

Friesian-Sahiwal Crossbreds For More Milk

INTRODUCTION

The Friesian-Sahiwal cross is a very good cow for milk production in dry areas e.g. Nakuru, Machakos, Baringo, Koibatek, Kajiado, Kilifi Districts.



Friesian-Sahiwal Crossbred

The crossbred is good because she

- Gives high milk yield: an average of 2,500 kg in a lactation (10 kg per day) as compared to the Sahiwal, which gives 1,500 kg in a lactation.
- Calves grow fast so heifers can be served early.
- Is easy to handle.
- Has few calving problems.
- Is easy to milk.
- Has strong hooves and legs and finds feed easily.



Sahiwal Cow

Friesian Bull



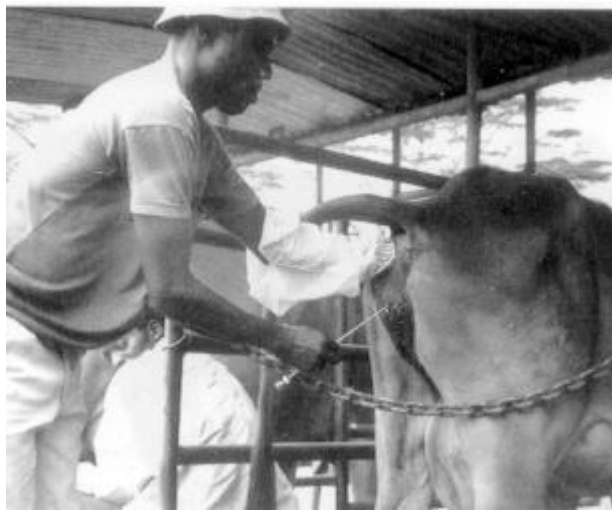
Friesian-Sahiwal Crossbred

FEEDING

Calves are fed colostrum (first milk after calving) and then whole milk in two feeds:

Milk	Morning	Evening
0-4 days	Colostrum	Colostrum
Thereafter	Whole milk	Whole milk
1 st month	2 bottles	2 bottles
2nd month	3 bottles	3 bottles
3dr month	2 bottles	2 bottles

- Wean calves at 3 months of age and graze them on high quality pastures.
- Graze heifers with cows on good pastures.
- In a zero-grazing system, feed them on fodder e.g. Napier grass and sweet potato vines.
- Provide clean water at all times (3 debes of water per cow per day).
- Supplement with dairy meal, lucerne and minerals for more milk.



Artificial Insemination of Sahiwal Cow

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

- Dip regularly (once a week).
- Routine vaccinations are done against Rinderpest after one year of age and once in a lifetime; Foot and Mouth disease twice a year and against Blackquarter and Anthrax once in a year.
- Only deworm calves and cows before the onset of the rains.

BREEDING

- Heifers and cows are artificially inseminated with semen from halfbred Friesian-Sahiwal sires to maintain the proportion of half
- Friesian and half Sahiwal.
- Serve with a Friesian-Sahiwal crossbred bull if AI is not available.
- Heifers are first served when they have reached 340 Kg, i.e., at 22-24 months of age.
- You can breed cows all the year round.

AVAILABILITY

Fresian-Sahiwal heifers are available at KARI, Naivasha and at large scale farms in Nakuru and Kilifi Districts.