



A dairy cow on the farm.

MDF is located in Kenya, highlands west of the Rift Valley in Uasin Gishu County. Uasin Gishu is set on a largely arable flat lava plateau south of the Cherengani Hills. Eldoret, the main commercial centre in the area, was established in 1908 by numerous Afrikaans-speaking South Africans settled in the Uasin Gishu Plateau, and set up farms. The land MDF is situated upon was until the early 1970's occupied by the Emslie Family, who were Afrikaans settlers.

MDF enjoys scenic views of the Cherengani Hills to the north, Mount Elgon the west and Sergoit Rock to the south, and is less than an hour's drive to the scenic Great Rift Valley.



Who We Are

Location

At an altitude of between 1,700 and 2,100 metres, it enjoys cool and temperate climate, The average rainfall ranges between 900mm-1200mm. The greatest precipitation occurs between the months of March and September, with two peak periods in May and August. However the Moiben area receives relatively less rainfall than other areas in the County. The dry season begins in November and ends in February. During this time temperatures range between 8.4 C and 26 C with an average of 18 C. Indeed, the settler community in the past described the climate as "the best in the world". Little wonder that in 1903, it was proposed as a potential Jewish homeland



Location: Merewet, Ziwa Road. Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.

G.P.R.S: 0 43' 13" N 35 20' 5" E

Farm size: 650 acres

Herd size: 350 head

Breed : Holstein & Jersey



History of MDF

MDF was started a few years ago from scratch, by the directors of MDL, on land that was initially utilized for grain farming. The project was started as a hobby by P.K.Murgor, who had over the years come to recognize the dwindling output from grain farming in the region, mainly due to soils that had turned acidic due to unchecked use of artificial fertilizers. However the challenge faced in setting up a dairy farm was that Kenya's pedigree dairy herd had been seriously depleted, following the near collapse of the dairy sector in the country.

At the same time the agricultural sector in general, was in the same state of disability, mainly on account of the high cost of inputs, and agricultural finance. PKM was not to be deterred by the challenges, and designed a dairy farm, with the assistance of friends, and consultants to name a few: the late Kiplagat Kogos, Nathaniel Makone and Christopher Chirchir, who were able to grasp the concept of a modern dairy farm built out of the cheapest possible material, and refurbished machinery. The concept was based on a zero, and semi-zero grazing model.

Several years later, MDF has become a model farm and one of the leading dairy farms in Kenya, and attracts visitors from all over the country due to its unique concept and model. The Government of Kenya through its national and county officials has used MDF to demonstrate what determination and a clear vision can achieve.



The long term strategy of MDL is to grow its herd to 1000 Holstein, and offer at least 100 heifers annually to the market. It is also building up a jersey herd to improve its average butterfat content in its milk production.



The Dairy Herd

MDF prides itself in possessing one of the best dairy herds in Kenya, having purchased over 50 cows and heifers from Delamere Estates Ltd (DEL) in 2011, when DEL wound up its dairy operations. The DEL herd had developed its Fresian/Holstein genetics from the 1920's. MDF also acquired breeding stock from J.E Kruger Ltd, and government owned Agricultural Development Cooperation, to form a solid genetic foundation to become one of Kenya's leading Holstein breeders.

MDF undertakes a strict breeding regime based on ensuring the development of the best dairy traits, utilizing conventional and semen from the US and Europe. It has also supported the development of World Bank programs that make available pedigree heifers for sale to upcoming dairy farmers in the country.

Having acquired the breeding stock, the farm has completed the development of the first phase of the supporting infrastructure including feeding stalls, a modern milking parlour with cooler, spray race, calf barns, feed and hay storage barns and acquired sufficient tractors, implements and equipment to support the current dairy herd numbering about 200 head of pedigree cattle, and about 150 cross animals.



Cows Feeding In the stalls

All milking animals are maintained in enclosed feeding stalls, while the dry and upcoming heifers are maintained in semi-zero grazing paddocks. The cross cattle graze the natural farm pastures.

MDF has 150 acres under improved pasture, comprising mainly *elmba* and *boma rhodes* and *Sudan grass* and 150 acres under maize for silage purposes, and grows other feed crops like sunflower, barley and oats.