

# **Rabbit Farming in Kenya**

Rabbits have one stomach and feed on plant materials. They require nutrients such as proteins, energy, minerals, vitamins and fats in specific measures to help them grow well.

A farmers should feed rabbits pellets, hay, dry vegetative matter and carrots. Rabbits can be fed in two ways : commercial feeding where the rabbits feed on manufactured feeds, hay and enough water. Hay helps in the digestive system of rabbits. Using fodder like, kales, cabbages, carrots, lucern and sweet potato vines. When giving rabbits vegetables let them wither to remove water. In the evening hang enough hay, water and some supplements.

## **Stages of feeding**

A rabbit of 3 months and above feeds on about 150 grams, a pregnant doe eats 180 grams and a nursing doe 300 to 400 grams per day. Water should be given to rabbit to help with digestion. A farmer should maintain hygiene and cleanliness of the cages.

Inspect the animals all the time. A healthy rabbit is alert and active, has a smooth coat and its droppings are round and firm. Always consult a veterinary when suspecting a sick rabbit.

## **Improper feeding**

Wet vegetables causes bloating in rabbits. Rabbits do not chew cud causing diarrhoea and may kill the animal. Farmers should not over feed the animal but give them the required nutrients to boost their growth.

During weaning do not feed the rabbits lots of concentrate, proteins and vegetables with a lot of water as it causes bloating.

## **Diseases affecting rabbits**

Ear canker blocks the ears and cause itching, redness and soreness in rabbits. Use medicated liquid paraffin for treating them. Mange is caused by worms in pigs and affects the nose.

Hepatic coccidiosis is passed from mother to young ones located in the lungs. Intestinal can erode the intestines. Use antibiotics to cure coccidiosis. Pneumonia is caused when the rabbits cage is not properly ventilated.