



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**Volunteer Name: Annie Kaye Slusser**

**Country: Kenya**

**Country project: Dairy Country Project**

**Host: Lelchego Dairy Company Ltd.**

**Venue: 4500 members and Employees**

**Audience: Farmers Members and Staff**

**Number of people : 174 at trainings & 14**

**Farm Visits, and visited 4 collection centers**

**Date: January 8 to January 30, 2016**





# **1. Assignment Objectives**

To equip Lelchego Dairy Company, staff and farmer members with knowledge and skills on dairy calf management to increase profitability.

- In order to reach that goal I needed to review staff and farmers knowledge and skills on dairy calf management.

- Train staff and farmers on best dairy calf

# Objectives Cont.

Management practices and dairy calf hygiene

- Conduct training on dairy calf feeding and weaning
- Provide recommendations on best dairy calf feeding practices





## **2. Achievement of the assignment objectives**

1. Reached 174 farmers and staff, and Board Members at training meetings. Also made 14 individual farm visits to give individual advice on the farm operation.
2. Visited individual farms to view the young animals as the farmer, wife and workers briefed me on the methods of calf raising and their short comings.





## **Cont. Achievements**

We discussed where they needed help and also in what order. They were well prepared for our visit, thanks to the extension agents.

3. Conducted training on raising dairy calves from birth to ready to breed. This was always followed by lively discussion.
4. Feeding practices of the young animals were eagerly followed with lengthy discussion. Many new ideas were presented to the multiple groups.







### **3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- Distributed packets of information that I developed for the Kenyan farmers. They are to be given by extension agents to farmers and to be used for training purposes.
- Extension agents and veterinarians need to follow-up with farmers by continually checking to see if these new practices are being implemented.



## **Cont. Recomendations**

- Farmers need to be reminded why each step in the care and feeding of the new born calf leads to a better heifer that will be brought into the milking herd earlier.
- Extension agents have been taught the need to meet at various farms with invitations to other local farmers to join them there. Success needs to be viewed as to healthier grown out calves.

## **Cont. Recommendations**

- A better source of calf starter (meal) should be found and also calf replacer (powder milk). Texturized or pelleted calf starter is absolutely needed. Calf replacer is often cheaper than feeding cows milk once the colostrum period has terminated.



## **4. Anticipated Impact**

- Healthy looking calves
- Lower percent of early death
- Entering the milking string earlier, sometimes by a year or more
- More profit for the family farm business. Entering the milking herd by 1 year earlier is a profit of one entire year of milk income.

## **5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance**

- Nutrition specialist on growing healthy heifers to reach breeding age earlier
- Animal reproduction and animal improvement specialist
- Dry cow, birthing and early calf age management
- Record keeping or Farming As a Business specialist















# Action plan for host recommendations

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1.Deworming	Frequently, on Vet advice	Extension agent or vet	ASAP
2.Find new calf care products	Iodine, milk replacer ,calf feeding bottles, Pelleted feed	AgroVet store	ASAP
3. Repeat trainings I have done	Use materials that I produced and left here.	Ext. Agents	ASAP
4. Cow-measuring tapes	Purchase or make tapes to track progress of wt. gain	Extension agents or community facilitator	ASAP
5. Introduce calf hutch – pen	Calves need to be confined, I saw a few calf pens. Train at these farms	Extension agents or community facilitators	ASAP
6. Distribute 5 page manual on calves	Use manual + training	Staff, milk haulers, collection centers	ASAP







***Thank You!***