



Current Report

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Cow-Calf Production Record Software

David Lalman
Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Carly Griffith Hotvedt
Extension Assistant, Agricultural Economics

Damona Doye
Extension Economist and Regents Professor

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 nine 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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Wolf Creek Cow/Calf (Commercial, Commercial with Report Writer, and Production)

Wolf Creek Software
4100 Teakwood Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Email: cowcalf.assist@gmail.com
Contact: David Van Heuvelen

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 Works™ Stock

Farm Works Software®
A Division of Trimble
P.O. Box 250
Hamilton, IN 46742
E-mail: sales@farmworks.com
Website: www.farmworks.com
Contact: Scott Mesbaum

Cow Sense®

Midwest MicroSystems, L.L.C.
3100 O. Street, Suite 7
Lincoln, NE 68150-1532
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 Online

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

Global Livestock Management Systems, LLC
1725 Dryden Road
Sadieville, KY 40370
Phone: 800-204-2002/859-234-2002
Fax: 859-234-2002
Email: support@cattlepro.com
Website: www.cattlepro.com
Contact: Kathie Williams
Prime Plus: Registered with interface
Prime: Registered
Choice Plus: Commercial with interface
Choice: Commercial
Standard: Small Registered
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

Simplicity Cattle Management

P.O. Box 214
Browns Valley, CA 95918
Phone: 530-329-4477
Email: danielmyers@simplicitycm.com
Website: www.simplicitycattlemanagement.com
Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/Simplicity.com
Facebook Simplicity Cattle Management
Contact: Daniel Myers

COW INFORMATION

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

	Wolf Creek Cow/Calf		Cow	Cow Sense			CattleMax Online		THE fIRM	Cattle Pro	Cattleworks	Simplicity
	Commercial	Production		Calv 5	Farm Stock	Works	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Registered		
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Breed Registration #	x	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	x
Tattoo/Brand Number/Eartag	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Purchased/Raised, Cost and Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	•	•
Pedgree	x	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	x	x
Weaning Weight/205-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	•	•
Yearling Weight/365-day/Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	x	x
Additional Weights	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	✓	•
Cow Weight/Weigh Dates	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	✓	•
Condition Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hip Height	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	✓	✓
Age	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Horned/Polled/Scurred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	•
Temperament Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	✓
MPPA Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	✓	x
Management Code	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	✓
No. Calves Born, Weaned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. Calves Held as Yearlings	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	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	•	•	•	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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause/Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sold To/Price	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pasture/Location	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Embryo Transfers	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	x	x
Average Calving Ease Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•
Number of User Defined Entries	12	12	8	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	•

SIRE INFORMATION

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

	Wolf Creek Cow/Calf		Cow		Farm Stock			Cow Sense			CattleMax Online		THE fIRM	Cattle Pro	Cattleworks	Simplicity
	Commercial	Production	Cal 5		Works	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Seedstock	Registered	Commercial	Registered				
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Percentage Fullblood/Purebred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓	•
Breed Registration #	x	•	•	•	x	x	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	x
Purchased/Raised, Cost and Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pedigree	x	•	•	•	x	x	x	•	x	•	x	•	•	•	x	x
Weaning Weight/205-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yearling Weight/365-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	✓
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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
No. of Calves Sired Weaned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	x
No. of Calves Sired Weaned	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	x
No. of Calves Sired Yearlings	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	x
Avg. Calf Performance Weights	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
(Birth, Weaning, Yearling)	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. Adj. Calf Performance Wts./Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. ADG of Calves	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. WDA of Calves	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•
Semen Inventory	x	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	x	x
List of Sires	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Purchase/Sale Price	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of User Defined Entries	12	8	12	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	unlimited	unlimited	•
Expected Progeny Differences	•	•	•	NA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	x
Breeding Soundness Exams	•	•	•	NA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓	•

(NA indicates that no response was provided)

CALF INFORMATION

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

	Wolf Creek Cow/Calf		Cow	Cow Sense				CattleMax Online			THE fIRM	Cattle Pro	Cattleworks	Simplicity
	Commercial	Production		Call 5	Farm Stock	Works	EZ-75	Lite	Commercial	Seedstock				
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x
Breed Registration #	x	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	x	•	•	x
Tattoo/Brand Number/Ear Tag	x	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pedigree	x	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	x	x	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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	✓	•
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	•
Hip Height/Frame Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	✓	✓
Muscling Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	✓
Grade/Carcass Data	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	x	•	•	x	•	•	x
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause/Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sold To/Price	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pasture/Location	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Adjusted Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•
Age in Days	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	x
Average Daily Gain (weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weight per Day of Age (weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	x
Adjusted 205-day Weaning Wt./Ratio	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	•	•
Adjusted Hip Height	•	•	x	x	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	✓	x
Yearling Weight and Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•
Adjusted 365-day Weight/Ratio	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	x
Average Daily Gain/Ratio (yearling)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•
Ratio/Index By Sex/Group	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	x	•	•	•	•	x	•
No. of User Defined Entries	12	12	13	13	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited

* Ratios are not calculated

HERD INFORMATION

• = yes ✕ = no

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

HERD INFORMATION

(Continued)

(Continued)	Wolf Creek Cow/Calf		Cow	Cow Sense			CattleMax Online		THE fIRM	Cattle Pro	Cattleworks	Simplicity
	Commercial	Production		Cal 5	Farm Stock	Works	EZ-75	Lite				
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 Sire	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	×	×
Open Cows Carried Forward	●	●	●	×		●	●	●	●	●	×	×
Management Calendar	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	×	●
Custom Field Reports	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	●	×	×
Customer Reports	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	●	×	×

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

	Wolf Creek Cow/Calf		Cow Calf 5	Farm Stock Works	Cow Sense
	Commercial	Production			
Operating System	Win. 98 or newer	Win. 98 or newer	Win. 95 or newer	Win. 2000	Win. 98 or newer
Minimum RAM	64 MB	64 MB	16 MB	128 MB	32 MB
Hard Disk	80 MB avail.	80 MB avail.	30 MB	50 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	Color 800x600 minimum	Color 640x480 minimum
Last Updated	04/04	04/04	Available free on the Web or through auto update function	Constant Revision	03/12 (constant updates at web through auto update function)
Cost	\$295	\$695	\$500	Stock \$250, Stock Mobile, \$250	EZ-75 \$158 Lite \$266 Commercial \$466 Purebred \$535 Online subscription \$5/month
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	Free email and discussion groups on the web, Phone support 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 Online	THE FIRM	Cattle Pro	Cattleworks	Simplicity
Operating System	Any computer, tablet, or mobile device with a modern web browser and internet connection (Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, and others)	Win. XP	Win. XP or later or Mac using virtual software such as VWware, Parrells, Virtual Box, etc.	Win. 95 or newer	All internet connections of at least 0.5 mbps is recommended
Minimum RAM	N/A	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	no requirement
Hard Disk	N/A	30 MB	30 MB free space	40 MB	no requirement
Printer	None, Monitor	No Requirements	No Requirements or laser	Ink Jet	no requirement
Monitor	none	SVGA 800 x 600	VGA	SVGA 800 x 600	SVGA or VGA recommended
Last Updated	Constant Revision	07/12 Anticipated release date of current beta version	Constant Revision	Constant Revision	Constant Revisions with new versions provided available at no extra cost
Cost	Commercial: Starts at \$9/month Registered: Starts at \$14/month	\$150	Prime Plus \$595 Prime \$495 Choice Plus \$495 Choice \$395 Select \$295 Standard \$195	\$75	\$18/month \$120/year \$240/3-year subscription
Demo Avail./Cost	Free	No	Free	Free	Free
Support Avail./Cost	Free phone, e-mail, and Web site support and monthly online workshops	Free phone and e-mail	Free lifetime Cattle Pro Support via email and/or phone Training available on request	Free phone, e-mail, and Web site support	Free support

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Wolf Creek Cow/Calf		Cow Calf 5	
	Commercial	Production	Farm Stock Works	CattleMax Online
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.	Birthdate, sire/dam, ID, purchased/raised/AI.	Birthdate, sire/dam, ID, purchased/raised/AI.	Permanent ID, birthdate of dam/calf, calf sex.	ID and Animal Type.
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.	No.
Is the program integrated with other agricultural software?	Flexible imports of scale information from all ASCII files.	Flexible imports of scale information from all ASCII files.	Microsoft™ Excel or any other spreadsheet program. Palm OS and Microsoft™ Windows CE PDA devices to allow data entry while working animals.	Microsoft Excel, electronic ID readers, cattle weight scales, and most popular breed associations.
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.
Is the program NCBA SPA accredited and if yes, Production Report, Financial Report, or both?	No			

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cow Sense		THE iIRM	Cattle Pro	Cattleworks	Simplicity
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 features currently being developed and/or revised.
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.	ID and estimated Birth date are required.
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.	Yes, production.
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 or Windows Mobile Smart Phone allows for the collection of data in the field. Interface with Cow Sense Benchmark Wizard for online benchmarking and comparative analysis.	Export to and Import from Microsoft Excel.	Breed Associations module for EPDs (will be able to download a scale module off the Internet). Exports to Microsoft™ Excel and other file formats (html, pdf, rtf, text).	Export to Microsoft™ Excel, Microsoft™ Word, CSV file, or Adobe™ PDF, general HTML page. Exports to Palm Viewer software that is included with Cattleworks.	DTN provides market and weather data and commentary; all BQA information is accessible through Simplicity Cattle Management
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 (active) chute side interfaces with EID readers and in addition, other electronic measurement devices such as scale indicators, label printers, electronic tape measures, LED signs, electronic thermometers and other serial 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. Cow Sense also offers a passive solution to seamlessly import data from electronic ID systems, EID readers and/or scale indicators.	Yes, EID numbers can be imported from Microsoft Excel	Yes.	Yes.	No.
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.	No.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Wolf Creek Cow/Calf		CattleMax Online Online	
Commercial	Production	Farm Stock Works	CattleMax Online Online
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.	Yes.	CattleMax Online Online currently exports data to breed associations. As industry databases and standards are developed, CattleMax Online 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. - 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	Yes and integrates with EID readers.	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
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.	Yes.	All CattleMax Online editions can read EIDs directly.
Will scanning of an electronic ID recall previously recorded management information?		Yes.	Yes

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Cow Sense	THE fIRM	Cattle Pro	Cattleworks	Simplicity
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?	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 Premium 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.	Yes, can export data to Microsoft Excel.	Yes.	Yes.	Development of exporting features are planned and since Simplicity Cattle Management is web based, the results will be quick and efficient transfer of data.
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.)	Yes for Calf Records.	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.	No.
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 users who do not wish to have a tag reader at point of application and prefer field forms.	No, electronic identifications must be imported from Microsoft Excel file.	Yes.	No, cannot currently read electronic IDs directly and do not offer any companion software for this purpose.	No.
Will scanning of an electronic ID recall previously recorded management information?	Yes. 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. The Auto Sort function allows the user to customize and pre-assign a sort routine using previous data points in combination with current data to automatically call a sort to user defined criteria.	No.	Yes.	N/A	No.

- **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 this OSU Fact Sheet:
AGEC-222, Cow-Calf Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA)

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>

Smartphone Application and Mobile Use

Wolf Creek Cow/Calf	Android, iPhone®/iPad®, and BlackBerry® Table interfaces anticipated by early to mid-2012.
CattleMax Online	Cattle Max Online for iPhone®, BlackBerry®, and Android \$9/month and up.
CattlePro	PDF reports can be sent and opened with smartphones.
FarmStock	No applications, but offers mobile computers and Stock Mobile for data collection and history. Stock Mobile is windows based and will work on smartphones with Windows based operating systems.
CowSense	Mobile field data collection.
Pocket Cow Sense	Designed to work on any mobile device with Windows Mobile operating system including Pocket PCs and smartphones. Online database option.
CowSense Online	A web-based version offering data entry and reporting to users that prefer a cloud solution. Add records, edit data, and create critical management reports for cowherds from any computer with an internet connection.
Simplicity	Included with Simplicity Cattle Management subscriptions, users receive futures quotes, market news and commentary; weather provided by DTN. Additionally, users can access and review BQA information and training materials and even test to become certified where applicable.

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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