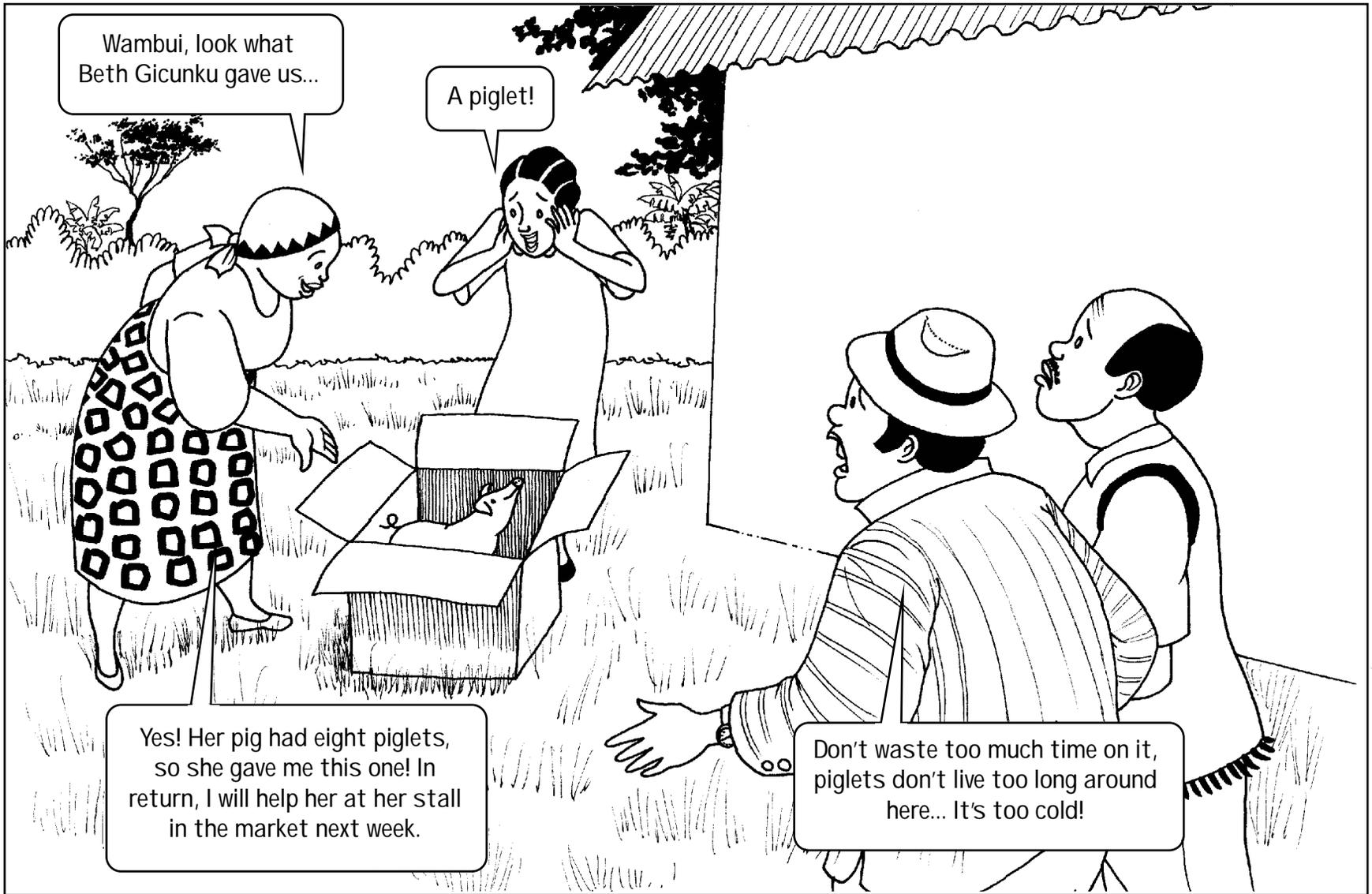


# HEALTHY PIG, HEALTHY PROFIT



Wambui finds out...  
NEED TO KNOW LTD

**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development



Wambui, look what Beth Gicunku gave us...

A piglet!

Yes! Her pig had eight piglets, so she gave me this one! In return, I will help her at her stall in the market next week.

Don't waste too much time on it, piglets don't live too long around here... It's too cold!



Let's talk to Mwariama, the animal health assistant, before we make any decisions. She will know whether we should try to keep it.



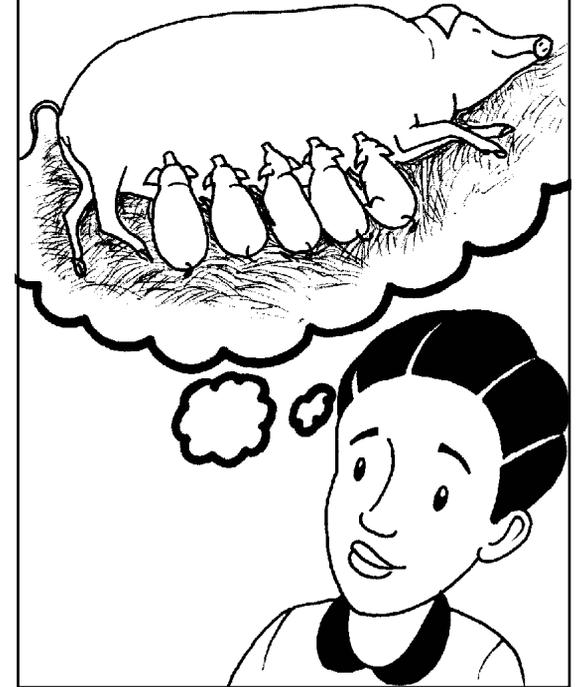
THE NEXT DAY

Look at our piglet! Nthiga says it won't live for very long, we need you to tell us what to do!

Well, it's a nice looking little piglet, but in a way, Nthiga might be right.



It is too young, at this age it should still be with its mother. The most important thing for a baby pig is to get a good start in life and the best start is to get plenty of its mother's milk.



If you take a piglet away too young it will be much weaker and much more likely to die. If I were you I would return it to its mother until it is eight weeks old. You could spend the time until then getting a pen ready for it.

Gikiri said that her pig died when it was big - after he had spent months feeding it...



Don't worry! Any animal can die, but if you look after it properly, there is no reason why keeping a pig should be any more risky than keeping cows or goats.

...And Waitahaje says it will give us all a disease that will kill us. Eeeh! Mbaya sana!



If you follow some simple rules, then the pig will not get that disease and will be quite safe.

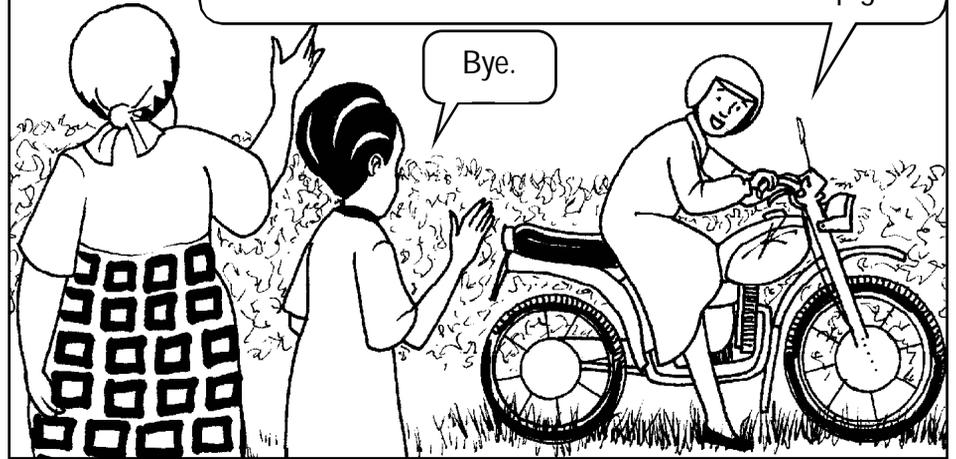
So mother can we keep it? ...Please?

Oh all right! But it will have to go back to Beth for a week or two until it is old enough to leave its mother.

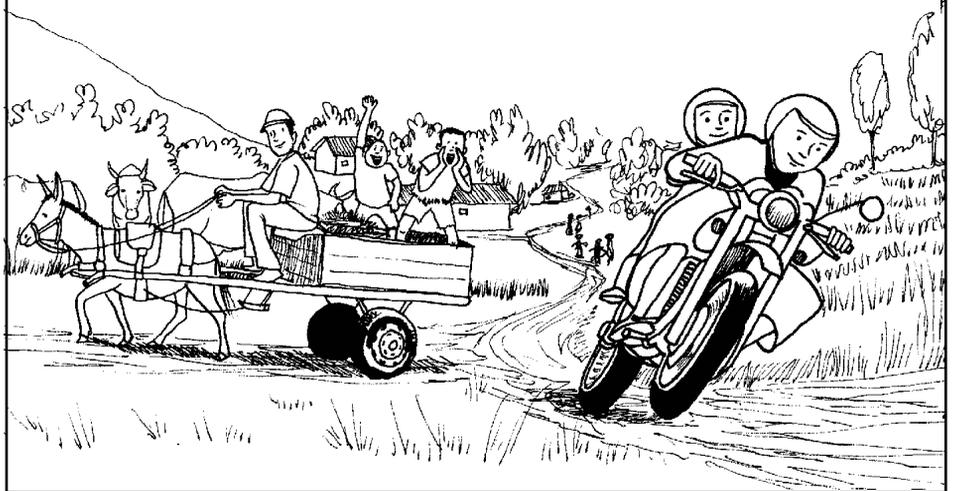


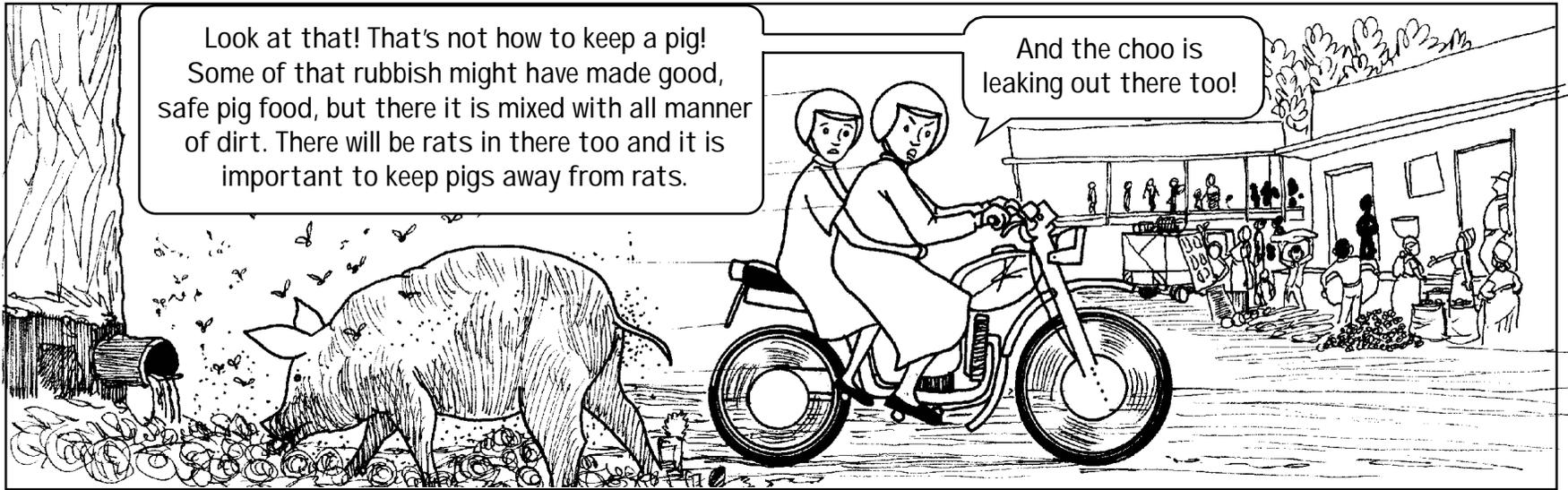
And during that time, Wambui can come round some farms with me to learn how to look after a pig.

Bye.



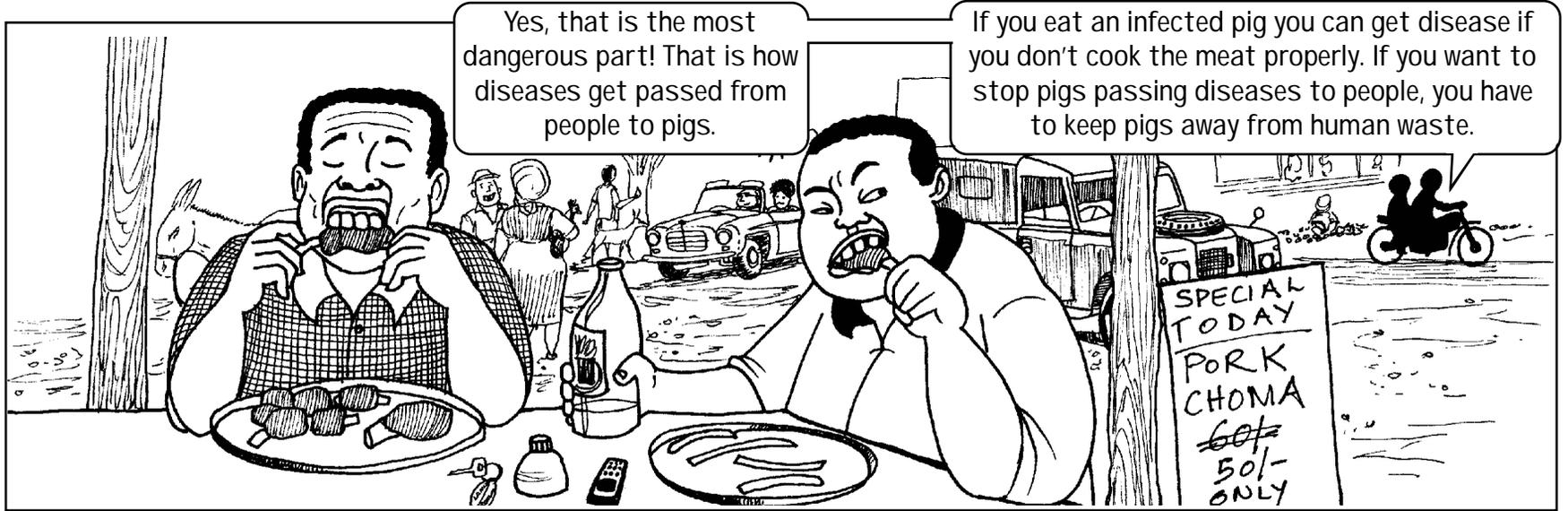
THAT WEEKEND





Look at that! That's not how to keep a pig!  
Some of that rubbish might have made good, safe pig food, but there it is mixed with all manner of dirt. There will be rats in there too and it is important to keep pigs away from rats.

And the choo is leaking out there too!



Yes, that is the most dangerous part! That is how diseases get passed from people to pigs.

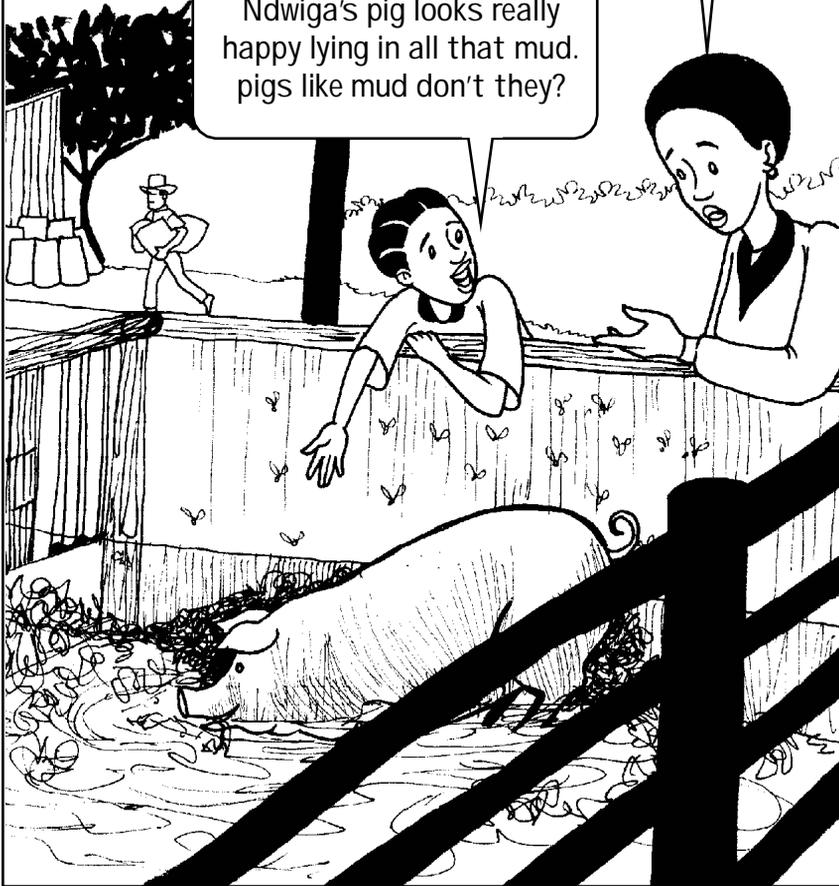
If you eat an infected pig you can get disease if you don't cook the meat properly. If you want to stop pigs passing diseases to people, you have to keep pigs away from human waste.

AT NDWIGA'S FARM

So all pigs should be kept in a pen?

Yes! A good strong pen. They must not be left to wander around the shamba.

Ndwiga's pig looks really happy lying in all that mud. pigs like mud don't they?



Well, pigs do like to wallow in mud occasionally, especially in hot weather, but is very important that they are able to get away from the mud to have a good dry area to sleep.

So Ndwiga's pen is too small and wet?

And dirty!



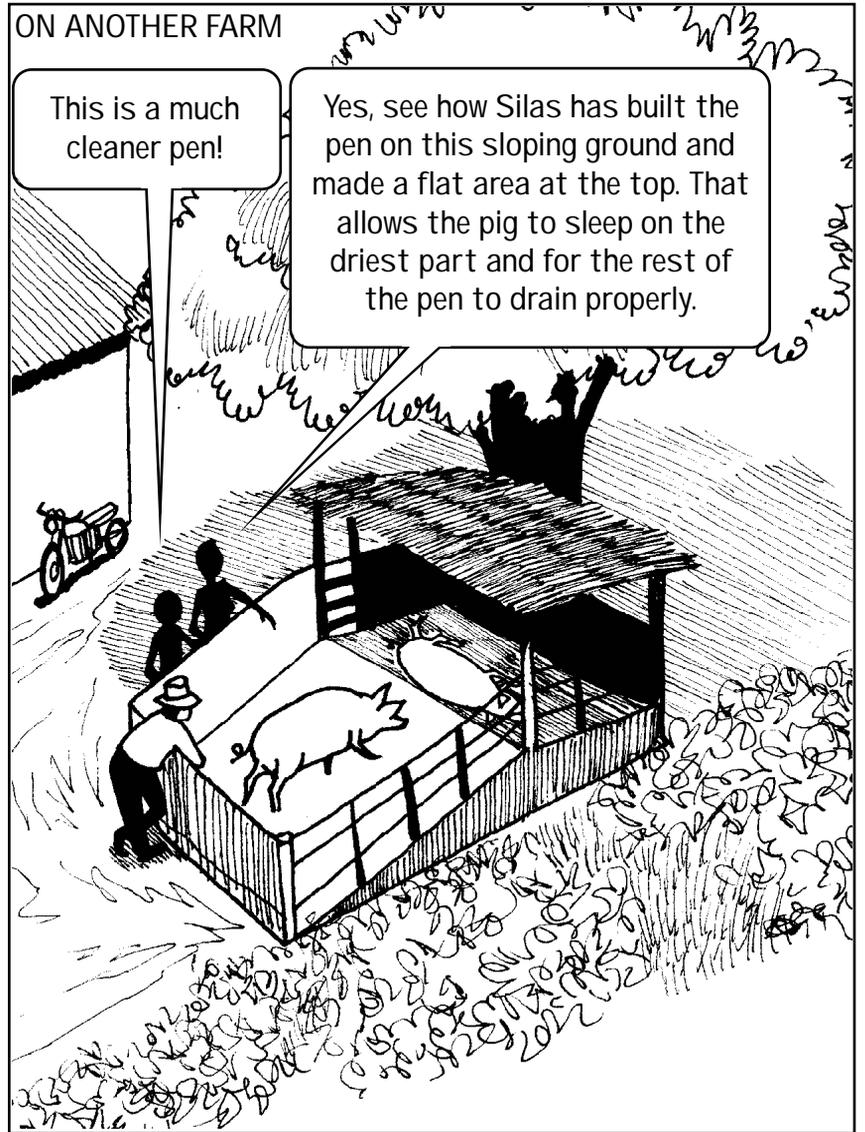
Given a chance pigs are quite clean animals. They like to have a dry sleeping area and a separate toilet area. And they need space to move around.



ON ANOTHER FARM

This is a much cleaner pen!

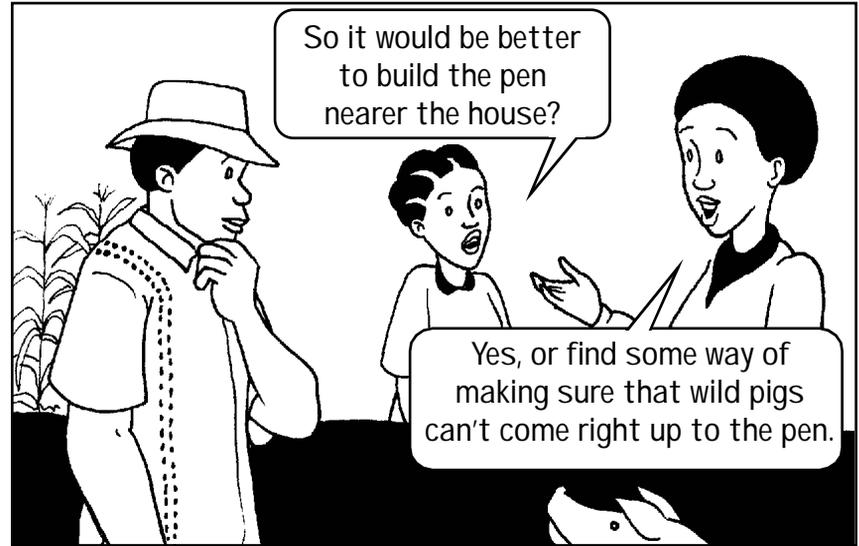
Yes, see how Silas has built the pen on this sloping ground and made a flat area at the top. That allows the pig to sleep on the driest part and for the rest of the pen to drain properly.



But Silas might have problems if that very bad disease of pigs called swine fever comes back to this area - his pen borders the bush and if there are wild bush pigs around, they could come snuffling around at night and pass the fever to the pig. That is what killed Gikiri's pig.



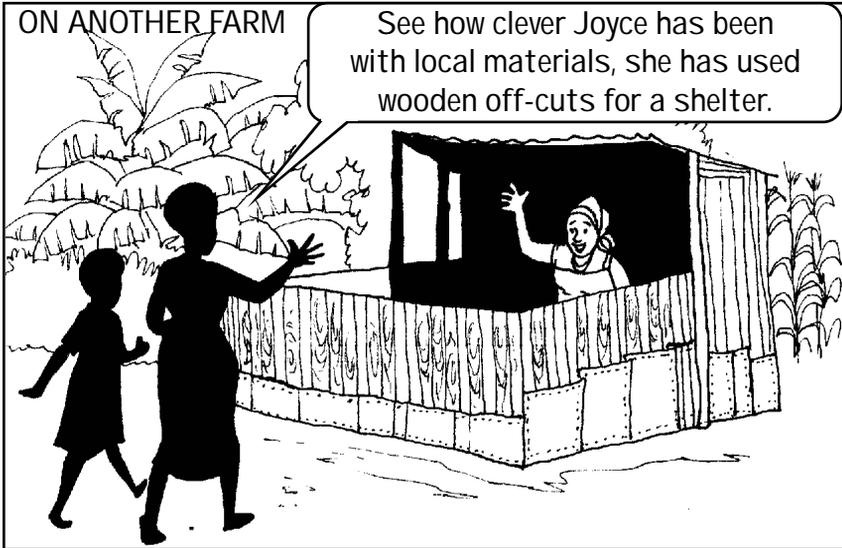
So it would be better to build the pen nearer the house?



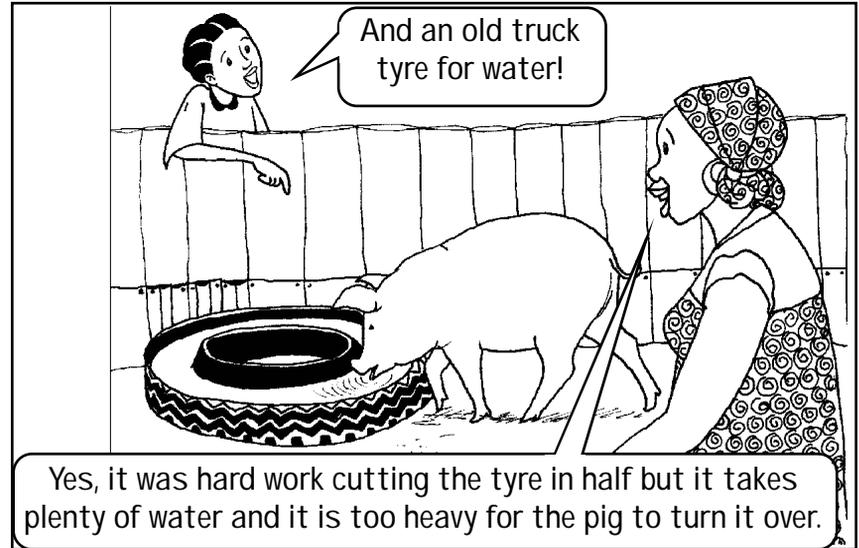
Yes, or find some way of making sure that wild pigs can't come right up to the pen.

ON ANOTHER FARM

See how clever Joyce has been with local materials, she has used wooden off-cuts for a shelter.

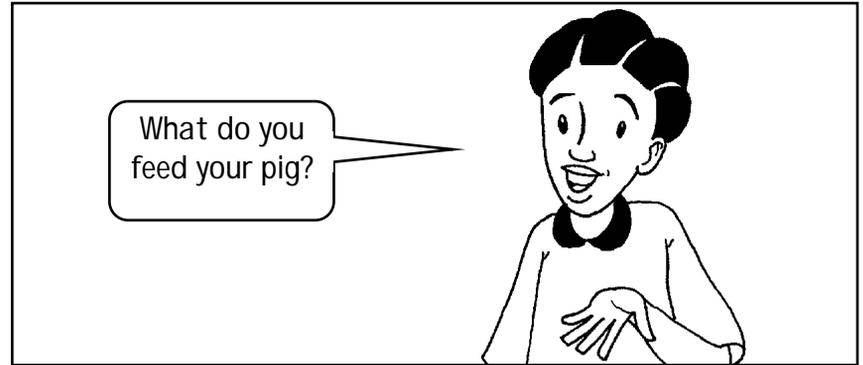


And an old truck tyre for water!



Yes, it was hard work cutting the tyre in half but it takes plenty of water and it is too heavy for the pig to turn it over.

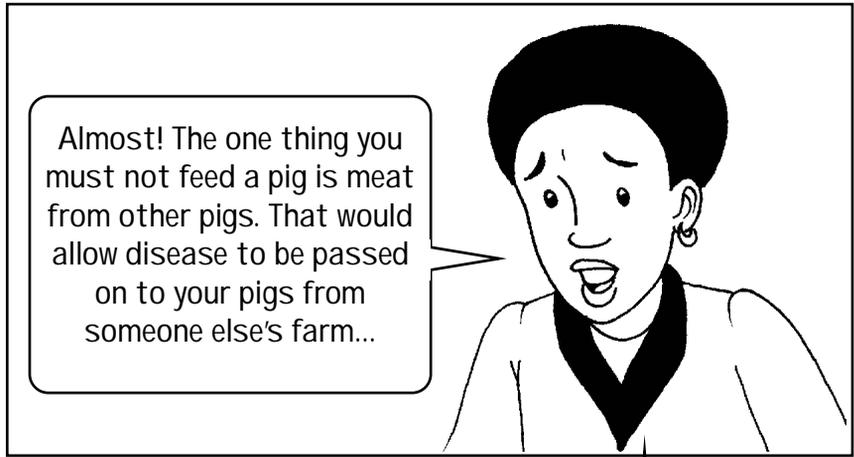




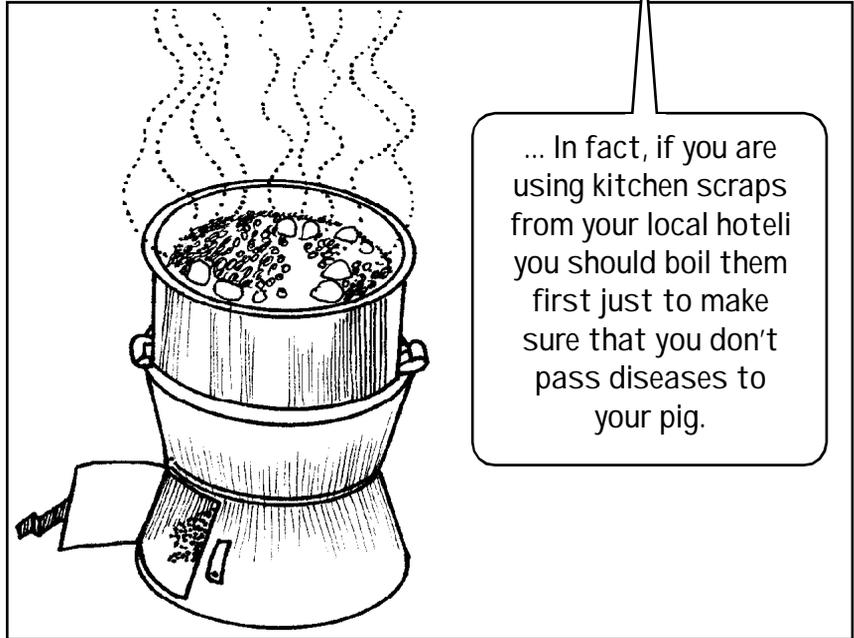


When the trees have fruits I give it anything that is damaged or rotten and when other food is in short supply I sometimes give it a little cassava.

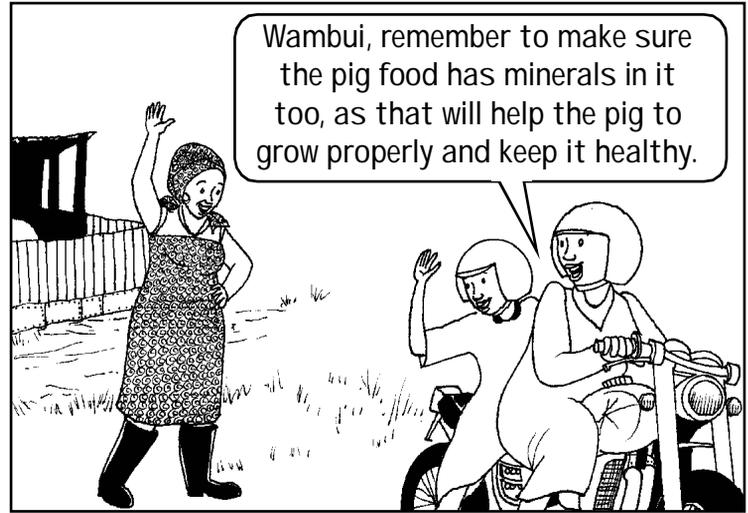
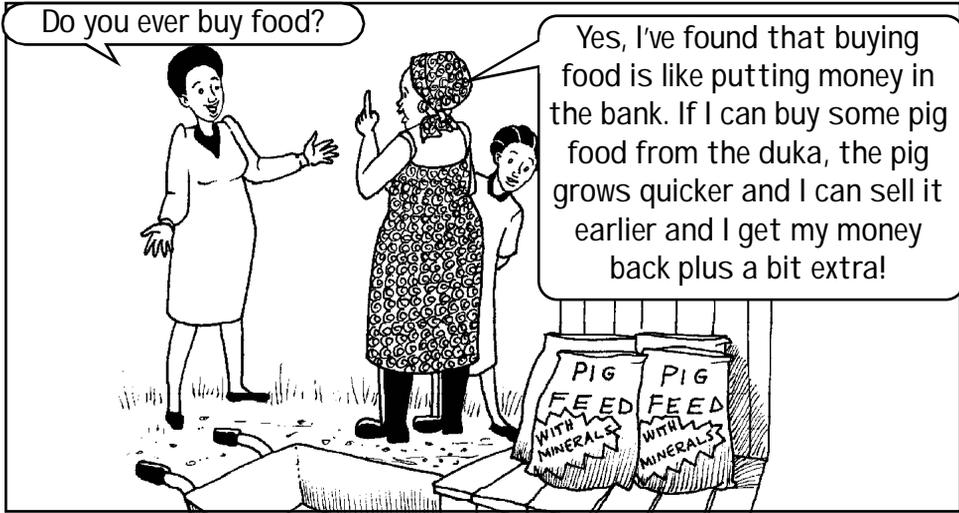
So you can feed a pig anything at all?



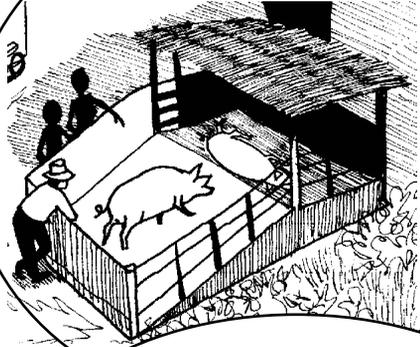
Almost! The one thing you must not feed a pig is meat from other pigs. That would allow disease to be passed on to your pigs from someone else's farm...



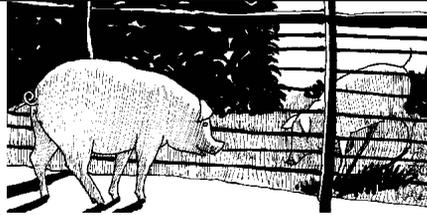
... In fact, if you are using kitchen scraps from your local hoteli you should boil them first just to make sure that you don't pass diseases to your pig.



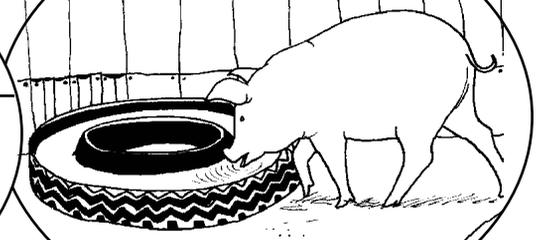
We need to:  
Provide a good pen...



...Keep out rats  
and bush pigs...



...Provide plenty  
of clean water...



...Keep the pig away  
from human waste.

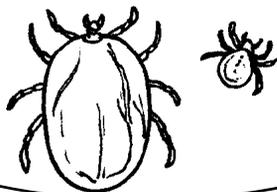


...And a final thing to remember is  
always cook pig meat properly  
before eating it! I like it fried with  
githeri and mchuzi. Look what good  
it has done for me!

...And feed it  
properly -  
**NO PIG MEAT!**



...Pick off ticks  
and lice...



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