

LIVESTOCK LICKS

Use of these blocks increase the animal's access to the minerals and vitamins present in their feed. The rich protein availability in these blocks increases the activity in the animal's rumen. (Photographs and information obtained through the International Trypanotolerance Center in The Gambia with assistance from Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo).

For ruminants (cattle, sheep and goats), ingredients for dry season use:

Rice bran:	32%
Moringa leaf powder:	25%
Cement:	15%
Lime (or crushed oyster shells):	15%
Urea (<u>not</u> NPK):	8%
Salt (rock salt):	5%

To make 10kg of licking blocks for dry season use:

3.2kg rice bran
2.5kg Moringa powder
1,5kg cement
1.5kg lime or crushed oyster shells (sifted to remove traces of shells).
0.8kg urea
0.5kg salt

To make licking blocks for rainy season use for ruminants, use the following combination:

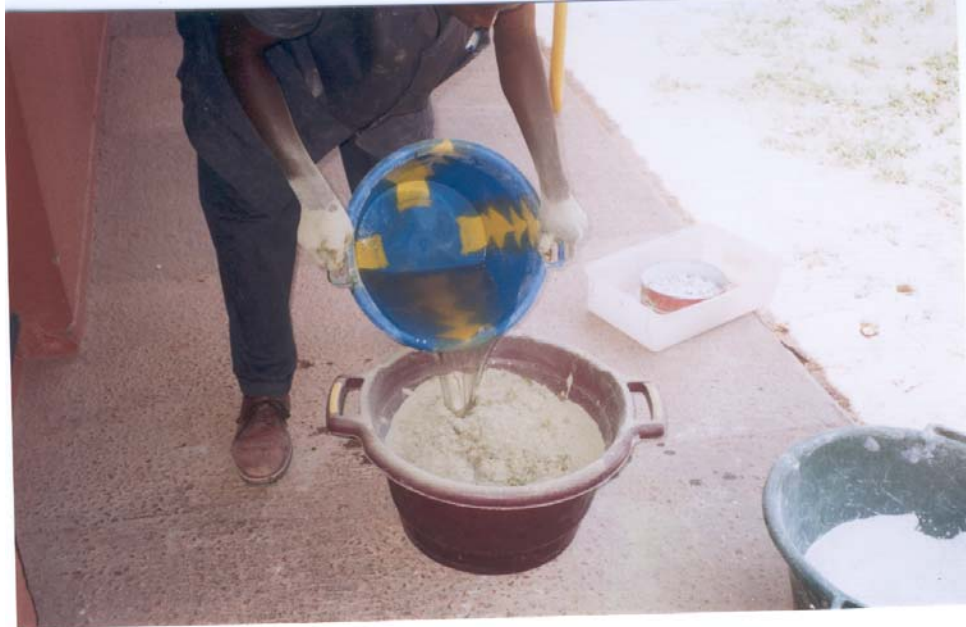
65% salt
15% cement
15% lime or oyster shell powder
5% Moringa leaf powder

To make licking blocks for horses or donkeys, follow the recipes listed above but do not include the urea.

For milk-producing cattle, it is recommended that a cow receive two 1kg blocks per week. (This approach to making livestock licks is still under study with the aim of making the licks harder. At present, these licks are often consumed too rapidly).



1. Measure and mix together the first four ingredients.



2. Add water to the mix to make it moist.



3. Dilute the urea and salt in 5 liters water.



4. Add urea/salt/water to mix and stir by hand. Add more water if necessary (1 to 4 liters).



5. Select a site in the shade (protected from sunlight for making the blocks. Sprinkle rice bran on the ground so that the blocks do not stick to the ground.



6. The molds used to produce 1kg of licking blocks should be 13cm x 13cm with a height of 10cm.



7. The molds should be made in two pieces to facilitate removal of the blocks.



8. Press the mix into the mold and create blocks on the ground.



9. The blocks should be left alone to dry and harden. This may require two weeks.