2025 LIVESTOCK

As we welcome 2025, we at Livestock Services Cooperative Society are filled with gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. Thank you—our valued clients, partners, and stakeholders—for your continued support and trust throughout 2024.

This past year, we were honoured to be recognised as a prominent agro-service provider in the industry by esteemed platforms such as the Annual **Agricultural and Commercial Show**, the **She Entrepreneur** Expo, and the **Agricoop Awards**. These accolades inspire us to continue delivering exceptional products and services to support your livestock production journey.

In 2025, our commitment remains steadfast. We are dedicated to providing innovative solutions, expert technical support, and impactful training to help you achieve success. Together, let's ensure healthy herds, thriving farms, and sustainable growth for all.

Here's to a prosperous and rewarding New Year for you, your farms, and your families.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Livestock Services family

IN THIS ISSUE

OPERATING HOURS

MON - FRI
08 00 - 16 45

SAT
08 00 - 14 45

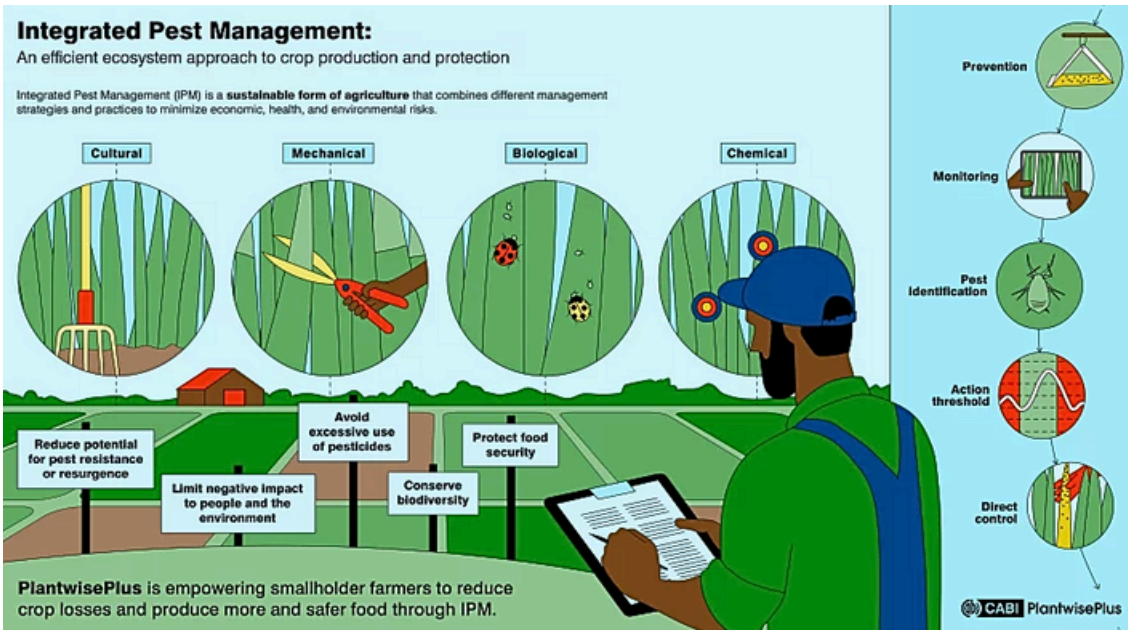
SUN & PUBLIC DAYS
CLOSED

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

BY ENV. INSP. RITA KALASA

During the rainy season, integrated pest management (IPM) in crops requires special consideration due to the increased moisture and humidity, which can exacerbate pest infestations. There are some IPM strategies for crops during the rainy season- **Culture, Physical, Biological, Chemical** and **Monitoring**.

This article our focus will be on one strategy - Cultural Control.



Cultural controls are practices that reduce pest establishment, reproduction, dispersal, and survival.

1. **Crop rotation**: Rotate crops to break the life cycle of pests and reduce the risk of infestation. (e.g. Rotate maize with legumes like beans or peas.)
2. **Sanitation**: Remove weeds, debris, and infested plants to reduce pest habitats. (e.g. Remove infested tomato plants to prevent the spread of disease to the rest of them.)
3. **Pruning**: prune plants to reduce pest habitats and promote air circulation. (e.g. Prune apple trees to reduce the risk of fire blight.)
4. **Irrigation management:** Manage irrigation to prevent excessive moisture, which can attract pests. (e.g. Use drip irrigation in cotton fields to reduce the risk of fungal diseases.)
5. **Plant spacing:** Adjust plant spacing to reduce pest habitats and promote air circulation. (e.g. Increase plant spacing in wheat fields to reduce the risk of powdery mildew.)
6. **Soil preparation:** Prepare soil to reduce pest habitats and promote healthy plant growth. (e.g. Add organic matter to soil to reduce the risk of nematode infestations in potato fields.)
7. **Resistant varieties**: Plant crop varieties that are resistant to specific pests. (e.g. Plant maize varieties that are resistant to the fall armyworm.)
8. **Trap cropping**: Plant trap crops to attract pests away from main crops. (e.g. Plant marigolds as a trap crop to attract nematodes away from tomato plants.)
9. **Mulching**: Apply mulch to reduce pest habitats and promote soil health. (e.g. Apply organic mulch to strawberry fields to reduce the risk of fungal diseases.)
10. **Timing of planting:** Adjust planting dates to avoid peak pest populations. (e.g. Plant wheat in the dry season to avoid peak aphid populations in the rainy spring.)

PRE-BREEDING SEASON TIPS (BEEF COW MANAGEMENT)

NUTRITION AND CONDITION SCORE

BY DR. DAVID CHANDA

We have officially entered the breeding season (for those using seasonal breeding systems starting in December/January), and now is the perfect time to prepare your cows for optimal production and reproduction outcomes. **Proper nutrition and management** of body condition scores (BCS) are key to ensuring **high fertility**, **conception rates**, and **weaning weights**.

Why Focus on Cow Condition?

The period between calving and the breeding season is critical for cows. During this time

- Milk production increases.
- Energy reserves are depleted.
- Cows lose body mass and condition, especially if feeding or supplementation is inadequate.

Cows can easily lose one condition score in this period. For e.g., if a cow calves with an ideal BCS of 3.5, it may drop to 2.5 (or lower under poor conditions). To achieve success during the breeding season, **it's essential to restore their BCS to a minimum of 3, ideally 3.5, before breeding begins.**

Nutrition Strategies for Success

Cows with a BCS below 2.5 require special nutritional attention. Key actions include

- **Providing better grazing options.**
- **Supplementing with hay or silage.**
- **Adding production licks to their diet**.

By improving their condition, you can ensure cows are ready for breeding, leading to earlier conception and healthier calves.

The Cost of Poor Condition

Failing to address poor conditions before the breeding season can result in

- Delayed pregnancies.
- Failure to conceive.
- Extended calving intervals.
- Reduced weaning weights.

fig1. Poor body condition

PRE-BREEDING SEASON TIPS cont'd

BY DR. DAVID CHANDA

It's more cost-effective to maintain or improve cow condition between weaning and calving than to take drastic measures later.

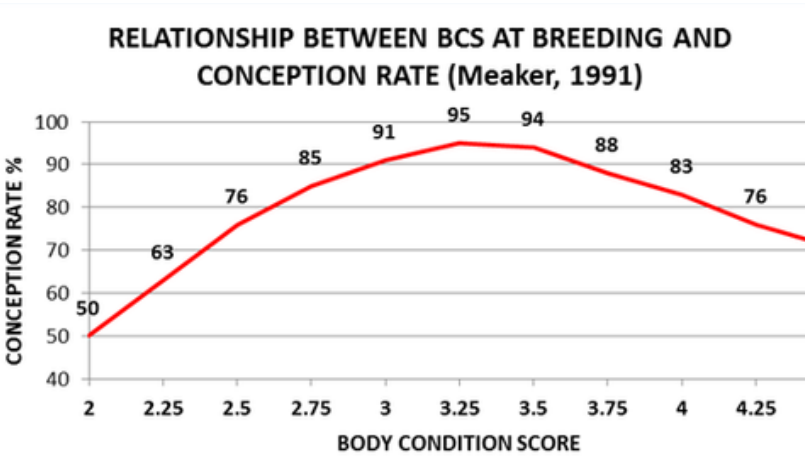


Fig2. illustrates the strong link between BCS at the start of the breeding season and conception rates.

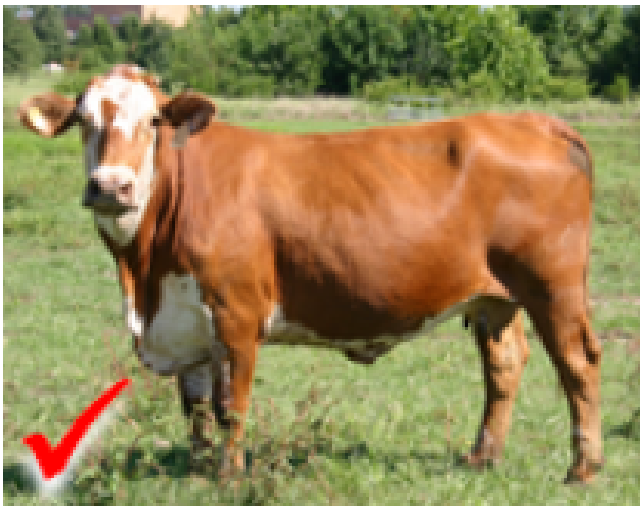
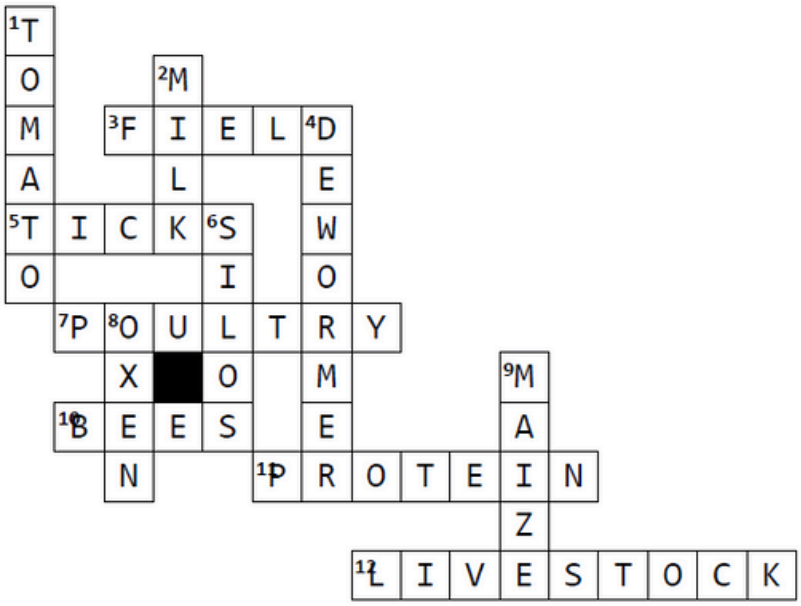


Fig3. Condition ready for mating season

Setting Goals for Breeding Success: aim for the following distribution of pregnancies:

- 60% in the first 21-day cycle.
- 25% in the second cycle.
- 10% in the third cycle.
- No more than 5% in the fourth cycle or remaining open.

By focusing on pre-breeding nutrition and condition management, you can set your farm up for a productive season.



CROSSWORD 1/24 SOLUTION

ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION TO SUBMIT INTEREST TO UNDERTAKE CADASTRAL SURVEY SERVICES FOR THE ZAMBIA NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION (ZNFU)

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) is a membership-based national farmer organisation with a countrywide presence. The Union represents and works with farmers across the country through lobbying and advocacy. Among the key services demanded by farmers that the ZNFU seeks to provide are land titling opportunities for landowners through cadastral land survey services to the farming community. This is because possessing the title to land facilitates access to financing and investments. To achieve this, the Union has acquired state-of-the-art survey equipment and intends to partner with licensed and professional land surveyors to deliver these services. The scope of the business venture is wide in that there is potential to service non-ZNFU members, which will enhance the business case and be able to operate through self-financing and enhance sustainability.

RESPONSIBILITIES THE SELECTED AGENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO

- Identify areas in need of cadastral survey services, manage the end-to-end cadastral survey process and undertake cadastral surveys.
- Conduct fieldwork in line with the principles of working from the known to the unknown and the whole-to-part method.
- Prepare standard general and working plans and lodge survey records for approval.
- Market, manage, and execute the cadastral survey services effectively.
- Facilitate ZNFU's participation in the National Land Titling Program (NLTP) to support farmers' land security and bid for works in this field from time to time.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Prospective bidders must

- Be in good standing with the Survey Institute of Zambia (SIZ).
- Be registered and licensed as a surveyor with the relevant regulatory authority.
- Demonstrate compliance with ZRA and NAPSA.
- Provide evidence of a proven track record of delivering cadastral land survey services, including processes and procedures.
- Possess a degree in Land Surveying and/or Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Have at least five(5) years of practical experience in cadastral surveying.
- Show strong marketing and project management skills with a capable team

HOW TO APPLY Interested parties should submit the following

1. Technical Bid Highlighting your technical competencies, team structure, compliance status, and your approach to delivering the required services, including how you will support ZNFU's participation in the NLTP.
2. Financial Bid Providing a detailed quarterly budget breakdown for execution of works and indicating your profit-sharing proposal.

Submit to Email **info@znfu.org.zm**,
Drop Box ZNFU Head Office Lobby; Tender box, Showgrounds, Lusaka,
Closing date is 17th January, 2025.

TICK CONTROL STRATEGIES pt.1

BY DR. VIGIRIO MUTEMWA

Selection of tick control strategy is not as simple as it appears because of many factors involved, i.e., the animal, the ticks, the predominant tick-borne diseases, and the type of farming. Acaricides (mainly dips) are the mainstay of tick control in animal health. It is also important to understand the nature of the dips in terms of whether they have a detaching effect or not.

The following are the different types of methods used to control ticks on animals.

1. **Mechanical/hand-spraying**

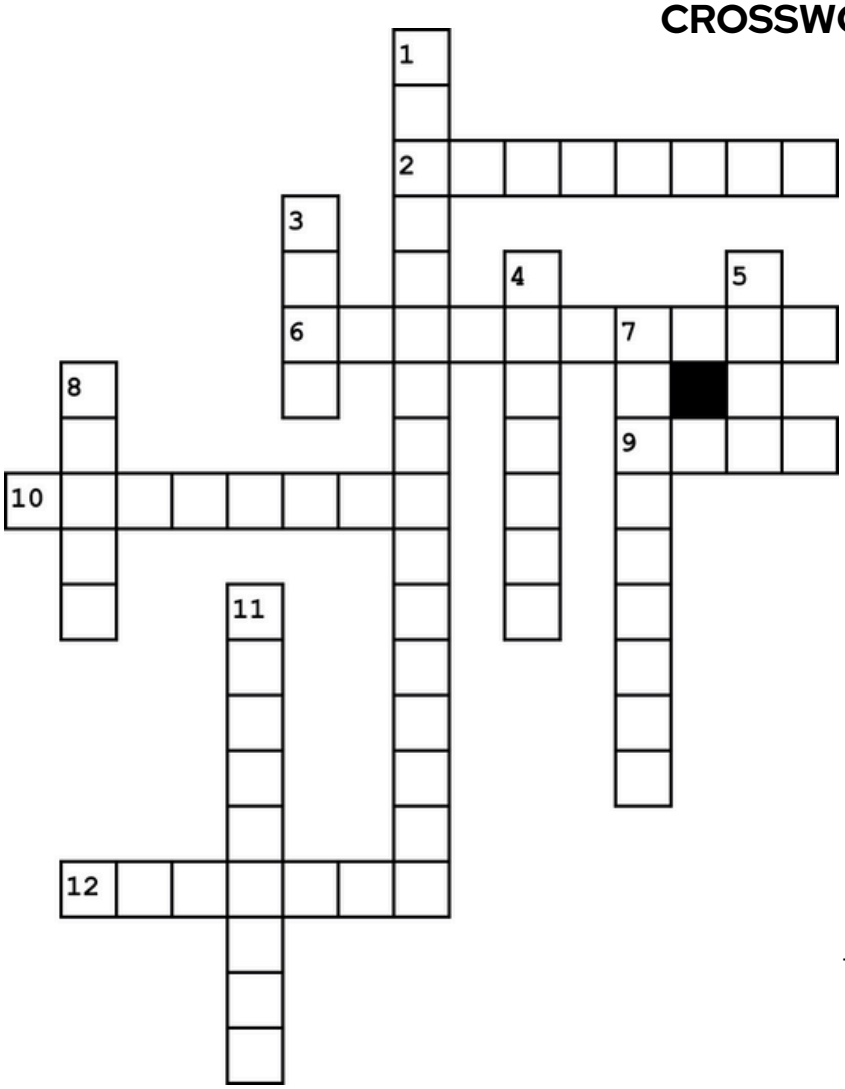
This method is used for very small numbers of animals, where limited holding facilities are available. It uses a knapsack sprayer, or a motorised pump with a lance and nozzles, a high-pressure manual pump or a bucket pump. It is very difficult to get right as it is **time-consuming** and wasteful (run-off cannot be reused). **Animals need to be properly restrained** and may **require at least 5 litres of the mix to be coated thoroughly** (7 litres is optimal).

2. **Spray-race**

Dip is circulated in a sump through piping and is forced through small nozzles to create a fine spray. A double footbath at the entrance of the spray race ensures the cleaning of hooves and helps prevent fouling of the spray and blocking of the nozzles. The system maintains 300l-500l of dip wash in circulation in order to **provide 1.5l to 2.5l per animal.** The dip wash must be replenished according to directions on the label of the product used, and **fresh dip must be used at each dipping**.

In the next issue we will have a look at plunge dipping, Pour-ons, Patch/spot treatment and Endectocides (Injectable tick control acaricides).

CROSSWORD 1/25



Across

2. Infection affecting the udder in dairy animals
6. Process of removing an animal's reproductive organs
9. a young cow or bull
10. A common fertilizer component
12. a biological substance that provides immunity

Down

1. disease of cattle transmitted by mosquitoes
3. A male goat
4. Long period of no rainfall
5. top layer of the ground
7. an infection spread by tick bites
8. A common pest in pig farming
11. chemical product used to eliminate ticks on animals

UPCOMING SEMINARS

- **SUNFLOWER PRODUCTION - JANUARY 18TH, 2025**
  LIVESTOCK SERVICES LECTURE THEATRE — FREE
- **TOMATO FARMING MASTERCLASS - JANUARY 25TH, 2025**
  LUTEMA SEEDLINGS, MAKENI (0979638731) — K300/PERSON
- **GENERAL PIG PRODUCTION - FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025**
  LIVESTOCK SERVICES LECTURE THEATRE — FREE
- **CLIMATE CHANGE WITH AGRICULTURE - FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025**
  LIVESTOCK SERVICES LECTURE THEATRE — FREE
- **SHEEP AND GOAT PRODUCTION - FEBRUARY 15TH, 2025**
  LIVESTOCK SERVICES LECTURE THEATRE — FREE

CONTACT US

PAMODZI HIGHWAY, OFF NANGWENYA ROAD
SHOWGROUNDS
P.O. BOX 32025
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

PHONE 0211 445050
WHATSAPP 0771 991310
EMAIL ADMIN@LIVESTOCK.CO.ZM