



Current Report

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Cow-Calf Production Record Software

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Producers who have computers frequently ask about the availability of software programs to handle cow-calf production records. Before purchasing a software program, it is important to analyze the value of such a system with regards to making better management decisions. Producers should evaluate their existing records to determine the types of information sought from a software program. Are inventory records important? Are summary reports of primary interest? By considering specific record needs, the producer is better equipped to choose an appropriate software package. The hardest steps to valuable recordkeeping are (1) making time for recordkeeping, (2) determining the herd information that is economically feasible to collect, and (3) summarizing the herd data for use in the decision-making process.

If the cow-calf operator is not currently keeping any records on herd performance, a good starting point may be some basic calf crop records, cow information (if individual identification is used), calving and weaning percentages, inventory numbers, number of females exposed to the bull(s), etc. Seedstock and commercial cow-calf producers have different needs. Also, herd size can influence the degree of detail that a producer is willing or able to assemble on the cattle.

Meaningful cow-calf records may be handwritten or computerized. Monthly calendars, journals, and Integrated Resource Management Redbooks are a few examples of handwritten record systems. The choice of programs, features, and cost of software are the "fine-tuning" portion of recordkeeping. In the following summary of eight commercially available cow-calf software packages, the features are described under six headings:

- Cow Information
- Sire Information
- Calf Information
- Herd Information
- Computer Requirements
- Additional Considerations

The program purchase costs range from \$75 to \$695. Many software companies offer program demonstration copies for free. Programs have various computer requirements such as minimum processor type and speed, minimum RAM, operating system, hard disk space, and monitor needs. Most programs provide comprehensive cow, calf, and sire data entry fields, as well as herd production summaries.

Many of the programs accommodate both commercial and seedstock cattle needs. Seedstock producers should check with their breed association for software package availability and recommendations prior to purchasing software for registered cattle records.

Before purchasing any software, determine the level and cost of software support that will be provided by the company. In addition, some programs have specific cattle information that is required before the program will work. Sorting applications and the type of reports generated may vary, but in many cases producers have the opportunity to customize reports to meet specific needs. Another important feature may include the ability to query or search the data for specific animal information. Every cow-calf operator must determine the amount of time available to devote to practical recordkeeping and weigh this commitment against software costs, data entry features, and desired summary reports.

Information provided about the following programs was taken from a questionnaire completed by a software company representative. Oklahoma State University does not endorse the software programs listed in this publication, but the information is believed to be true. The summary does not cover all available packages or individual program features. Programs may have other capabilities that are not described in the summary. Producers should contact the respective companies for purchase information, details on features, and specific hardware requirements.

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Cow/Calf (Commercial and Production)

Red Wing Software
491 Hwy 19, (P.O. Box 19)
Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone: 800-732-9464
Fax: 651-388-7950
E-mail: info@redwingsoftware.com
Contact: Matt Hilton

Cow Calf 5

University of Nebraska
Great Plains Veterinary Ed. Center
P.O. Box 148
State Spur 18D
Clay Center, NE 68933-0148
Phone: 402-762-4357
Fax: 402-762-4509
E-mail: Support@CowCalf.com
Web Site: <http://www.CowCalf.com>
Contact: Dr. Gary Rupp and Steve Johnson

Farm Stock

Farm Works Software
CTN Data Service Software, Inc.
P.O. Box 250
Hamilton, IN 46742-0250
Phone: 800-225-2848
Fax: 260-488-3737
E-mail: farmwork@farmworks.com
Contact: Brian Stark

Cow Sense®

Midwest MicroSystems, L.L.C.
3100 O. Street, Suite 7
Lincoln, NE 58150-1532
Phone: 800-584-0040 / 402-323-6969
Fax: 402-323-6968
E-mail: info@cowsense.com
support@cowsense.com
Web Site: <http://cowsense.com>
Contact: Tim Davis, Vice President

CattleMax

Cattlesoft, Inc.
P.O. Box 2647
College Station, TX 77841
Phone: 877-454-COWS
E-mail: customer-service@cattlemax.com
Web Site: <http://www.CattleMax.com>
Contact: Penny Miller

THE Beef Cattle FIRM

University of Tennessee
Extension
315 John R. Rice Blvd. Ste 101
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: 615-898-7710
Fax: 615-898-7999
E-Mail: kferguso@utk.edu or kferguson@utk.edu
Web Site: <http://economics.ag.utk.edu/firm.html>
Contact: Kevin Ferguson

Cattle Pro 2003-Prime + Choice + Select + Standard

Bowman Farm Systems, Inc.
517 Hendricks Lane
Cynthiana, KY 41031
Phone: 800-204-2002 / 859-234-2002
Fax: 859-234-2002
E-Mail: bowman@cattlepro.com
support@cattlepro.com
Web Site: <http://www.cattlepro.com>
Contact: Harold Bowman Jr.
Prime-Purebred
Choice-Large Commercial
Select-Small Commercial

Cattleworks, LLC

5411 Dishner Valley
Bristol, VA 24202
Phone: 800-507-2902
E-mail: info@cattleworks.com
Web site: www.cattleworks.com
Contact: Kent Hartsock

COW INFORMATION

• = yes **x** = no ✓ = user defined field

	Red Wing Cow/Calf		Cow		Farm Stock			Cow Sense			CattleMax		Cattle	
	Commercial	Production	Calf 5	Farm Stock	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Seedstock	Commercial	Registered	THE FIRM	Pro 2003	Cattleworks	
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Breed Registration #	x	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Tattoo/Brand Number/Eartag	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Purchased/Raised, Cost and Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	
Pedigree	x	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	
Weaning Weight/205-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	
Yearling Weight/365-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	
Additional Weights	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓	
Cow Weight/Weigh Dates	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	
Condition Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Hip Height	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓	
Age	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Horned/Polled/Scurred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Temperament Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓	
MPPA Score	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	
Management Code	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	
No. Calves Born, Weaned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
No. Calves Held as Yearlings	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	
Calving Interval	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Date of Last Calf	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Projected Calving Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	
Days Open	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	
Avg. Calf Performance Weights (Birth, Weaning, Yearling)	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Avg. Adj. Calf Performance Wts.	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Avg. Calf Performance Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Avg. Daily Gain of Calves	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Heat Detection Information	x	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	
Breeding Information	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Pregnancy Status	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Pregnancy Check Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Pelvic Area Measurements	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓	
Health/Disposal Cause/Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Sold To/Price	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	
Pasture/Location	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Embryo Transfers	•	•	•	•	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Average Calving Ease Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Number of User Defined Entries	12	12	8	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	unlimited	unlimited	

SIRE INFORMATION

• = yes x = no ✓ = user defined field

	Red Wing Cow/Calf		Cow		Cow Sense				CattleMax		Cattle		
	Commercial	Production	Calif 5	Farm Stock	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Seedstock	Commercial	Registered	THE FIRM	Pro 2003	Cattlaworks
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Percentage Fullblood/Purebred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Registration #	x	•	•	•	x	x	x	•	•	•	x	•	✓
Purchased/Raised, Cost and Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pedigree	x	•	•	•	x	x	x	•	x	•	•	•	x
Weaning Weight/205-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yearling Weight/365-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Central Bull Testing Information	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
On-Farm Bull Testing Information	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Percent Pregnancy Rate	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
Condition Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓
Hip Height	•	•	•	•	x	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	✓
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓
Horned/Polled/Scurred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓
Contemporary Group	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
Breeder of Bull	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓
Pelvic Area Measurements	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓
Management Code	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓
No. of Calves Sired	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of Calves Sired Weaned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of Calves Sired Weaned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
Avg. Calf Performance Weights (Birth, Weaning, Yearling)	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. Adj. Calf Performance Wts./Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. ADG of Calves	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. WDA of Calves	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Semen Inventory	x	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
List of Sires	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Purchase/Sale Price	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of User Defined Entries	12	12	8	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	unlimited	unlimited
Expected Progeny Differences	•	•	•	NA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓
Breeding Soundness Exams	•	•	•	NA	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓

(NA indicates that no response was provided)

CALF INFORMATION

• = yes **x** = no ✓ = user defined field

	Red Wing Cow/Calf		Cow		Cow Sense			CattleMax		Cattle		Cattleworks	
	Commercial	Production	Calf 5	Farm Stock	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Seedstock	Commercial	Registered	THE fIRM		Pro 2003
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Registration #	x	•	•	•	x	x	x	•	•	•	x	•	•
Tattoo/Brand Number/Ear Tag	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pedigree	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Sex	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dam ID	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sire ID	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Calving Ease Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓
Calving Period	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Age of Dam at Birth	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Management Code (e.g. creep)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weaning Date/Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	✓
Horned/Polled/Scurred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓
Hip Height/Frame Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	✓
Muscling Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grade/Carcass Data	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	x	•	•
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause/Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sold To/Price	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pasture/Location	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Adjusted Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Age in Days	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average Daily Gain (weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weight per Day of Age (weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Adjusted 205-day Weaning Wt./Ratio	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	•
Adjusted Hip Height	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓
Yearling Weight and Date	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Adjusted 365-day Weight/Ratio	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Average Daily Gain/Ratio (yearling)	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Ratio/Index By Sex/Group	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
No. of User Defined Entries	12	12	13	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	unlimited	unlimited

* Ratios are not calculated

HERD INFORMATION

• = yes **x** = no

	Red Wing Cow/Calf		Cow		Cow Sense				CattleMax		Cattle		
	Commercial	Production	Calf 5	Farm Stock	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Seedstock	Commercial	Registered	THE FIRM	Pro 2003	Cattleworks
Pounds Weaned Per Cow	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
Common Weaning Date	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	•
Avg. Inseminations/Cow Bred	•	•	x	•	x	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
Avg. Inseminations/Live Calf	•	•	x	•	x	x	x	x	•	•	x	•	x
Average Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. Adj. Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average Weaning Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average Days of Age (Weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average ADG (Weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average WDA (Weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Average 205-day Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average Hip Height	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Average Cow Age	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average Yearling Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Avg. Adj. 365-day Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Averages By Calf Sex	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Averages By Cow Age	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Averages By Calf Sire	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Averages By Management Code	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
No. of Cows in Herd	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of Open Cows	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of Bred Cows	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
No. of Cows Exposed	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
No. of Cows Added to Herd	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Cattle Purchase Records	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•
No. of Calves Born	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Number of Nursing Calves	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•
No. of Calves Weaned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Feed and Pasture Records	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•
Expected Calving Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Calf Crop Percent	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
Percent of Cows Pregnant	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Length of Calving Season	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Average Calving Interval	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Calving Distribution Summary	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yearling List	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Yearling Summary	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Potential Replacement Heifers	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x
Potential Cull Cows	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Sort By Index	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sort By ID	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sort By Other	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Historical Cow Performance	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pedigree Report	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•	x

HERD INFORMATION

	Red Wing Cow/Calf		Cow		Cow Sense			CattleMax		Cattle			
	Commercial	Production	Calf 5	Farm Stock	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Seedstock	Commercial	Registered	THE FIRM	Pro 2003	Cattleworks
(Continued)													
Breeding Worksheet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Preg-check Worksheet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Herd Composition By Age	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Conception Rates By Age	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
List of Open Cows	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
List of Cows Bred	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Inventory By Calf Sex	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Inventory By Location	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Inventory By Site	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Open Cows Carried Forward	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Management Calendar	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

	Red Wing Cow/Calf		Cow Calf 5	Farm Stock	Cow Sense
	Commercial	Production			
Operating System	Win. 98 or newer	Win. 98 or newer	Win. 95 or newer	Win. 98 or newer	Win. 98 or newer
Minimum RAM	64 MB	64 MB	16 MB	16 MB	32 MB
Hard Disk	80 MB avail.	80 MB avail.	30 MB	20 MB	30MB free space
Printer	Ink Jet or laser	Ink Jet or laser	Any Microsoft Windows computer printer	Any graphics printer	Ink Jet or laser
Monitor	VGA or SVGA	VGA or SVGA	800 x 600	VGA	Color 640x480 minimum
Last Updated	04/04	04/04	Available on the Web	Constant Revision	01/07 (constant updates at web through auto update function)
Cost	\$295	\$695	\$500	\$250	EZ-75 \$158 Lite \$266 Commercial \$466 Purebred \$535
Demo Avail./Cost	Free	Free	Free 60-day trial of full working version	Free	Free working trial (No time limitation)
Support Cost	Available	Available	Free unlimited phone, e-mail, and Web, also training seminars available	30 day free, several plans available workshops offered online or classroom	Free Internet and Account Access 30 day free, several plans available, workshops offered online and on site

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

	CattleMax		THE FIRM	Cattle Pro 2003	Cattleworks
Operating System	Windows XP or Vista Mac with Virtual PC Parallels or VMWare		Win. 95 or newer	Win. 95 or newer	Win. 95 or newer
Minimum RAM	32 MB		24 MB	32 MB	32 MB
Hard Disk	40 MB		10 MB	30 MB free space	40 MB
Printer	Ink Jet or laser		No Requirements	No Requirements	Ink Jet or laser
Monitor	SVGA 800 x 600		800 x 600	VGA	SVGA 800 x 600
Last Updated	Constant Revision		09/04	Constant Revision	Constant Revision
Cost	Small herd (<50 cows)	Standard (unlimited)	\$125	Prime \$695 Choice \$395 Select \$295 Standard \$195	\$75
	Commercial				
	Registered				
Demo Avail./Cost	Free		No	Free	Free
Support Avail./Cost	Free phone, e-mail, and Web site support and monthly online workshops		Free phone and e-mail	Free on Internet, 30 day free phone, Special training available	Free phone, e-mail, and Web site support

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Red Wing Cow/Calf		Cow Calf 5	Farm Stock	CattleMax
	Commercial	Production			
Sorting options provided by the program?	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.
Specific data entry fields that are required for program to work.	Birthdate, sire/dam, ID, purchased/raised/AI.	Birthdate, sire/dam, ID, purchased/raised/AI.	Permanent ID, birthdate of dam/calf, calf sex.	ID, location, group.	ID and birthdate (calf groups and stocker/feeder groups do not require individual ID).
Does the program generate Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) values? If yes, are they production values, financial values, or both?	Yes, production.	Yes, production.	Yes, production and financial.	Yes, production.	Yes, the program is NCBA SPA-P certified and calculates the complete SPA production measures.
Is the program integrated with other agricultural software?	Export to Microsoft™ Excel or Microsoft™ Word.	Export to Microsoft™ Excel or Microsoft™ Word.	Microsoft™ Excel or any other spreadsheet program. Palm OS and Microsoft™ Windows CE PDA devices to allow data entry while working animals.	Farm Trac, Farm Fund, Microsoft™ Excel, Stock Mate, and Microsoft™ Windows CE Bar Code Scanner.	TAEX Cow-Calf SPA spreadsheet package to complete SPA financial data, Microsoft™ Excel and reports and worksheets to handheld devices supporting spreadsheets, interface with over 30 breed associations (electronic and paper formats), and integration with electronic scales and electronic ID.
Does the program have the capability or do you plan to develop the capability to accept farm level inputs from electronic ID systems or interface with input from databases generated by electronic ID systems?	No, but a feasibility study is being conducted.	Can accept inputs, but cannot interface with databases at this time.	Can accept inputs, but cannot interface with databases at this time.	The software has the capability to import and export farm level inputs from electronic ID systems and is capable of interfacing with databases generated by electronic ID systems.	Interfaces with EID readers and records EID tag numbers. In addition, the software will be updated as additional EID systems are introduced.
Is the program NCBA SPA accredited and if yes, Production Report, Financial Report, or both?					

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Cow Sense	THE FIRM	Cattle Pro 2003	Cattleworks
Sorting options provided by the program?	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.
Specific data entry fields that are required for program to work.	Individual ID, every calf record must have an outcome, all cows must have a birthdate and status (active or gone), bulls also require a status and type (AI, natural service, or both)	Birthdate, sex, sire, and dam.	ID.	Location, breed, and sex.
Does the program generate Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) values? If yes, are they production values, financial values, or both?	Yes, the production report is NCBA SPA certified. The cost of production report is pending.	No.	Yes, production.	No.
Is the program integrated with other agricultural software?	Included import tool allows user to import data to update existing records and/or create a Cow Sense herd from any other existing data source. Export and import to/from spreadsheet, word processor, financial programs, and multiple other formats. Interface for the Pocket PC allows for the collection of data in the field. Interface with Cow Sense Online for benchmarking and comparative analysis.	No.	Breed Associations module for EPDs (will be able to download a scale module off the internet). Exports to Microsoft TM Excel and other file formats (html, pdf, rtf, text).	Export to Microsoft TM Excel, Microsoft TM Word, CSV file, or Adobe TM PDF, general HTML page. Exports to Palm Viewer software that is included with Cattleworks.
Does the program have the capability or do you plan to develop the capability to accept farm level inputs from electronic ID systems or interface with input from databases generated by electronic ID systems?	Yes, real time or chute side interfaces with EID readers and in addition, other electronic measurement devices. In addition, Tag Wizard in Cow Sense will import a list of EID's from a manufacturer's file and print a tagging field form to link visual tag with EID.		Yes.	Yes.
Is the program NCBA SPA accredited and if yes, Production Report, Financial Report, or both?	Yes, Cow Sense was the first commercially developed program to be SPA accredited, with our Production Report.	No.		No.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Commercial	Red Wing Cow/Calf	Production	Cow Calf 5	Farm Stock	CattleMax
Does the program currently have the capability or do you plan to develop the capability to output information (e.g., to industry databases) to an animal ID database or other animal information systems that may develop in the industry?	The software has the capability to export data to the Red Angus Association.	The software has the capability to export data to the Red Angus Association.		Yes.	Yes, once the national database is working.	CattleMax currently exports data to breed associations. As industry databases and standards are developed, CattleMax will be updated to accommodate data exchange.
Does the program store 15-digit identifications (such as NAIS numbers) in addition to other animal identifications?	There are five identification code options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal number - Up to 10 characters Animal Name - Up to 28 characters Tattoo Number - 4 to 8 characters Positive ID - Up to 25 characters Registration number - Up to 10 characters 				Animal ID - up to 64 characters Alternate ID- up to 64 characters Electronic ID- up to 64 characters Left Ear Tag - up to 64 characters Right Ear Tag - up to 64 characters	Yes
Can electronic identifications be read directly into your software? Or is the purchase of companion software necessary for this purpose?	Electronic identification can be directly linked to the positive ID number. The 3.0 version will also offer additional import capabilities.					All CattleMax editions can read EIDs directly.
Will scanning of an electronic ID recall previously recorded management information?						Yes

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Cow Sense	THE FIRM	Cattle Pro 2003	Cattleworks
Does the program currently have the capability or do you plan to develop the capability to output information (e.g., to industry databases) to an animal ID database or other animal information systems that may develop in the industry?	<p>Current interface with Cow Sense Online provide for the submission of data to a secure Internet site for comparative analysis and benchmarking. The Send/Retrieve Herd File as well as Remote Backup Service provides for the seamless transfer of whole herd data to Midwest MicroSystems for assistance, analysis or safe data storage. Interfaces with private databases through Cow Sense Premiumum Interface Component (PIC). Data exchange with multiple Breed Associations exists for submission of registration and performance data as well as receiving data updates from associations. The individual performance and health records can be uploaded to feedlots and feeding performance and carcass data can be retrieved back into Cow Sense as well. Upload of information for age and source verification through Cow Sense Verified Micro Beef PVP. Shipping report with COOL language can be printed or exported. As additional public databases are USDA approved, required information will be delivered in the same fashion.</p>		Yes.	Yes.
Does the program store 15-digit identifications (such as NAIS numbers) in addition to other animal identifications?	Yes. (See previous question regarding EID systems for more detail.)	No.	Yes, with the purchase of compatible scales. User must type in the animal ID initially for each animal to match it with the RFID (15-digit ID).	Yes, the software has a field for the 15 digit number.
Can electronic identifications be read directly into your software? Or is the purchase of companion software necessary for this purpose?	Yes. Also offers a manual option for user's who do not wish to have a tag reader at point of application and prefer field forms.	No.	EIDs can be down-loaded into the software from the scale indicator.	No, cannot currently read electronic IDs directly and do not offer any companion software for this purpose.
Will scanning of an electronic ID recall previously recorded management information?	Yes. That is the true power, as Cow Sense provides the ability to use past and present data in combination to assist in management decisions while the animal is captive. For example, when a cow with EID is scanned at preg check, her current breeding data is displayed (as well as other past data recorded). Another example would be the instantaneous calculation and display of ADG and WDA once a calf is scanned and weighed.	No.	Yes.	N/A

- **All programs have on-screen or printed input forms, as well as on-screen/printed summary reports available.**
- **Almost all of the programs are designed for both commercial and registered (seedstock, pure-bred) cow herd types.**
- **Free-format comment areas (note pages) are available.**
- **User defined fields, when available, allow input of data not otherwise specified. For example, if the vendor representative indicated 'no' for 'management code,' a user-defined entry field could be added for these data.**

Other Resources

Some of the programs generate Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) production values. Additional information on SPA is available in these OSU Fact Sheets:

AGEC-222, Integrated Resource Management Tools:

Standardized Performance Analysis: Cow/Calf Software.

AGEC-231, Cow/Calf Financial and Production Performance:

What we are learning from Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) Data.

AGEC-232, Interpreting Cow/Calf Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) Results.

Helpful Web sites

Farm Financial Management Resources:

<http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/ffmr.asp>

Quicken materials for farm financial records:

<http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/quicken/>

Animal Science Resources:

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu>

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

Bringing the University to You!

The Cooperative Extension Service is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world. It is a nationwide system funded and guided by a partnership of federal, state, and local governments that delivers information to help people help themselves through the land-grant university system.

Extension carries out programs in the broad categories of agriculture, natural resources and environment; family and consumer sciences; 4-H and other youth; and community resource development. Extension staff members live and work among the people they serve to help stimulate and educate Americans to plan ahead and cope with their problems.

Some characteristics of the Cooperative Extension system are:

- The federal, state, and local governments cooperatively share in its financial support and program direction.
- It is administered by the land-grant university as designated by the state legislature through an Extension director.
- Extension programs are nonpolitical, objective, and research-based information.
- It provides practical, problem-oriented education for people of all ages. It is designated to take the knowledge of the university to those persons who do not or cannot participate in the formal classroom instruction of the university.
- It utilizes research from university, government, and other sources to help people make their own decisions.
- More than a million volunteers help multiply the impact of the Extension professional staff.
- It dispenses no funds to the public.
- It is not a regulatory agency, but it does inform people of regulations and of their options in meeting them.
- Local programs are developed and carried out in full recognition of national problems and goals.
- The Extension staff educates people through personal contacts, meetings, demonstrations, and the mass media.
- Extension has the built-in flexibility to adjust its programs and subject matter to meet new needs. Activities shift from year to year as citizen groups and Extension workers close to the problems advise changes.

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