

The blocks are available in 2 kg pieces at the Veterinary Research Institute, located in Muguga. Quantities of up to 500 pieces can be purchased directly while larger orders can be supplied with 10 days.

Other KALRO centres where the blocks are available include Buchuma and Kibos.

Training on how to produce these blocks is also available on request from these centres.



Molasses-Urea Feed Blocks for Livestock feed supplementation In Livestock



Compiled by: J.M. Nginyi, S.M. Mbuku, S. Nduta and R. Kiprono

Design and Layout by: Odipo S.

For further information, contact:

Veterinary Research Institute, Muguga,

P.O. Box 32-00902 Kikuyu

Tel: +254 020 2524616 or +254 020 2519769

Email: Directorvsri@kalro.org

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MOLASSES - UREA MINERAL BLOCKS FOR LIVESTOCK FEED SUPPLEMENTATION





useful in times of prolonged feed shortage, as occurs in the arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya. The technology for making them is also readily available.

Materials required to make molasses-urea feed blocks

The following materials are required for making the feed blocks:

- Molasses
- Urea (fertiliser grade)
- Mineral premix
- Maize germ (or other bulking agent)
- Cement
- Common table salt
- Water

Nutritional content of molasses-urea feed blocks

The following are the nutrient content of molasses-urea feed blocks:

Nutrient	Chemical composition
D.M. %	82.83
ASH %	29.21
CP%	43.49
CF%	2.16
EE%	0.51

Dry matter (D.M.), Crude protein (C.P.), Crude Fiber (C.F.) and Ether Extract (E.E.)

How are the blocks presented to animals?

The blocks are highly palatable. They should be offered in a suspended position so that animals can only lick but not bite on the block. The high nitrogen supplementations helps

animals survive the effects of helminth infections. These benefits are best expressed when animals are treated with a conventional drench prior to introduction to the blocks.

Care should be taken to ensure that animals do not consume too much of the blocks. They should be introduced gradually and that the consistency is not too soft otherwise animals may eat too much. Suspending the blocks instead of putting them on a flat surface also discourages animals from biting on the block.

Benefits of supplementing animals with molasses-urea feed blocks

Recent research work in KALRO has demonstrated the following benefits derived from feeding sheep and cattle with molasses-urea feed blocks:

- They improve feed intake and digestibility of roughages.
- Improve weight gain in sheep and beef cattle, even when they are on low quality grasses as basal diet.
- Improve feed digestibility.
- Improve manure quality in terms of mineral content, hence extending the benefits to improving soil fertility.
- In sheep they improve cost benefit ratio to 1.31 compared to animals that were not supplemented.
- They alleviate pathological effects of chronic helminth infections that are common during the dry season.

Buying molasses-urea feed blocks



WHAT ARE MOLASSES-UREA FEED BLOCKS?



Introduction

Molasses-urea feed blocks are high energy feed and mineral supplement blocks made from cheap, readily available and easily sourced materials. Animals are given these blocks to lick at night in the boma as a feed supplement. They are particularly