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SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS

**PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR ONLINE DAIRY MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

1. SMS - Short Message Service
2. MOLD - Ministry Of Livestock Development
3. USAID - United States Agency for International Development
4. RAM - Random Access Memory
5. LAMP - Linux Apache MySQL PHP
6. GSM - Global Systems for Mobile

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Kenya is an agricultural based economy with most of the citizens relying on small holder agriculture production. Dairy farming been part of the agricultural sector contributes greatly to the economy. It involves rearing of dairy cattle whose main purpose is to produce milk, reproduce to provide replacement cows for the future and most of all provide a means of living for the farmers in the dairy business. It is dominated by small scale farmers. For farmers to effectively and efficiently manage the dairy cattle they need to keep records. These records contain identification, breeding, feeding, production, vaccination, health and financial records. Keeping of records helps the farmer to think of their dairy farm as a business. To see good care and good management also influences the production and profitability of their dairy farm.

According to Brannstorm (2008) dairy farming is a complex business that demands accurate records and careful financial management. Farmers see dairy record keeping as a mundane task. Muhammad et al (2004) proved that farm record keeping is a key practice to successful farmers and vice versa. A farm record provides timely and consistent information to assist in the management process, keeping track of how many cows he/she has, what their health is and what he/she is feeding them. In addition, obtaining grants and loans from financial institutions for small scale dairy farmers require that you have financial records to show what you have earned and what your expenses are, financial statement to prove that the farm is financial viable.

Most of the small scale dairy farmers don't keep comprehensive records for their cattle and normally use paper records. Use of paper records has short comings as there may be duplication of data thus difficult to keep track. In addition, the paper records may be lost meaning the data is lost completely. Analysing handwritten records is tedious, cumbersome and time consuming. Also these records are not easily accessible as opposed to online records. Many farmers don't know details for good dairy records thus predefined forms will assist farmers and at the same time get to know the details. Records are to provide the farmer with data, information and Knowledge.

Arise in the record keeping problems using the manual process leads to an online storage of dairy cattle information and data.

Online platform providing management for the dairy cattle records can assist these farmers in efficient record storage and thus this records can help the farmer in decision making, keep memory, assess profitability/ losses and helps the farmer in improving the efficiency of the operations. SMS based

Platform to update the records online using a GSM mobile can be easier for the farmers who cannot access the online platform.

1.2 PROBLEM DEFINITION

Currently, dairy farmers using the paper records to keep information about their dairy business is ineffective since manual records are prone to errors; inconsistency in recording leading to duplication, analysing is time consuming and they can be lost, thus information and data is lost too, have a short lifetime and they are localized. Also most of the farmers being small scale farmers have no information about what good dairy records should contain, thus their records may not capture essential details. In addition, it is difficult for dairy farmers to know the financial status of their business whether they are making loss or profits depending on their cost and income.

Therefore, there is need of an online platform for keeping records and analysing the financial records of the dairy farmers to enable them to effectively manage their dairy cattle business and easily access the information of their cattle.

This project will provide an online platform that supports SMS system and that will enable recording, analysis and access to records in a manner that is easy and accessible from anywhere. Also the records details will be predefined thus capturing the necessary information.

1.3 GOAL

To come up with an online platform that will provide recording of dairy cattle data, storage, analysis of financial data and updates through a sms system.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve the above goal, the objectives to be met include:

- 1) To provide an online platform that allows dairy farmers to store their dairy records online.
- 2) To provide an SMS based platform that will allow users to update financial records using SMS.
- 3) To provide dairy farmers with reports from their online records.
- 4) To analyse financial records of the dairy cattle business.
- 5) To provide SMS reminders to the dairy farmers on dairy farming activities less repetitive.

1.5 PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

To have an online platform that stores dairy cattle information will be beneficial to the farmers, as chances of online records being lost is minimal. In addition, analysing of the financial records of the

dairy farming business will be easier on the online records and the farmers will not have to waste time analysing manual records. On the online records duplication is unlikely to arise. It will capture the essential details of good farm records and thus farmers will have good kept records. Having a SMS platform in the system for updating and querying from the records will make it easy for the farmers to access the service from their mobile phones. Using the sms service will be scalable and effective as most farmers own a mobile phone.

Generating reports on their income and expenses, hence these reports can be used by financial institutions while appraising the farmers for loans.

Currently in Kenya there is no system that is providing online storage and analysis of financial records of dairy farmers. Therefore, this will be the first system of its kind.

1.6 BASIC ASSUMPTION

Small scale farmers can be able to access and use internet services as well as the sms services.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

After successful completion of this project, an online web application will be developed that will enable dairy farmers to sign up, register individual cow details in the system, add records of the cows in the system, provide reports from the records and also update their records. The farmers will also be able to set reminders for their dairy farming activities.

The system will also have a sms platform that will enable farmers to update their income and expenses records by use of sms and also be able to query information of their records and get it as text message.

1.7 PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of this project is restricted to:

1. Develop an Online platform linked to an SMS gateway.
2. Records kept will be for dairy cattle farming only.
3. SMS platform will be used for updating and querying financial record.

2.0 LITREATURE REVIEW

2.1 DAIRY FARMING IN KENYA

Dairy farming is type of livestock rearing where cattle are kept for milk production with sole purpose of selling milk to the consumer.

In Kenya dairy industry is dominated by small-scale farmers. It is well-developed in the livestock subsector contributing about 6% GDP, and it is practiced in the medium and high rainfall areas mainly in the central highlands, Rift valley, Eastern and coast lowlands (MOLD, 2006). Majority of the small scale farmers are concentrated in the Central highlands and they own 1-5 cows (USAID, 2008). Also this farmers market their milk either through the formal or the informal market. In the informal market it comprises of direct deliveries to consumer, or through intermediaries such as traders. This channel accounts 85% of the marketed milk and only 15% of the marketed milk flows through the formal market via cooperatives and processors (Thorpe, 2000; USAID, 2008).

The growth of the dairy sub sector has been highly contributed by the high domestic demand for milk and dairy products due to growing population.

2.2RECORDS AND IMPORTANCE OF DAIRY RECORDS

Record keeping is an essential tool to any business and it plays a major role regardless of the size, nature or type of the business, thus a good entrepreneur must be a good record keeper. In the present day, farming operations are becoming more and more business oriented. To remain in business, is not only to become a good producer but also a good financial manager.

To keep track of what is happening on a dairy farm requires some records. Good farm management requires having a good useful set of farm records. Good records do not ensure the farm will be successful; however, success is unlikely without them. To keep records is simply to collect relevant information that can help you as a farmer to take good decisions, keep track of activities, production and important events on a farm.

Farm records are like report cards students receive at school. With a farm report card, farmers can tell how they are managing their operation compared to other producers and they can see their strengths and weakness in their operation. Farm records provide the farmer with data, information and knowledge. Keeping of records should be systematic and simple.

The use of the farm records include:

1. Be used in determining profitability of techniques used in the farm.
2. Used to keep memory on what the farmer did or what happened.

3. Used in decision making to make proper management decisions.
4. Helps the farmer to improve the efficiency of the farm's operations.

Importance of record keeping in dairy farming:

1. To keep track of the dairy cattle.
2. Evaluation of livestock for selection
3. Aid in selecting animals with the right characteristics for breeding.
4. Helps in feeding and management.
5. Helps in disease management by keeping track of treatment.
6. To assess profitability or losses.
7. Credit and loan access having financial records.

The types of records kept in a dairy farm include:

1. *Identification records* -These are records that identify individual animals e.g. by giving the animals an ear tag, names, tattooing or paints and dyes.
2. *Breeding records*- To provide information about cows such as age at the first service, age at first calving, date of calving, number of services per conception, date/time of insemination of the cows.
3. *Production records*- These are records that indicate the production of the cows, their milk yield.
4. *Feeding records* -To indicate the amount of feed given to the cattle as well as the type of feed.
5. *Health records* – To provide information about health status of the individual cows such as vaccination, dipping/spraying, deworming and treatment.
6. *Financial records*- Provide farmer with information about profitability of his/her farm. Includes expenditure and expenses records.

Keeping of manual records has the following disadvantages as, duplication of data in the records, the paper records can be lost thus losing data and information, they are time consuming to analyse and data is not always reliable as it is handwritten and some human errors might have occurred. In addition, they have short longevity.

Online storage of records is whereby the records' data and information are stored in a database and can be accessed on a web platform for manipulation or viewing.

2.3 EXISTING RELATED PROJECTS

2.3.1 AgSquared

It is a web-interface program designed to serve the record keeping needs of small farms that is primarily for crop farmers to track field management, labour and equipment use, planting and harvesting schedules, and crop yields. It does not provide recording of dairy farming information.

2.3.2 Pocket Dairy App

It is an android application that provides vital cow statistics for production, reproduction and udder health. It runs in android version 2.2 and above, and has a monthly charge of \$10 plus 3cents per cow and \$50 start-up fee.

Used for large herds of dairy cows and does not provide financial analysis. Most small scale farmers don't own smartphones as it operates in android platform. It is expensive to the farmers too and it will not be viable for Kenyan farmers.

2.3.3 Pioneer Online Record Keeping System

It is an online program that provides recording to field operations regarding crop management. It does not provide storage of dairy farming records but only deals with records pertaining field crop operations such as planting.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This proposed system will be best implemented using Modified Waterfall Methodology. This methodology allows adjustments to a set of requirements unlike the pure waterfall methodology. The phase of development are permitted to overlap hence a number of tasks can function concurrently and allows back tracking to incorporate changes in the requirements based on what is learned during development. There is also some flexibility to correct mistakes and make small change realised during the development. This ensures that the system is developed in a systematic and sequential manner.

3.1 APPROACH

3.1.2 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

This is a stage of the System development lifecycle which involves collection of information that is relevant for the development of the system and then analysis of the data and information to build a logical model of the system that will be used in the design phase. It will involve carrying out a feasibility study to determine the operational, economic, schedule and time feasibility of development of the project. The acquisition of data and information of the system requirements will involve

interviewing farmers, observation and document review. The fact-finding result will be used to develop the system logical model that explains the system functionality. Data Flow Diagrams and Entity Relational Diagrams will be used to represent the logical model.

3.1.2 DESIGN

This stage involves the creation of a physical model that will satisfy the entire documented requirement for the system. At this stage, the user interface will be designed and the identification necessary outputs, inputs, and processes. In addition, it will involve determining the application architecture to transform the logical design into program modules and code.

3.1.2 IMPLEMENTATION AND CODING

This stage involves the translation of the developed designs into an actual system using suitable programming language. This being an web application, it will be developed through use of programming languages: MySQL, PHP, HTML and CSS to achieve both the defined functionalities and user interface requirements.

3.1.2 TESTING and EVALUATION

At every stage of development there will be validation and verification of the requirements. After completion of development of the system it will be tested to verify it is working in a credible manner. In addition, evaluation of the system will be carried out to ensure all functionalities of the system works as desired and produces expected outputs for specified inputs.

4.0 RESOURCES

The development and deployment of this web application will require hardware and software resources as listed below.

4.1 HARDWARE

- 1) Personal Computer 64 bit
- 2) Hard Disk 320GB
- 3) RAM 4GB
- 4) GSM modem.

4.2 SOFTWARE

- 1) Ozeki SMS Gateway server.
- 2) Operating System (Linux Ubuntu 12.04)
- 3) LAMP Server.
- 4) CodeIgniter, PHP framework.
- 5) Gantt Project Management software.
- 6) Sublime Text Editor
- 7) E-Draw

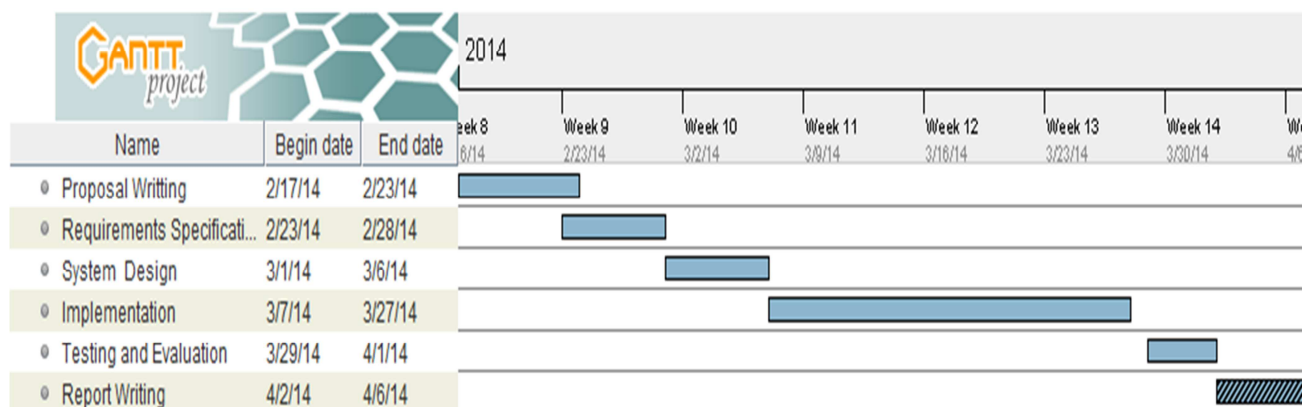
5.0 PROJECT WORK PLAN

5.1 Project timeline

To implement the research project proposed, the following project timeline will be observed.

	Task	Scheduled Begin Date	Scheduled End date	Duration
1	Proposal writing	17/2/2014	23/2/2014	4 days
2	Requirements elicitation and Data Analysis	24/2/2014	28/2/2014	5 days
5	System Design	1/3/2014	7/3/2014	5 days
6	Implementation	8/3/2014	29/3/2014	21 days
7	Testing	24/3/2014	31/3/2014	2 days
8	Documentation	1/4/2014	5/4/2014	5 days

5.2 GANTT CHART



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