

Cow-Calf Production Record Software: The Latest Options

Oklahoma State University
David Lalman and Damona Doye

The Challenge

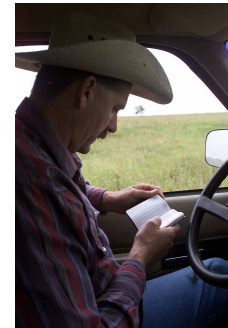
- Making (minimizing) time for data collection, entry and analysis
- Determining herd information that is important and economically feasible to collect
- Adequately, accurately and consistently summarizing / benchmarking the data

Keys to Successful Record Keeping and Record Analysis

- Accurate records
- Calculation of **standard** measures
 - Oct. 15, 2011 - 100 cows weaning 98 calves = 98%?
 - May 1, 2011 - 105 cows with 100 calves = 93%?
 - Oct. 15, 2010 – 114 cows with 105 pregnant = 86%?
 - May 20, 2010 = 116 cows exposed to bulls = 84%
- Regular data entry and performance analysis
- Multiple years to verify progress or identify trends

The era of information overload...

What should I expect of my software?



Will you maintain individual or group records?

Are individual animals uniquely identified?



Level 1 Records

- Cow and calf inventory tracking
 - Calving
 - Breeding
 - Weaning
 - Sales: date and weight
 - Death losses
 - Purchases
- ID (individual or group), birth date and gender (if ID is individual)

Level 1 Records

- Cow and calf inventory tracking
- Birth date, ID, gender
- Basic pedigree information (individual or group)
- Cows pregnant (individual or group)
- Weaning: date, calf weight (individual or group)
- Notes on individual animals (Critical for heifer selection)

“Bad Mark” Cows

1. Cows that calve late (+42 days)
2. Cows that fail to wean a calf
3. Cows that have big teats/need help
4. Cows that wean a light wt. calf
5. Cows that have “attitude” problems
6. Cows that have structure problems or other extreme health problems

* assume opens are culled

Level 1 Records

- Cow and calf inventory tracking
- Birth date, ID, gender
- Pedigree information
- Cows pregnant
- Weaning: date, calf weight
- Notes on individual animals
- Beef Quality Assurance records
 - Health mngmt/treatment records

Level 2 Records

- Birth weight
- Weaning: cow weight and BCS
- Artificial insemination and sync
- Feed yard performance (yrling growth)
- Carcass data
- Sire EPD's
- Genomic data

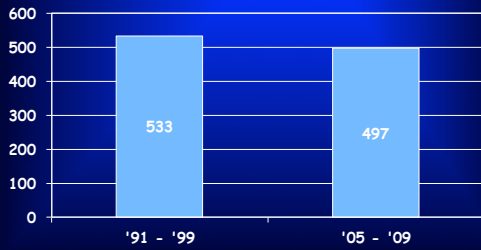
Key Performance Production/ Reproduction Measures

- Weaning percentage
- Calving percentage
- Pregnancy percentage
- Actual weaning weights
- Pounds weaned per exposed female
- Calving distribution
- All must be viewed in context of moderate to low inputs: \$/lb of calf weaned

Have we succeeded in improving commercial cow efficiency?

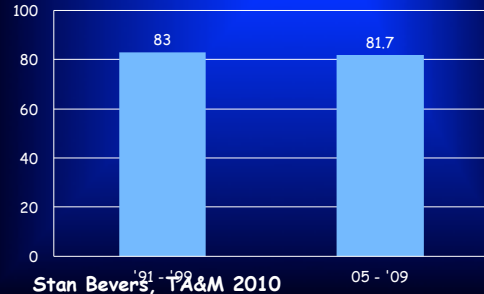


SPA Performance Summary Weaning Weight, lb



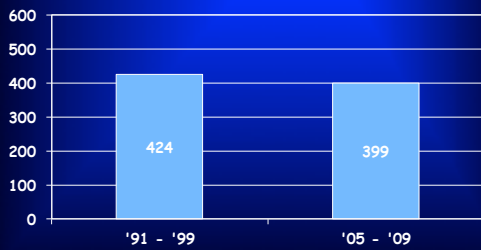
Stan Bevers, TA&M 2010

SPA Performance Summary Calving Rate

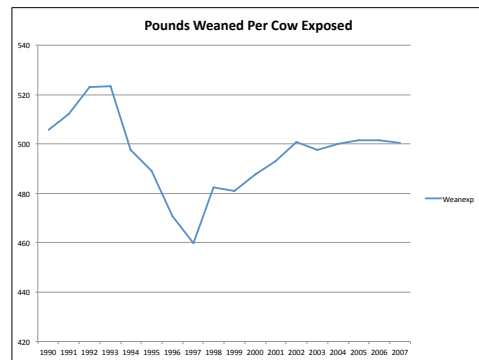


Stan Bevers, TA&M 2010

SPA Performance Summary Pounds Weaned/Exp Female

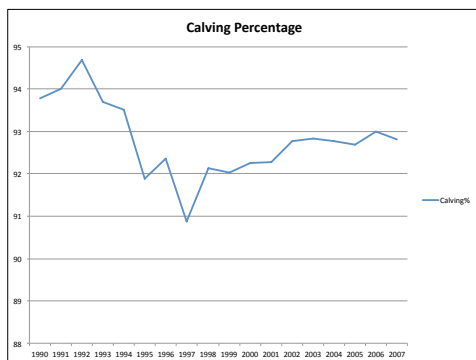


Stan Bevers, TA&M 2010



Kris Ringwall, NDSU 2008

Calving Percentage



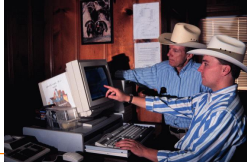
Kris Ringwall, NDSU 2008

Challenge

A benchmarking system within the commercial cow/calf industry is needed!

Cow/Calf Record Alternatives

- Hand-kept records
- Simple spreadsheet
- Commercial software
- Breed association



IRM Redbook



- Herd inventory
- Breeding season
- Bull inventory
- Pasture usage
- Calf info- and weight record
- Analysis of calving activity
- Calf health record
- Cattle treatment record
- Cattle sales
- Death losses
- AI Breeding record
- Supplement record
- Daily calendar
- \$6.50
- <http://www.beefusa.org/store>
- Grace Webb
- Direct Line: 800/525-3085

Cattleman's Management Record Book

- Calving Records
- Calving Summary
- AI Records
- Pregnancy Records
- Culling Records
- Health/Treatment Records
- Treatment Protocol Plan
- Rainfall Records
- Feed/Hay/Mineral Records
- Body Condition Score (BCS) Records
- Hay/Forage Production Records
- Herbicide/Pesticide Application Records



- Numerous reference tables
- Oklahoma Beef Council
- \$ = Free
- oklabeeff.org
- Jeff Jaronek
- 405-840-3777

Choosing electronic record-keeping systems

- Ease of use
 - Frequency of use
- Expandable, flexible, compatible
- Portability?
 - Mobile applications
 - Data/program access via the internet
- Support
- Cost of system, training and upgrades

Will you maintain individual or group records?

Are individual animals uniquely identified?



CR-3279 Cow-Calf Production Record Software

- Characterizes 14 programs/products from 9 commercial software companies
- No warranties to buyer or any other person or entity for the materials, expressed or implied, including, but not limited to....
- No endorsement





Can this program accommodate “Level 1” needs?

Yes

Can this program accommodate “Level 2” needs?

Yes, for the most part and differences in feature availability are primarily due to commercial vs seedstock versions

	Mobile capability	Internet access
CattleMax	Yes	Yes
Cattle Pro	PDF only	
Cow Calf 5	Yes	
Cow Sense	Yes	Yes
Farm Works, Stock	Yes	
Wolf Creek Cow/ Calf	Mid 2012	
Cattleworks, LLC		
Simplicity	Yes	Yes
Beef Cattle fIRM		

