**Farmer to Farmer – Malawi**

**Stall Feeding and Disease Management in Beef Cattle**

Farmer to Farmer is a USAID-funded initiative to send American agricultural/agribusiness experts to developing countries to offer technical assistance to our host organizations. These trips are volunteer-based, but with all expenses covered by CNFA and typically last between two and three weeks.

**Issue Description**

Dolo Livestock Cooperative Society Limited is a group of farmers that raise beef cattle commercially. The group was formed in 2016 by the Malawi Government Initiative through the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, with the objective of mobilizing cattle farmers in the area and introducing them to commercial beef production. The group was trained in cooperative formation principles in the same year by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Currently, the cooperative has 38 registered members: 32 males and 6 females. The cooperative’s long term vision is to have a community-based beef abattoir/slaughterhouse.

Dolo Cooperative raises its cattle free-range, whereby roughages such as maize stove, groundnuts tops and grass are the main feed. The cattle are rarely provided feed concentrates and supplements and are susceptible to different diseases. Dolo cooperative has requested a beef cattle expert through the Farmer to Farmer program to train them on the nutritional needs of cattle, feed formulation and disease management improve the quality of their animals and increase the cooperative’s profits.

**Desired Impacts**

* Stall feeding system for fattening beef cattle designed
* Beef formulation ration/ recipe produced and sustained
* Suitable disease management techniques identified and implemented

**Desired Qualifications of Volunteer**

* Experience in intensive beef cattle production
* Practical knowledge of feeds and feeding of beef cattle
* Knowledge of disease management for beef cattle
* Experience working cross culturally in developing countries
* Willingness to work for a week or more in a rural Malawian town
* Previous experience working with rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa is preferred
* Must be citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.