

Beef Inputs

The main types of inputs in beef production includes; Beef herd, feeds, water, vaccines, drugs and machinery and equipment such as weighing band, de-horning equipment, branding bar, livestock pens (lairage)etc.

Beef herd

The beef herd need to be of high quality. This is achieved through having the right breeds and proper management.

Feeds

Beef cattle feeds should be balanced to contain the major nutrients necessary for the body to function normally. These feeds include the natural forage, energy feeds, mineral and vitamin supplements.

Water

Adequate Clean water should be provided to the beef animal at all times.

Vaccines

Its important to ensure the beef cattle receives routine vaccinations. This is the obligation of the farmer to avail his animals for vaccination when called upon by the Ministry personnel.

Drugs

In beef production disease control is paramount as diseases contribute significantly to low productivity. Reduced disease incidences therefore contribute to improved productivity and profitability in beef production. There are drugs to treat various cattle diseases in the market.

The most commonly used machinery and equipment include weighing band, de horning equipment, branding bar, carcass chiller.

Machinery and equipment

Livestock pens (lairage)

The lairage is so constructed as to protect the animals from heat, cold and rain. So it has a series of roofed but without walls lockable pens. The lairage is ventilated and has a capacity of one and half to two days kill. The space required for each Cattle when kept loose is 2.0-2.8 square meters and for calves/sheep it is 0.7 square meters. The lairage shall be planned to ensure that there will be minimal mixing of stock and keeping animal welfare and natural behavior in mind and shall be constructed to a high standard.

