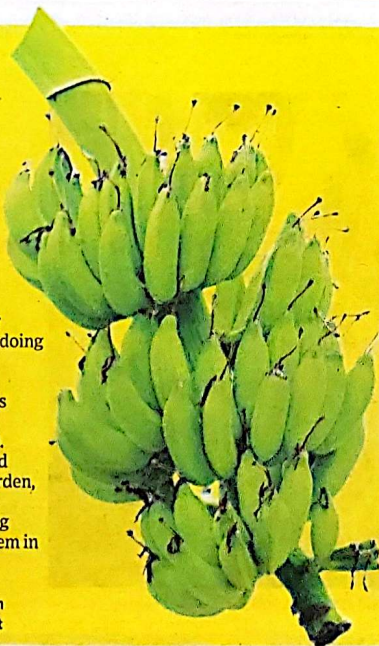
I want to plant bananas and coffee on three acres, what do I need? Zadock Mbabazi

Dear Zadock

At this time of the year (January), a coffee and or banana farmer should be doing the following;

- Clearing/preparing the garden where to plant this coming season if early planting is to be achieved.
- Sourcing for manure and bringing it around the garden, especially if it is from far.
- Sourcing for the planting materials and booking them in advance.

Answered by Moses Lumu, an agronomist and coffee expert



Planning new season

How best can I prepare for the forthcoming season? Beatrice Bulyaba.

Dear Beatrice

While farming is regarded as a wakeup and implement venture by many people, it is actually one of the projects which requires some planning. It is at planning that most people, especially beginners fail. Very few think planning is part of farming. Planning and preparation for any season starts as soon as the previous season is

approaching the end. Therefore, this period up to mid-February constitute the planning and a bit of land preparation activities.

When planning the following are among the important points a farmer should consider if good yields are to be obtained:

- The crop to be grown the next season (such as coffee or bananas) should be clearly known/chosen. This helps to organise for the subsequent activities in time. Farmers reach a planting period at

the start of the rain season when they have not zeroed down on what to plant. This is dangerous as it delays a lot of other processes.

• The acreage of land where the chosen crop will be grown is important because it factors in the amount of seeds/seedling/suckers required and the labour for preparing the garden plus the forthcoming management cost in terms of planting, weeding, fertiliser and chemical application among others

• The varieties of the chosen crop to be grown, coffee wilt resistant or not and their source for exarr coffee the farmer must know if they will plant seedlings or clor and if they will be free from OV UCDA or bought and if they are to be bough where are they going to be bough from.

• The other inputs such as manure/fertilisers and where to obtain them from.

Answered by Moses Lumu, an agronomist and coffee expert



Passion fruit diseases, control

What is the simplest way of controlling pests and diseases in passion fruit? Twaha Said Asuman (Zirobwe).

Dear Asuman

You are not the first to complain about the diseases and pests that attack passion fruits.

The most common passion fruit pests and diseases include;

Pests

Tealy bugs: These are small, oval, sucking insects with a cotton white wax covering to their bodies.

Infestation generally occurs on the tender floral buds and fruits. Adults and nymphs pierce these parts and suck the sap.

The passion vine mite: The passion mite may cause serious damage to the vines. Unless damage from these mites is checked the vines may die or the growth may be so adversely affected that there is a marked reduction in fruit.

Fruit flies: These insect pests puncture the immature fruits while they are still tender. As the fruit enlarges a woody area develops

around the puncture. If the fruit is still quite small and under developed, the damage may be sufficient to cause it to shrivel and fall from the vine. If the fruit is well developed, it may grow to maturity.

Control

Spraying with insecticides is the recommended control of pests, which attack the passion fruit. However you have to be careful to preserve the insects whose function in pollination is of vital importance to fruit plant.

Diseases

Brown spot disease - Alternaria

passiflorae

The disease is caused by fungus known as Alternaria passiflorae; this is characterised by the development of brown spots and lesions on the leaves, stems and fruits.

The attacked stem normally turns brown and this leads to ring barking. As a result the functions of the plant tissues, which are responsible for carrying food from the leaves to the roots and vice versa, are interfered with and there is subsequent dieback.

As the infection progresses, the spots enlarge forming a series of concentric rings and the infected leaves and fruits may fall

prematurely. The disease may vines of all ages.

Answered by an agronomist fr organic farming

