



**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO LOW SURVIVAL RATES OF FRIESIAN BREEDS IN  
MELLA SUB-COUNTY AND MALABA TOWN COUNCIL, TORORO DISTRICT**



**BY**

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**DECLARATION**

I, Omam Charles Patrick do hereby declare that this dissertation has been done by me; it is my own effort and original work that has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning for any award of academic qualification.

Signature.....  ..... Date..... 31<sup>st</sup> - AUGUST, 2016 .....

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my beloved mother Juliana Nyachwo and my guardian, Onyango Francis who have modeled me to follow the path of education. May God bless them abundantly for their efforts towards my success.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION .....	i
DEDICATION .....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES .....	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....	ix
ABSTRACT .....	x
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.3 General objective.....	2
1.4 Specific objectives.....	3
1.5 Research questions .....	3
1.6 Significance .....	3
1.7 Justification .....	3
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW .....	4
2.1 Common diseases that affect Friesians.....	6
2.1.1 Trypanosomosis.....	7
2.1.2 Theileriosis .....	8
2.1.3 Anaplasmosis.....	8
2.1.4 Babesiosis.....	8
2.1.5 Heart water .....	9
2.2 Management of Friesians .....	9
2.2.1 Zero-grazing .....	11
2.2.2 Communal grazing .....	11
2.3 Feeding of Friesians .....	12
2.3.1 Feeding requirements for Friesians. ....	13
2.3.2 Types of feeds used to feed Friesians.....	14
CHAPTER THREE: MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY .....	16

3.1 Study area.....	16
3.2 Research design.....	16
3.3 Sample size determination.....	16
3.4 Operational design.....	16
3.5 Data analysis and presentation.....	17
3.6 Ethical considerations.....	17
3.7 Environmental considerations.....	17
CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF RESULTS.....	18
4.1 Respondents' information.....	18
4.1.1 Sex of respondents.....	18
4.1.2 Age of respondents.....	19
4.1.3 Parish of residents.....	19
4.1.4 Occupation of respondents.....	20
4.1.5 Marital status of respondents.....	20
4.1.6 Educational level of respondents.....	21
4.2 Diseases in Friesians.....	21
4.2.1 Farmers that experienced disease in Friesians.....	21
4.2.2 The common diseases that affect survival of Friesians.....	22
4.2.3 Farmers that experienced death of Friesians.....	22
4.2.4 The extension workers distances.....	23
4.2.5 Disease management practices.....	23
4.3 Management of Friesians.....	24
4.3.1 Problems faced in the management of Friesians.....	24
4.3.2 Care for sick Friesians.....	24
4.3.3 Respondents with zero grazing units.....	25
4.3.4 Frequency of cleaning zero grazing units.....	25
4.4 Feeding of Friesians.....	25
4.4.1 How farmers feed their Friesians.....	26
4.4.2 Respondents with established pastures.....	26
4.4.3 Estimated quantity of feed given to Friesians.....	27
4.4.4 The feeding time of Friesians by respondents.....	27

4.4.5 Watering Frequency of Friesians by farmers .....	28
4.4.6 Sources of water for Friesians .....	28
4.4.7 Knowledge of farmers in pasture preservation.....	29
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF RESULTS.....	30
5.1.1 Age of respondents.....	30
5.1.2 Sex Of respondents.....	31
5.1.3 Educational level of respondents.....	31
5.1.4 Marital status.....	31
5.1.5 Location of respondents .....	32
5.1.6 Occupation of respondents .....	32
5.1.7 Challenges faced by Friesian farmers.....	32
5.2 Disease factors in Friesians .....	34
5.3 Management factors in Friesians.....	34
5.4 Feeding factors in Friesians.....	35
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION .....	37
6.2 RECOMMENDATION.....	37
REFERENCES.....	38
QUESTIONNAIRE.....	42
MAP SHOWING THE STUDY AREA.....	47

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the sex of respondents.....	19
Figure 2 shows age group of respondents.....	20
Figure 3 shows parishes of respondents.....	20
Figure 4 shows the occupation of respondents .....	21
Figure 5 shows the marital status of respondents .....	21
Figure 6 shows the education level of the respondents.....	22
Figure 7 showing respondents experience of disease in friesians.....	22
Figure 8 showing common diseases in Friesians .....	23
Figure 9 shows the respondents who experienced death of their friesians .....	23
Figure 10 shows distances of farmers from extension services .....	24
Figure 11 shows disease management practices.....	24
Figure 12 shows problems faced in management of Friesians .....	25
Figure 13 shows care for the sick Friesians .....	25
Figure 14 shows the respondents with/without zero-grazing units.....	26
Figure 15 shows cleaning of zero-grazing units .....	26
Figure 16 shows how respondents feed their Friesians.....	27
Figure 17 shows the proportion of respondents with established pastures .....	27
Figure 18 shows feeding time of Friesians .....	28
Figure 19 shows amount of food fed to Friesians.....	28
Figure 20 shows watering frequency of Friesians .....	29



Figure 21 shows available water sources.....	29
Figure 22 shows respondents knowledge on feed preservation.....	30

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

- AHO** Animal Husbandry Officer
- CBF** Community Based Facilitator
- DVO** District Veterinary Officer
- ECF** East Coast Fever
- FAO** Food and Agricultural Organization
- GDP** Gross Domestic Product
- LC** Local Council
- MFP&ED** Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
- MTC** Malaba Town Council
- NAADs** National Agricultural Advisory Services
- PCV** Packed Cell Volume
- SAS** Senior Assistant Secretary
- SC** Sub-County
- SPSS** Statistical Package for Social Scientists
- TBD** Tick Bone Disease
- TC** Town Council
- UBOS** Uganda Bureau of Statistics
- V.O** Veterinary Officer

## ABSTRACT

The study assessed factors contributing to the low survival rates of Friesians in Mella Sub-county and Malaba Town Council, Tororo District. It involved establishing the details why this breed of animals is so much constrained in this area of study. The objectives of the study were basically to establish factors in the aspect of disease, management and the feeding factors that contribute to low survival of Friesians in the area of study. A cross sectional study was used and the data was collected using a well-designed questionnaire. It was conducted by taking a sample size of one hundred Friesians farmers who were used as respondents. The research data was analyzed using the SPSS and Microsoft Excel to present the required information about the research. There was high rate of disease prevalence which affected the survival of Friesians, 95% respondents experienced disease in their Friesians and 76% of the respondents experienced death in the Friesian herds. The poor feeding and watering systems of Friesians affect Friesians, 58% of the respondents had established pastures then the rest used methods that are not dependable and inadequate to meet the feed requirement and quantity of feeds for Friesians. There were only 16% respondents who gave their animals feeds above 60kgs per day whereas 55% of the respondents do not even know how much feed is given to their animals per day. The need to conduct strategic trainings on disease control, management of Friesians and feeding as a way of increasing knowledge and building the capacity of the farmers in handling these animals for their survival. There is need for increased pasture establishment to adequately feed the animals. The shelter and general hygiene should be standard to curb down the possible disease risks in the management of Friesians.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The survival of Friesians is affected by many factors in different environments and geographical locations across the globe. Zero grazing, proper housing and disease management practices are among the most considered practices in United Kingdom and United States of America for Friesians and their crosses because they are heavy and high yielding. Holstein Friesians, in this instance refers to animals traced from North America blood lines. Friesians refer to indigenous black and white cattle in the country of origin. The coat is black and white patched and occasionally red and white. Their origin is Netherlands or Germany. Friesians were bred in Netherlands, more specifically in the Northern provinces of North Holland and Friesland in Northern Germany which is now Schleswig Holstein. They are natives of Europe but through importation of semen and local breeding, they are now kept in several countries in Africa.

Globally, According to the study by Silva *et al.*, (2007), reproduction wastage and calf mortality also contributes to the low survival rate of Friesians. A range of perinatal mortality from 0.2 – 26.4% in Holstein Friesian calves responded to confirm to the above statement. In another study by Walzl and Sorensen (2010), they noted that there is about 9.4% of calf mortality from day one to before calving in Danish Holstein Farms and herds

In Kenya, the study by Ojango, *et al.*, (2005), analyzes the factors affecting the productive life of Holstein Friesian. Holstein-Friesian cattle raised in tropical environments pose a challenge due to genotype by environment interactions which may lead to higher rates of deaths and reduce profit margins obtainable. This study assessed factors influencing culling within the first three parities of Holstein-Friesian cattle raised on four large-scale farms in Kenya using a Cox proportional hazard model. According to the study by Osei *et al.*, (2011), on reproductive performance of Friesian cattle bred in the hot humid forest zone of Ghana. Milk and dairy products provide one way of overcoming the chronic protein deficiency in the average Ghanaian's diet. Unfortunately, like most other tropical countries, Ghana has no indigenous dairy breeds, their indigenous N'Dama beef breed and West African shorthorn cattle are poor milk animals.

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