

Keeping Farm Records

By: Erastus Ngaruka
Technical Officer (Livestock)
Agri Advisory Services Division

081 2862562
061 207 4328



The use of farm records?

- Keeping and using farm production and financial records is an essential component of farm management.
 - **Evaluation:** These records are used evaluate the performance of the whole farm enterprise or how each of the individual farm enterprises (cattle, sheep, goats, crop) are contributing to the overall progress of the farm.
 - **Management:** Record keeping is a guiding tool to a farmer. It helps with monitoring of farm activities or work and whether they are going according to his/her plans. E.g. is my breeding program followed.
 - **Planning & Budgeting:** records allows the farmer to plan properly and to do realistic budgeting. Thus, future financial decisions are always guided and made based on real information of the farm. E.g. decision to purchase a bull, water tank, etc.
 - **Support services:** A farmer with a proper record keeping system has more opportunities when seeking Agricultural support services. These include, financial assistance (donor, loans), and technical advise (Mentorship , training).

Important basic records on a livestock farm

- Livestock sales records
 - Best time to sell
 - Demand - Appropriate animal class/category
 - Price trends - Best price
 - Market place – best

Date of Sale	Place of Sale	Animal class (e.g. weaner, ox, cow, ewe, wether)	Tag No.	Weight (kg)	Price/kg (N\$)	Quantity sold	Total earning (N\$)	Remarks
1/1/2018	Agra/Gobabis	weaner	6665/8614	150	33	1	4950	
1/2/2018	Agra/Gobabis	weaner	2589/8145	200	36	1	7200	
8/2/2018	Karoo/Gobabis	weaner	3564/8642	170	35	1	5950	

Important basic records on a livestock farm

- Purchase records
 - Inputs , Livestock
 - Least cost, trends, budgeting

Date	Item purchased	Unit Price (N\$)	Quantity	Total cost (N\$)	Remarks
5/2/2017	Supervax	580	2	1160	
8/2/2018	Supervax	620	2	1240	

Important basic records on a livestock farm

- Health records
 - Health history
 - Medicine records
 - Health program

Date (d/m/y)	Vaccination (Name of vaccine)	Treatment (Name of medicine)	Type of Animal (Cattle/Sheep/Goat)	Number of Animals Treated/Vaccinated	ID of Treated Animal(s)	Entire Cattle Herd /Goats & Sheep Flock Vaccinated Yes/No?	Remarks
8/2/17	Supervax		Cattle	75		Entire herd	
		Disulfox	cattle	1	5643/656 5		Diarrhoea

