

CUT & CARRY FEEDING SYSTEM

An improved management system
for small livestock farmers

Barton A. Clarke, Gregory Robin and Alice P. Clarke



Cut & Carry: An improved manag

- How much time do you spend each day feeding and watering your cows?
- With cut and carry you can reduce the time and labour spent on these tasks.
- You will always have good grass to feed your animals.
- No more tying cows and carrying water long distances.
- Your cows will be safer and give more milk.
- You will have more time to spend in your garden.

What is Cut & Carry?

In a cut and carry system you grow enough grass to feed your animals. The animals are kept in PENS and you cut FORAGE and carry it to them.

Pen Design

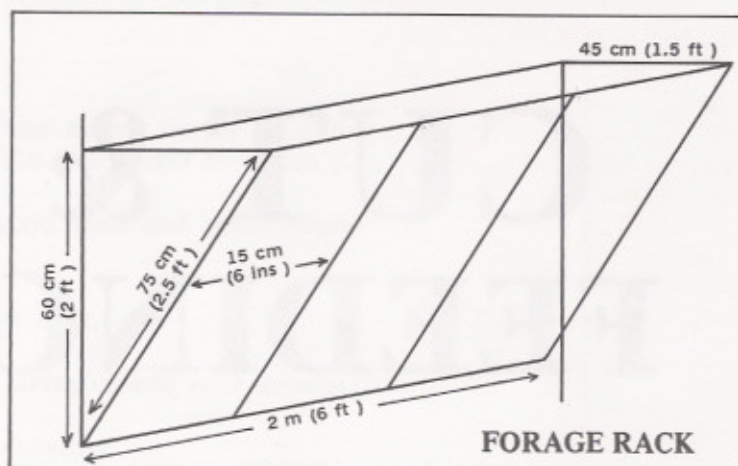
For the pen you will need round wood, galvanize steel sheets, cement and tarrish. Each animal should have its own pen 120cm (4 ft) wide and 2m (6 ft) long. The floor should be concrete or tarrish. In addition there should be an exercise area about 10m x 6m (30 ft x 20 ft) fenced with barbed wire and live gliricidia (*Gliricidia sepium*) posts.



Choose an area with a slight slope to give good drainage.

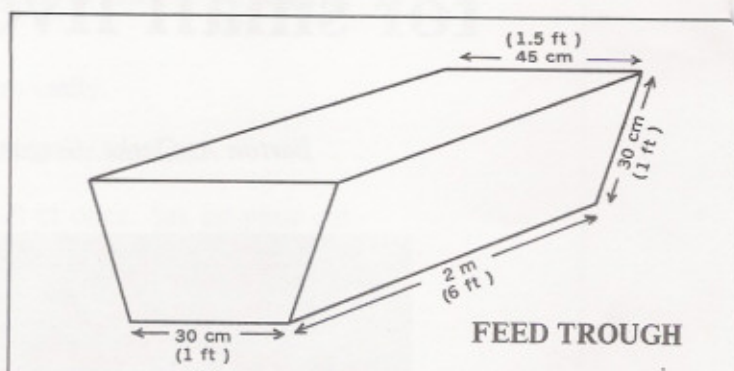
In the exercise area you will need:

a FORAGE RACK made of round wood;

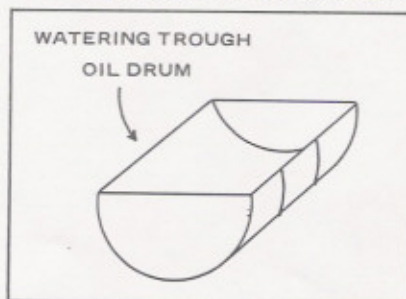


In the pen you will need:

A FEED TROUGH for concentrates;



and a WATERING TROUGH made from an oil drum cut in half. To have water all the time you can collect it off the roof of the pen using bamboo guttering and two or three oil drums welded together.

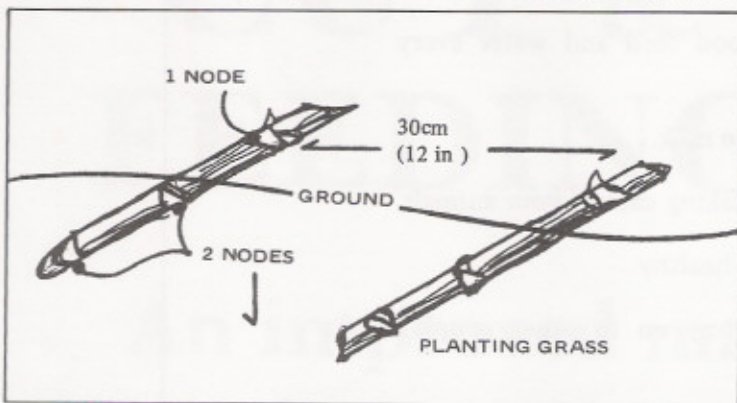


ement system for livestock farmers

Forage Plot

Establishment

For three cows you will need about **half an acre** (0.2 ha) of land. Clear the area by slashing, or spray with gram-moxone (5 tablespoons per 4.5 gal (20 l) knapsack). Dig out any citronelle or mulch. Apply limestone at a rate of 4000 kg per ha. (2 tons per ac). Plant pieces of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) about 30cm (12 in) apart.



If necessary, fence the area with live gliricidia posts and barbed wire.



Management

Treat your grass like any other crop. Apply banana fertilizer (N:P:K: - 16:8:24 + 2) at a rate of 200 kg per ha (200 lbs per ac). Keep the forage plot weed free for the first six weeks after planting.

Cutting Interval

Two to three months after planting you can start to cut. Cut the grass about 2.5cm (1 in) above the ground. Feed each animal about 55 kg (120 lb) of grass every day. To get this amount you will need to cut an area of about 3m x 3m (9 ft x 9 ft). Cut a particular area about once a month in the wet season and once every two months in the dry season.

Other Feeds

In addition to grass you will need to feed legumes. You can feed gliricidia leaves from off the fence posts, or Desmodium (*Desmodium distortum*) or Zing Zing (*Leucaena leucocephala*). You should also feed some concentrates such as coconut meal, citrus pulp or bananas.

Manure Collection

Keeping your animals in pens makes it easy to collect manure. Clean the pens regularly, and make a compost heap nearby. In this way you will have manure readily available for your garden, or for sale.



8 Good Reasons to use a Cut & Carry Feeding System

You will have to spend some money to set up your cut and carry system but in the end it will be worth it.

1. Your animals will get good feed and water every day.
2. Your animals will give more milk.
3. You will spend less time taking care of your animals.
4. Your animals will be more healthy.
5. Your animals will not stray on to other people's land, or be stolen.
6. Your animals are less likely to fall and strangle or break a leg.
7. You can collect the manure easily.
8. Dogs cannot chase or attack your animals.

You do not have to do it all at once. Set up your cut and carry system gradually.

Plant Some Grass Today!