



TALKING POINTS FOR H E SUSAN KIHKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR DURING MEETING WITH STATE HOUSE TEAM ON THE DAIRY VALUE CHAIN IN NAKURU COUNTY

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Allow me to warmly welcome the State House team to Nakuru County and express my sincere appreciation for this opportunity to discuss one of the most important economic sectors in our county—the dairy industry.
- Your visit demonstrates the National Government’s commitment to agricultural transformation and the development of sustainable value chains that directly improve the livelihoods of Kenyan farmers.
- We are honored to share the progress we have made, the challenges we continue to face, and the opportunities that exist for strengthening the dairy sector in Nakuru County.

2. Importance of the Dairy Sector in Nakuru County

- Dairy farming remains the backbone of Nakuru County’s livestock sector and is one of the most significant contributors to rural economic development.
- The sector serves as a critical source of income, employment, nutrition, and food security for thousands of households across the county.
- Beyond supporting individual farmers, dairy farming drives economic activity throughout the value chain, creating opportunities in milk collection, transportation, processing, marketing, and related support services.
- The industry continues to play a vital role in enhancing household resilience and improving the socio-economic wellbeing of our communities.

3. Nakuru’s Position as a Leading Milk Producer

- Nakuru County remains among Kenya’s leading milk-producing regions.
- According to the validated 2025 livestock population statistics, the county is home to more than 473,000 dairy cattle.
- These animals collectively produce over 316 million litres of milk annually.
- The annual value of this milk production is estimated at more than Ksh14 billion, underscoring the sector’s significant contribution to both the county and national economy.

4. Strength of Dairy Cooperative Societies

- The success of our dairy sector is strongly anchored on an effective cooperative movement.
- Nakuru County currently has 27 active dairy cooperative societies that collectively serve more than 54,000 farmers.
- These cooperatives play a critical role in milk collection, aggregation, quality assurance, farmer training, market access, and value chain development.

- They have become essential institutions for empowering farmers and ensuring that dairy producers benefit from economies of scale and collective bargaining.

5. County Investments in Cooperative Development

- As a County Government, we have deliberately prioritized investments aimed at strengthening dairy cooperatives.
- We recognize that organized farmers are better positioned to access extension services, secure reliable markets, negotiate fair prices, and improve overall profitability.
- Strengthening cooperatives remains one of the most effective strategies for enhancing farmer incomes and building a sustainable dairy industry.

6. Investments in Milk Cooling and Storage Infrastructure

- In partnership with the National Government and development partners, we have invested significantly in milk cooling and storage infrastructure.
- These investments are aimed at reducing post-harvest losses, improving milk quality, and enhancing the efficiency of milk collection systems.
- Through the National Government's Dairy Infrastructure Support Programme, 20 milk coolers have been distributed to dairy cooperative societies across Nakuru County.
- This intervention has substantially improved milk preservation, increased storage capacity, and reduced spoilage at collection centers.

7. Strengthening Operational Resilience through Backup Power

- To complement the investment in cooling infrastructure, the County Government has provided backup power solutions to ensure uninterrupted operations during power outages.
- We have procured and installed backup generators in nine dairy cooperative societies and satellite milk collection centers across the county.
- This investment has enhanced milk quality preservation, minimized losses, and strengthened farmer confidence in cooperative-based milk marketing systems.
- We are already witnessing positive results through improved operational efficiency, better milk handling standards, and stronger linkages between farmers, cooperatives, and processors.

8. Kenya Challenges Affecting the Dairy Sector

Despite these notable achievements, several challenges continue to hinder the growth and competitiveness of the dairy industry:

a) Power Supply Challenges

- Frequent electricity outages remain a major concern, particularly in rural areas where reliable power is essential for milk cooling and storage.

b) Inadequate Cold Storage Infrastructure

- Some cooperative societies still lack sufficient cold storage facilities, limiting their capacity to handle increasing milk volumes, especially during peak production periods.

c) Transportation Constraints

- Poor road networks and transportation challenges in some rural areas increase the cost of moving milk from farms to collection centers and from collection centers to processors.

d) Rising Operational Costs

- Increasing maintenance costs for cooling equipment and backup power systems continue to place financial pressure on cooperative societies, affecting their long-term sustainability.

e) Need for Enhanced Partnerships

- There is a significant opportunity for deeper collaboration between the County Government, National Government, and development partners to address existing infrastructure gaps and unlock greater value within the dairy value chain.

9. Livestock Disease Control and Management

- Disease control remains a critical pillar in protecting dairy productivity and ensuring sustainable growth within the sector.
- To safeguard livestock health and maintain market access, Nakuru County is currently implementing a countywide Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination programme targeting 800,000 cattle.
- The programme aims to protect milk production, improve livestock productivity, and reduce the economic losses associated with disease outbreaks.
- Through collaboration with the National Government and the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Programme (NAVCDP), a total of 37,497 cattle had been vaccinated as of 1st June 2026.
- We appreciate the support received thus far and look forward to continued collaboration in expanding disease surveillance, vaccination coverage, and livestock health services.

10. Dairy Breed Improvement Program

- Improving the genetic quality of our dairy herd remains a key priority.
- Through the County Government's subsidized Artificial Insemination (AI) programme, farmers can access quality breeding services at a highly affordable rate of Ksh800 per insemination.
- Since 2023, the county has invested Ksh25 million in this programme.
- More than 5,000 farmers have benefited from improved breeding services under this initiative.

- The programme has facilitated 1,697 inseminations, the procurement of 5,900 semen straws, and the distribution of 15 Artificial Insemination kits to strengthen service delivery.
- These interventions are helping farmers access superior dairy breeds with higher milk yields, improved disease resistance, and enhanced productivity.

11. Supporting Feed and Fodder Production

- Feed availability remains a fundamental determinant of dairy productivity and profitability.
- To support sustainable dairy production, the County Government has facilitated access to subsidized fertilizer to improve pasture establishment and fodder production.
- Enhanced fodder quality directly contributes to increased milk production, reduced feeding costs, and improved farmer incomes.

12. Farmer Training and Capacity Building

- We continue to prioritize farmer training and capacity building through our dairy cooperative societies.
- Farmers are receiving practical knowledge and technical support in:
 - Animal husbandry;
 - Feed formulation and nutrition management;
 - Milk hygiene and quality assurance;
 - Climate-smart dairy farming practices; and
 - Agribusiness and financial management.
- Through stronger cooperatives, farmers are increasingly benefiting from collective marketing, improved bargaining power, and better access to information and services.

13. Future Focus: Strengthening the Entire Dairy Value Chain

- Looking ahead, our vision extends beyond milk production to strengthening the entire dairy value chain.
- We are focused on:
 - Expanding market linkages;
 - Supporting value addition initiatives;
 - Promoting dairy processing opportunities;
 - Encouraging private sector investment; and
 - Enhancing access to domestic, regional, and international markets.
- There is immense potential to increase farmer incomes through investments in milk processing, packaging, branding, and the development of high-value dairy products.

14. Call for Stronger National-County Collaboration

- We firmly believe that stronger collaboration between the National Government and County Governments can accelerate the transformation of the dairy sector.
- Such partnerships can support:

- Infrastructure development;
 - Improved market systems;
 - Enhanced value addition;
 - Greater investment attraction; and
 - Sustainable growth across the dairy value chain.
- Working together, we can create a more competitive, resilient, and inclusive dairy industry that benefits farmers and contributes significantly to Kenya's economic development.

15. Conclusion

- Nakuru County remains fully committed to creating an enabling environment for dairy farmers, cooperative societies, processors, and investors.
- We appreciate the continued support of the National Government and State House in advancing agricultural transformation and improving the livelihoods of our farmers.
- Together, we can unlock the full potential of the dairy sector and position Nakuru as a model county for dairy excellence in Kenya.

Thank you.

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GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY