



## Better Stover Stores Make Sense

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## Better Stover Stores Make Sense

The rains come and the stover gets ruined. It is terrible if rains, even short showers, come in winter. There is never enough stover for the cattle and goats at the end of the dry season. BUT things can be done better. Adding a roof to a traditional store will stop the rain from ruining the stover. Winter rains are not a problem with a roofed store. Keeping stover in good condition at the start of the rains, until the grass is good for grazing, can be done with no problems. Farmers in Bidi have been using roofed stores for several years to test them out. Word is spreading that they are really useful to farmers who depend on storing stover to feed cattle.

What is more, a roofed store can be used for many things, for keeping other crops and farm equipment. Some farmers have found them very useful for sheltering goats during the rains, when the stover has all been used.

The stores can be different shapes and sizes, different styles and in different materials. Wooden stores with grass thatched roofs and open sides are typical (see photograph). It all depends on what is best for you. Low platforms are used to put the stover on. The roof should overhang the platform so that rain does not blow in at the sides. It helps if the roof is not too high. With careful building you can avoid the need to use very long poles.

Why not try one for yourself? Your local extension worker or the staff of Matopos Research Station will be pleased to give you more advice.

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Lingafika izulu amahlanga aphanga onakale. ikakhulu ebusika, Kubi nxa lisina loba kungumkhizo ebusika. Ebusika, akweneli ukudla kwenkomo lembuzi lezinye izifuyo ikakhulu ekupheleni kobusika. KODWAKE kukhona okungenziwa. Ukufulela ingalani yamahlanga yendulo kuyavikela amahlanga ukuthi angoniwa lizulu. Ngakhoke izulu kalihluphi nxa ingalani ilophahla. Kubalula ukugcina amahlanga amahle ekuqaliseni kwezulu utshani buze bukhule. Abalimi koBidi e Kczi sebesebenzise ingalane ezifulelweyo okweminyaka eminengi baze babona ubungcono bokugcinakala kwawo. Sekudumile ukuthi lezi ngalane ziloncendo olukhulu kubalimi abagcina amahlanga ukuthi baphe izinkomo zabo.

Okunyeke, ingalane elophahla ingasetshenziswa ezintweni ezinengi: ukugcina ezinye izilimo lemitshina yepulazi. Abanye abalimi bazisebenzisa ukuvikela imbuzi zabo ezulwini nxa amahlanga esephelele.

Ingalani zingehluka ekwakhweni kusukela isimo, lobukhulu kanye lezinto zokwakha. Ezezigodo ezifulelwe ngotshani, zivulekile emaceleni, yizo ezandileyo: Kuya ngokuthanda kwakho. Amahlanga agcinakala kuhle phezu kwengalane (Platforms) eziphansi (bona umfanekiso). Uphahla kumele lwengame ingalane ukuze izulu lingatshayeli. Kuyaphathisa ukuthi uphahla lungabiphezulu kakhulu. Nxa usakha ngonanzelelo asoze usebenzise izigodo ezinde.

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