

Estimated reading time: 7 minute(s)

## Introduction

Bistanji et al. (2000) illustrates that **arid and semi-arid environments** often offer **limited potential for growth in livestock** production. In particular, when there are extended dry periods (Onwuka, 1999).

Therefore, the advent of **agro-industrial by-products** play a vital role **as supplements** to ruminants under different management systems on farms.

Such that, various feed supplements have to be incorporated in order to cater for all nutritional requirements in domesticated animals.

**This brings us to the key discussion of today which is the preparation of Urea molasses blocks at a cheaper cost by farmers.**

Urea molasses block preparation is not a new technique, actually it has been practiced for the past decades all over the world. Fellow farming communities here is a **simple cold process of preparing urea molasses blocks** for both large and small ruminants. Your cattle, goats and sheep have something to nibble on as supplement.

**Researchers and animal nutritionists are in search of alternative and cheaper feed ingredients to feed cattle, sheep and goats.**

## Cheaper feed source for ruminants: urea molasses block

### **Benefits of Urea molasses block**

Namibia as a developing nation is consistently coming up with different strategies on how to come up with different feed source for livestock.

Such that, **feed producers are battling for different ways of developing feeds at a cheaper cost in order to cater for farmers in different farming enterprises.**

Therefore, use of Urea molasses blocks in ruminants has been reported to *improve digestion, increased milk yield, maintains good body condition if used as supplement* lick. Furthermore, the sweet smell of molasses in most feeds enhances appetite in ruminants when foraging in the veld.

### **What ingredients do you need?**

- Urea
- Molasses
- Coarse salt
- Mineral mix
- Agro industrial by-products: Wheat, barley, rice and millet bran, palm kernel cake
- Water
- Cement or limestone

**NB:** Yes cement, the one we use for building.

[vc\_raw\_html]JTVCdGFibGUlMjBpZCUzRDI1JTIwJTJGJTVE[/vc\_raw\_html]

### **What equipment do you need?**



- Plastic bucket

## Cheaper feed source for ruminants: urea molasses block

- Wooden stirrer
- Neatly cut 5 litre water bottles

### **How to prepare your Urea molasses block**

- **Mix your urea** with water and coarse salt
- **Add molasses** and stir until your coarse salt is completely dissolved
- **Add cement** or limestone and continue stirring
- **Add your mineral mix** and continue stirring
- **Add your desired agro industrial by-product** according to availability in your area and though-roughly mix

### **Your mixture is ready, so what is next?**

- Set your mixture into neatly cut 5 litre containers
- Let your Urea molasses block air dry for 4-6 days

### **Advantages of Urea molasses block**

- One farmer can do it
- Cheap
- Easy
- Faster
- Convenient

**Dear farmer, your Urea molasses supplement feed block is ready for your cattle, sheep and goats on your farm.**

### **Conclusion**

In summary, Urea molasses block is an easy and cheaper method of providing your ruminants with a sweet palatable lick. The development of

## Cheaper feed source for ruminants: urea molasses block

these blocks in various formulation rations ought to be practiced in Namibia by farmers and could complement the basal daily rations availed to ruminants.

### **References**

Bistanji G, Hamadeh S, Hassan H, Tami F and Tannous R 2000: The potential of agro-industrial byproducts as feeds for livestock in Lebanon. *Livestock Research for Rural Development. Volume 12, Article #21*. Retrieved October 16, 2019, from

<http://www.lrrd.org/lrrd12/3/bist123.htm>

Onwuku C.F.I., 1999: Molasses blocks as supplementary feed resources for ruminants. *Arch. Zootech* 48: 89-94.

Urea molasses block image. Retrieved October 16, 2019 from

<https://www.livestockkenya.com/index.php/blog/feeds-and-feeding/215-urea-molasses-mineral-blocks>