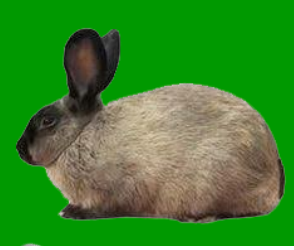




Issue No.2

#rabbitfarming
#zicorba
#letsmakeZicorbaGreat



American Sable Rabbit

ZICORBA clinches pellet price reduction deal



The Zimbabwe Commercial Rabbit Breeders Association (ZICORBA) and a local firm Raymeg Consultants Private Limited Group have successfully negotiated with top stock feed companies for price discounts on rabbit pellets in a bid to arrest ballooning cost of cuniculture production in Zimbabwe.

ZICORBA President Regis Nyamakanga told Bunny World in an interview that Zimbabwe's leading stock feed producers Capital Foods, Agrifoods and National Foods had agreed to a deal, which would see ZICORBA affiliated farmers accessing rabbit pellets from Raymeg retail outlets at discounted prices.

Capital Foods Sales Director, Owen Nyoni, said his organisation was committed to supporting rabbit farmers in Zimbabwe to reach their full potential while National Foods Sales Executive, Mrs Sarudzai Muzorori, said her firm would continue to play its part in the growth and development of rabbit farming in Zimbabwe by ensuring that farmers have access to ISO 9001:2015 certified quality and affordable feeds."

And Agrifoods Marketing Manager, Luke Mutemeri, said his company would ensure that rabbit farmers continue to have access to "affordable and quality feed".

The ZICORBA chief said from March 2021, all rabbit farmers that are members of ZICORBA would be issued with a chip-based membership cards that would give them access to the discount facility.

"ZICORBA members will be accessing the discounted rabbit pellets from Raymeg retail outlet situated at the Harare Agricultural Showgrounds. Plans are afoot to open more Raymeg retail outlets in other parts of the country to ensure that all ZICORBA members benefit from this facility."

"This is part of ZICORBA strategy of addressing the key challenges that Zimbabwean rabbit farmers are facing," Nyamakanga said.

The cost of pellets, breeding stock, housing, labour, hay, medicine and water are among key costs of producing rabbits, with pellets accounting for the lion's share



Mr Luke Mutemeri
Agrifoods Marketing Manager



Mrs Sarudzai Muzorori
National Foods Sales Executive

BUNNY WORLD

ZIMBABWE COMERCIAL RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



*Mrs Siphosethu Ncube Moyo
ZICORBA Secretary General*

Welcome to the second issue of Bunny world.

This issue highlights our partnership with a local firm (Raymeg Consultants Private Limited Group) which has successfully managed to negotiate with top stock feed companies (National Foods, Capital Foods and Agrifoods) for price discounts on rabbit pellets in a bid to assist members to leverage the rising cost of cuniculture production in Zimbabwe.

We are also very proud of Kingston Rakupeni who scooped the provincial coordinator of the month award. Kingston is quite the enthusiastic breeder who has brought vibrancy in pushing the agenda as well as advancing brand visibility of ZIRCOBA. Well

done Kingston. In this issue we share his profile and get to learn more on what makes him tick as a rabbit breeder.

We also share with you ZICORBA's coordinators and ambassadors across the country who are doing amazing work in spreading the ZICORBA's initiative. In addition, we share stories from the ground both locally and across borders on how rabbit husbandry is taking over in our daily lives. Locally we share the story of how Tonderai Kamuzu has turned rabbit production into a viable project in Nyabira, Mashonaland west.

Likewise, Mrs Rudo Manyureni, a banker now turned rabbit and poultry farmer from Bulawayo wants to thank ZICORBA for availing this platform and also implore ZICORBA to assist rabbit farmers with strategic marketing skills, availing necessary tools and information through quarterly seminars so as to enable the upcoming and existing rabbit farmers to maximise rabbit production.

We hope just like Mrs Manyureni you will get to benefit this and more from this association and our knowledge sharing platforms. Moving across the border Peter Theuri from Kenya narrates his experience in how rabbit husbandry survived the COVID-19 pandemic. He indicates that "Agribusiness is the future. You should be passionate with what you do. You should also be consistent and know what is happening in your farm each and every day. Always strive to offer the best quality such that your customers are happy enough to refer their friends to you. There is power in referrals."

Happy reading!

Nyamakanga appointed to the Board of Governors of Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

ZICORBA President, Regis Nyamakanga, has been appointed to the coveted Board of Governors of the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council of Zimbabwe (LMAC). The appointment took effect on 6 February 2021.

Nyamakanga was recently elected the first president of the Zimbabwe Commercial Rabbit Breeders Association (ZICORBA), the collective voice of rabbit farmers in Zimbabwe. ZICORBA was launched in July 2020.

ZICORBA Vice President, Obert Nyakabau, said Nyamakanga's appointment was an endorsement of his "great leadership qualities and the rabbit industry as a whole will benefit from this well-deserved appointment".

LMAC is charged with protecting, promoting and furtherance of interest of those engaged in the livestock and meat industry, ensuring the economic viability of the livestock industry in Zimbabwe

Nyamakanga is the Executive Chairman of a diversified local group Raymeg Consultants Private Limited Holdings. The group, among other interests, owns a livestock ranch in Chivhu, where cattle, pigs, sheep, goat and free-range chicken are produced on a large scale.



ZICORBA President, Mr. Regis Nyamakanga

New member oozes confidence, pins her hopes on ZICORBA

Ms Esta Chimhwa, the latest member of the Association who hails from the mining town of Chegutu in Mashonaland West, oozes confidence and is pinning her hope on ZICORBA thrusting rabbit farming in a pole position in small-livestock production in Zimbabwe.

She boasts of having produced upwards of 360 rabbits at her seven-unit rabbitry in the small mineral-rich town located about 108 kilometers west of Zimbabwe's capital Harare.

Chimhwa ventured into cuniculture production three years ago with only four rabbits, which she acquired from her friend, who also lives in the mining town. Since then she has never looked back despite the nagging challenges of high cost of feed and lack of a formal market for rabbit meat in the country.



Zicorba Mash West & Central youth ambassador Belinda Nyakabau assessing Ms Chimhwa's rabbitry



Rabbit breeder Ms Esta Chimhwa,

"At some point the total number of my rabbits oscillated between 360 and 400 but the high cost of pellets and lack of a formal market for rabbit meat in Zimbabwe forced me to cut back on the numbers," she said with a tinge of sadness in her eyes.

But she regains composure and illuminates at the mention of ZICORBA.

"The formation of ZICORBA is a welcome development to all well-meaning rabbit farmers in Zimbabwe. For me the association is a panacea to our problems. I know that there is a clear strategy of dealing with production related challenges as well as processing and marketing bottlenecks," Chimhwa said.

"I am excited to be part of the ZICORBA family and I stand ready to contribute to the growth of the industry. If all rabbit farmers work together under the ZICORBA banner, the sky will be the limit for us as rabbit producers," she added.

Chimhwa is among a number of rabbit farmers that joined ZICORBA during the month of February 2021. In each and every issue of Bunny World we will be profiling new members with compelling stories to tell.

**This
n
That**

DO NOT FEED THESE FOODS TO YOUR BUNNY

- Beans
- Cat or Dog Food
- Chocolate
- Cookies
- Corn
- Crackers
- Cucumbers
- Eggplant
- Green Beans
- Peas
- Pizza
- Potatoes
- Red Beets
- Rhubarb
- Tomatoes
- Zucchini

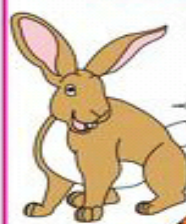


Reading Club Fun!

by Annimills LLC

Rabbits and Bunnies

and Hares!



I'm sure that I'm the cutest rabbit you've ever seen. Well, at least maybe one of the funniest!



A small or young rabbit is sometimes called a bunny.



My puzzle is all about rabbits and hares. What do you know about us? After you read the clues to fill in the crossword you will know a lot!

jump
thumping
hair
litter
ears
teeth
years

mammals
deserts
cotontail
doe
herbivore
burrows
lagomorpha

1. baby rabbit
2. may have 4 to 12 in this
3. born without this
4. female rabbit
5. male rabbit
6. not a rodent; part of this family
7. are warm blooded
8. live about 9-12 of these
9. have long ones to hear well
10. have 2 sets of incisors, one on top and one on bottom; have 28 in all
11. powerful legs to do this; highest one measured was about 39 inches and longest one about 9 feet
12. when scared may freeze and then warn others by doing this
13. common rabbit
14. many live in these holes under the ground
15. live in many places: meadows, forests, even in these hot places
16. diet of grass, vegetables; eats no meat
17. this animal is usually larger than a rabbit
18. while rabbits live beneath the ground, hares live above the ground in these
19. rabbits are born blind, but don't stay that way for long - meanwhile hares can do this immediately
20. rabbits are social and live together, but hares may live in pairs or may live _____



Funny, a bunny has no hair when born. I'm hairy when born and am called a hare.

Come print out free puzzles, reading logs and certificates at: www.readingclubfun.com

Rakupeni scoops Provincial Coordinator of the month Award



Kingston Rakupeni with his prized buck Nicky

cally available materials such as timber and thatch grass and I fed the rabbits mainly on greens and pellets. I joined various rabbit groups on WhatsApp and Facebook. I learnt from other rabbit breeders that rearing rabbits could be a profitable venture.

From hobby to commercial

I decided to commercialize my rabbitry although I had little money to capitalize it. In June 2020, I added three more does and one buck to my breeding stock. I made the most crucial step towards rabbit commercialization in October when I formally joined ZICORBA after realizing that it could help me transform from a small-scale to a commercial breeder. By December 2020, I had a slaughter stock of 73 rabbit. I sold most of them during the festive season and managed to plough back some of the profits to expand my project. I bought material to construct a 20-compartment hutch (construction nearly complete), and this one is more spacious and standardized than the first one. I hope to be a well-established commercial rabbit breeder by mid-2021.

The ZICORBA factor on my project

As far as I am concerned, I am benefiting a lot as a member of ZICORBA. I continue to receive online training on rabbit production skills and best practices in rabbitry. I'm looking forward to benefiting from the pure rabbit breeds to be provided by ZICORBA which will increase and improve my breeding stock. From the steps already taken, I can see that the association will make commercial rabbit production much easier and profitable by provision of markets and marketing information among many other benefits. Also, by spending much of time with progressive ZICORBA associates, I found out that they have always got new concepts, skills and they are optimistic and they continue to encourage young breeders. As a young and up-coming rabbit breeder, I thus strongly advise other youths keen to venture into cuniculture to join ZICORBA because it has a lot to offer to new breeders.

The future

I foresee the majority of Zimbabweans venturing into commercial rabbit production under the ZICORBA banner, thus positioning Zimbabwe to be among the leading rabbit producers and exporters in Africa. This will improve the country's economy by bringing in foreign currency. The rabbit industry will create jobs and improve livelihoods by increased income from rabbitry. I see many Zimbabweans embracing rabbit meat because of its health benefits, which will make our country a healthy nation. I would like to encourage youths to venture into rabbit breeding as it will catapult them into cash economy and financial freedom.

Kingston Rakupeni is a young, energetic and enthusiastic rabbit breeder who is also the ZICORBA Youth Ambassador for Manicaland and the Membership Secretary for the same province. Kingston's consistency in pushing the agenda as well as advancing the ZICORBA brand visibility has earned him accolades from the Secretary General's office. As an acknowledgement of his efforts, Kingston was crowned the Provincial Coordinator of the Month.

In this issue of Bunny World, we sought to establish what makes the young farmer tick.

How did your rabbit breeding journey start?

I developed interest in rabbit breeding when I was in high school in 2019 where I undertook a research project in rabbit in production. A year later, I started rabbit breeding at our farm in Nyanga with five does and one buck. Initially, I meant it to be just a hobby. My hutches were constructed from lo-

“Knowing your breeds is a key factor in running a successful Rabbitry”

Farmer Jane

KNOW YOUR BREEDS



Join Zimbabwe's only collective voice of rabbit farmers and grow your business today

* BREED : CALIFORNIAN RABBIT

The Californian also known as the California White, is a large rabbit that weighs between 3.5 to 5kgs when fully grown. It is a domestic breed of rabbit originally developed for fur and meat around 1923 by George S West of Lynwood California

Distinct features : Usually white with Himalayan markings which are grey or black noses, ears, tails and paws. They have a lifespan of 5-10 years and not prone to any specific diseases or health problems. These huge rabbits have no special diet but require access to clean water, fresh greens and nutritious food pellets like any rabbit.

RATING : * * * *

JOIN NOW AND BECOME A MEMBER info@zicorba.com +263 774 061 145



ASK THE VET



Dear VET, I have noticed that my doe usually eats only those young which are already virtually dead but still warm. I am afraid that one day it might start to eat even live ones. What could be the problem?

Dear Farmer, the problem that you are facing is called Cannibalism. This may happen a few hours or days after parturition. Cannibalism in this case is usually caused by insufficient drinking-water after parturition. To prevent this problem, it is recommended that does must be fed ad lib (as much and as often as desired) during and after their kindling dates.

Dear VET, I am worried about my Chinchilla buck which I recently bought as breeding stock. My buck has an elevated temperature when you hold it which is worrisome. It has laboured breathing, nasal discharge and seems not to be interested in eating yet I have hay and pellets. Please help!

Dear Farmer, all the symptoms you have highlighted indicate without doubt that your buck has Pneumonia. This disease is usually caused by a bacteria or virus infection usually associated with other respiratory diseases or stress factors such as damp, drafty and unsanitary hutches. As an initial response I recommend antibiotic treatment for your buck. Control of "Snuffles" reduces chances of pneumonia so it is advisable to ensure that you eliminate dirty and wet conditions.

Dear VET, I have noticed that some of my rabbits have excessive tear formation and fluid running the down cheek. At times the rabbits rub eyes with front feet and I can see visible irritation. How can I deal with this problem as these rabbits are clearly uncomfortable?

Dear Farmer, your rabbits are afflicted by a condition called "Weepy Eye" or Conjunctivitis. This condition can result from irritation by dust, sprays, fumes or by bacterial infection and at times rabbits with snuffles frequently have "weepy eye". To treat weepy eye, use a commercial eye-washing product to remove dust, dirt or other foreign objects in the rabbit's eye. If inflammation persists, an ophthalmic ointment containing antibiotics may be helpful. Remove chronically affected rabbits and isolate. Minimising sources of dust and dirt will reduce risk of irritation.

Dear VET, my doe has some form of infection which I don't understand. I have noticed a brownish crust on the infected area and at times I see bleeding exudate. What could be causing this problem?

Dear Farmer, this is a condition called hutch burn and is usually associated with wet and dirty hutches. You should clean affected skin with a germicidal soap and keep the area clean. Urine and fecal material cause the skin to become irritated and infected, do not allow fecal material to accumulate in the hutch.



EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor : Lloyd Mangoh

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Regis Nyamakanga

Siphosethu Ncube Moyo

Shame Chibvongodze : Chairman

Rejoice Nyamanhindi

If you have any issue/s regarding your rabbits that you do not fully understand, you can get in touch with us on ZICORBA social media platforms for professional assistance.

Happy breeding, Rabbit farmers @AskTheVet

ZICORBA Coordinators & Ambassadors



Rejoice Nyamanhindi
Head of ZICORBA Innovation Hub &
Midlands Provincial Coordinator



Tapiwa Nyagwambo
National Coordinator & Technical
Advisor



Lloyd Mangoh
Communications Officer



Farlen Marume
Web Master



Kingston Rakupeni
Manicaland Provincial Coordinator



Shamiso Hamandishe
Youth Ambassador Masvingo



Leeroy Madzvimbo
Youth Ambassador Mat North & South



Belinda Nyakabau
Youth Ambassador Mash Central & West



Deloitte Moyo
Youth Ambassador Bulawayo



Tanya Mandaza
Youth Ambassador Harare & Mash East

Aspiring doctor breeds rabbit for profit



Arnold Bunya at his bunnyry in Norton

Young Norton based rabbit breeder Arnold Bunya (AB) who has successfully taken to rabbit farming as an income generating project speaks to Bunny World (BW) about his journey. In a question and answer with Bunny World, Arnold takes us through his life changing project.

BW: Arnold can you give us a brief background about yourself and how you ventured into rabbit farming?

AB: I am a 22-year-old medical student doing rabbitry as an income generating project. Last year in March I wanted to start an income generating project that does not require a lot of capital. My girlfriend suggested rabbits and I decided to take a look at it. I had the space, and a big cage that I could renovate a bit

to make it suitable for rabbits.

In May I bought 2 does and 2 bucks to start the project. So far, the journey has been good, I can confidently say that the project is growing. As we speak, I now have 6 working does and 3 working bucks. My first target is to reach 8 working does that are consistent when it comes to breeding. I'm aiming to be able to supply meat to restaurants within my area which is Norton.

BW: So, when and how did you decide to join ZICORBA? What benefits have you realized so far as a member?

AB: When the formation of ZICORBA was still in the horizon, I joined one of its WhatsApp groups. All I wanted was an organisation that would make marketing a bit easier of which that's part of ZICORBA's objectives. Also, there are other benefits to us members like getting easier access to good breeding stocks (Pure Breeds) and cages. At the moment I have benefited from the discussions carried out in the groups. I know the organisation is still within its launch phase, so I'm not expecting a lot of benefits as yet.

BW: What do you see as the future of Rabbit production in Zimbabwe?

AB: At this rate I think rabbits will be a common thing in the next 5 years just like what's happening in countries like Kenya according to the articles I've read online. I see many people are joining the industry and that means there will be a lot of rabbits in the coming years. I think rabbits will be as abundant as broilers.

BW: Any words of advice to young farmers?

AB: This industry is very promising and I would recommend rabbit farming to anyone looking for a project to do. However, it needs patience and consistency, so never feel like giving up on the project once you start.

Rabbit breeds and Product price check



ZIMBABWE

Description/ Age	Breeding Stock	General Rabbits
	Pure Breeds	Mixed Breeds
Weaners 8 wks	8USD	4 USD
12 WKS OLD	12 USD	6 USD
16 WKS OLD	15 USD	8 USD
20 WKS/+	20 USD	10-15 USD
24 WKS	25 USD	

SOUTH AFRICA

Cost of breeding stock

R 500 - 700

Cost of live rabbits

3 months old (1 - 2 kgs) R50 - 120
Mature R150 - 200

Costs of slaughtered rabbits

R50 - 75 per KG
R90 per KG (deboned)



KENYA

Cost of breeding stock

Chinchilla KShs 1500 to KShs 2000
New Zealand KShs 1500 to KShs 2000
California KShs 1500 to KShs 2000
Dutch KShs 1500 to KShs 2000
Giant Flemish KShs 1500 to KShs 2000

Cost of live rabbits

3 months old rabbits (1 - 2 kg) KShs 600
Mature rabbits (5 - 6 kg / 5 months+) KShs 3500

Costs of slaughtered rabbits

KShs 450 per kg (wholesale price)
KShs 550 - 650 per kg (retail price)



UGANDA

New Zealand breed Ush 50 000
California breed Ush 55 000
Dutch Ush 45 000
Angora breed Ush 65 000

Cost of live rabbits

3 months old Ush 25 000
Mature rabbit Ush 30 000 - 50 000
Pregnant does Ush 80 000

Costs of slaughtered rabbits

Ush 30 000 - 35 000 per KG



EGYPT

Cost of breeding stock

250 - 300 LE (Egyptian Pound)

Cost of live rabbits

Mature rabbit 200 LE

Costs of slaughtered rabbits

70 - 75 LE per KG



Rabbit production is a viable project: Kamuzu

My name is Tonderai Kamuzu and I am employed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Research and Specialist Services as a general hand. I am a rabbit breeder based in Nyabira, Mashonaland West Province and am also a member of the Zimbabwe Commercial



Mr Tonderai Kamuzu at his rabbitry in Nyabira

Breeders Association (ZICORBA). I was motivated to keep rabbits by my young brother after he made me taste rabbit meat. It was delicious that I decided to keep some rabbits for family consumption. I started keeping rabbits in April 2018 and since then I am still in the industry. I started with the New Zealand White breed and today I own California, New Zealand White and some cross breeds. As of now I have 20 adult rabbits and with this lot, my future plan is to expand my rabbitry. If resources permit as I am targeting above 100 rabbits within a short space of time. I also plan to establish a well-furnished rabbitry at a school I did my secondary education in Hurungwe.

The biggest challenge facing Zimbabwe rabbit industry is production cost. The cost of constructing modern rabbit housing is expensive to the majority of rabbit farmers. Also feed is a bit costly considering the requirements to produce a 2 kg live weight rabbit. You will find that if you want to sell meat, most will not buy because the price will be higher yet you would have put just a small profit margin on your cost of production. In my view, since we now have an association to speak for us farmers, we need affordable resources. We need a readily available market and I think contract farming can help in this regard. I am confident that through ZICORBA,

everything will be addressed. The most frustrating thing that I occurred during my rabbit rearing journey is losing 32 rabbits in a day to heat stress. I felt hurt to the bone but I kept going because I told myself that winners never quit. I decided to keep going and I am still in the rabbit industry. The highest number of rabbits I have kept is 175.

My message to the ZICORBA family is very simple, patience pays. My dear ZICORBA members, remain focused, be patient and aim higher as we have an association dedicated to deliver as far as the rabbit production value chain is concerned. ZICORBA is here to assist us all realize our dreams. To those who are yet to join ZICORBA, it is never too late, now is the time. Why wait for others to testify yet you can also testify. Come and be part of the association. Let's farm together because through ZICORBA there is so much to achieve in rabbit production.

Rabbit breeding has impacted positively on my life. As I have mentioned earlier, I am a civil servant and sometimes in a month rabbit sales double my salary, not to mention that it's a good source of protein as we slaughter rabbits when we need meat. Besides rabbit production, I love farming. I do field crops, gardening and also fishing.

A banker, rabbit and poultry farmer dreams big!

My name is Mrs Rudo Manyureni. I am a rabbit farmer hailing from Bulawayo. We started the rabbitry with my late husband. My husband and I started off this rabbit project on a very small scale with but in no time, we were housing more than 200 rabbits.

With the help of some expert rabbit breeders, we gradually took our time to learn and understand the different breeds we had acquired, rabbit behaviour, quality service delivery and animal husbandry.

We keep the Flemish Giant, the American Sable and the Chinchilla breeds. Due to space constraints and my marketing efforts to local butcheries, currently I have reduced my rabbitry to 150.

My long-term plan is to grow this project to a large scale. The aim is to supply countrywide and beyond Zimbabwean borders. I can acknowledge that rabbit rearing has, however, significantly improved my lifestyle despite running the project at a small-scale.

The project has taught me to meet my clients' expectations and has also allowed me to expand my clientele base particularly during this COVID-19 lockdown. I have learnt that more people now appreciate and find rabbit meat a delicacy.

On the other hand, rabbit meat is not only nutritious but people also use rabbit manure as a fertiliser as well as a worm-growing medium.

As a rabbit farmer, the major obstacle in this business is finding the suitable market for our rabbit meat. I also rear free-range chickens such as the Boschveld and Black Australorp. Poultry has a broad clientele base compared to rabbit meat. However, the rabbit meat market is steadily growing.

Besides raising rabbits and free-range chickens I am a banker by profession.

I want to thank ZICORBA for availing this platform and also implore ZICORBA to assist rabbit farmers with strategic marketing skills, avail necessary tools and information through quarterly seminars so as to enable the upcoming rabbit farmers and the existing ones to maximise rabbit production.



Rabbit Breeder Mrs Rudo Manyureni

market for our rabbit meat. I also rear free-range chickens such as the Boschveld and Black Australorp. Poultry has a broad clientele base compared to rabbit meat. However, the rabbit meat market is steadily growing.



My Business has Grown during the Pandemic

By Peter Theuri

Once upon a time, he reared chickens and rabbits on the rooftop of his apartment building. He also grew veggies in the balcony. Naftal Mocha, a library and information science graduate, had made up his mind to take up farming fulltime. He faced a few knocks but his resolve paid off. Today, the 30-year old father of two owns and runs two thriving farms, one where he carries out crop farming and another animal rearing. He is also the founder of City Yard Farming Solutions. Naftal believes that the future is in agribusiness.

Do you remember your first sale?

You never forget your first one. The two does each bore eight bunnies and this prompted me to add more cages out of prefabricated material. My first sale was of 10 rabbits, each at Sh1,500. It was the start of a new agribusiness journey.

How do you net clients?

Mostly online. From the start, I would post online that I had chickens and rabbit for sale, gradually growing my trade's prominence



A commercial rabbitry set up

“My first sale was of 10 rabbits, each at Sh1,500. It was the start of a new agribusiness journey”

Did you seek out employment after school?

I graduated in 2010 and only got a job in 2013. I stayed on till 2015 when I caught the unrelenting bug to pursue my passion. I had always loved farming and since I was not going to leave the city, I had to find a way of making it work here. And so I sought out my landlord. He had to know I wanted to do some farming in his premises. Fortunately, we reached an agreement. Since it was an unfinished building, I could use the rooftop until he was ready to continue construction. With a capital of Sh3,000, I bought three rabbits; two does and a buck. I set them up on the rooftop. And that is how it all began.

Why rabbits?

They were the easiest to begin with. I did some research and found out that rabbits being such docile and peaceful creatures, they would be the easiest to maintain under the circumstances. It is easy to even clean out their cages. On top of my research, I visited a farmer in Kiambu and learnt more about rabbit farming. I now keep nine rabbit breeds. Not on my rooftop though. We have grown. We are now on a fully fledged farm. Do you know that you can sell their urine?

Rabbit urine as a product for sale?

Yes. I sell urine to farmers who do organic farming. It goes for Sh100 per litre. Mixed with water at a ratio of 1:10, it acts as an insecticide. At a ratio of 1:20, it can be used as foliar feed. With the rabbits, the weaners go for Sh1,500, while mature rabbits cost Sh3,300 each.

among interested people. So far, I have sold over 1,600 rabbits and over 300 chicken. A rooster goes for Sh1,500 while a hen will cost Sh1,200. I usually serve three to 10 customers in a day

Has Covid-19 affected your markets?

Yes. Positively. People are seeing the potential of this kind of agribusiness the more. I am getting more customers.

What is the greatest achievement in your agribusiness?

Self-employment is in itself my biggest achievement. The beauty of doing what I am most passionate about on a daily basis is unparalleled. The freedom is in itself a wonderful achievement.

What crucial lessons would you pass on to aspiring farmers?

Agribusiness is the future. You should be passionate with what you do. You should also be consistent and know what is happening in your farm each and every day. Always strive to offer the best quality such that your customers are happy enough to refer their friends to you. There is power in referrals.

I also would love to appeal to landlords to ensure that they have at least ten potted plants on every rooftop. There are a lot of carbon emissions that need to be dealt with and with the fast-rising urban population, it is the way to go.?

Source : *The Standard (Kenya)*

BBQ Grilled Rabbit

TRY THIS @ HOME



RECIPE
OF
THE
MONTH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 whole Rabbitfryer/Grill/Braai stand
- 1 cup BBQ Sauce I always use "Spicy Plum Sauce" from the Ball Blue Book
- Assorted veggies for grilling

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat your BBQ to medium high. While it heats, Cut the rabbit's rib cage then press down flat. The ribs may pop out of the spine or break, either is fine.

Spread half of your marinade on the inside of the rabbit.

Lay your rabbit on the grill, marinade side down. Turn heat to low and cover. You want your grill to be heated at around 425 degrees. Don't forget to grill that delicious liver!

After 15-20 minutes, coat the top side of the rabbit with half the remaining sauce and eat the liver as an appetizer.

Flip the rabbit longways (so the hindlegs are now where the forelegs were) and coat with the last of the sauce. Now is a good time to add tender grilling veggies like zucchini or peppers.

Cover grill and cook another 15-20 minutes until juices run clear

Let the rabbit rest under foil off heat for 10 minutes.

Chop into 6 chunks

RECIPE NOTES : Rabbit has a slightly sweet flavor and pairs really well with plum sauce, but any of your favorite BBQ sauce will do.



@birdsongfarm

TO JOIN, CONTACT US

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