CowCalf5

for Dummies

Quick Reference

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CowCalf5

System Requirements

The CowCalf5 Program requires the following minimum system resources in order to function properly.

Windows 95/98/NT

32 Meg Ram

50 Meg Free Hard Disk Space

Pentium Processor or better

CD Rom Drive

Electronic Scale or EID Reader (Optional)

Installing the Program

To install the program onto the hard drive, place the enclosed installation CD into the CD Rom drive. The installation program should start automatically. By default the program will install into the **C:\CowCalf5** subdirectory. If you wish to install it into a different directory, simply identify this change during the setup process.

The installation program will also create two additional subdirectories: **PWRS** and **SQLANY50**. These directories are required for the program to function properly. You must restart the computer following the installation to complete the installation process.

Once the program is installed, a new CowCalf5 program option will be added to your Start Menu, Programs section.

Creating a CowCalf5 Icon on your desktop

The standard CowCalf5 installation creates a program group called CowCalf5 in your Start Menu Programs. If you would like to also place an icon on your desktop for easy assess do the following:

For Windows 98

Open up the Start Menu, Programs

Locate the CowCalf5 folder, and open it

Highlight the CowCalf5 program startup icon by placing the mouse over it

Press the **Right Mouse Button**, and select Send To:

Then choose Desktop (create shortcut)

This will place a CowCalf5 icon on your desktop

For Windows 95/NT

Open up Windows Explorer

Locate the **CowCalf5** folder and click it to open it

Find the file named **CowCalf5.EXE** and click on the right mouse button over it

From within the menu, choose **Create Shortcut**

A file called **Shortcut to CowCalf5** will be created at the bottom of the list of files. Hold down on the left mouse button over this file and drag it to your desktop

Open/New Herd

CowCalf5 has the ability to store an unlimited number of herds. Only one herd is accessible at any one time. The title bar of the CowCalf5 program displays the current herd that is being used. CowCalf5 automatically opens the last herd that was used when the program is started up. A DEMO herd is provided with the installation program to be used for demonstration and trial purposes.

To create a new herd, click on the **FILE** menu choice and choose **NEW HERD**. You will be prompted for the name of the herd and other general information about this new herd like owners name and address. Enter the name that you wish to call this herd (the name should be no more that 8 characters long and contain no spaces).

To open a different herd that you have created, click on the **FILE** menu and select **OPEN HERD**. Double click on the herd that you wish to open.

Start Entering Records

When starting new herd records, there are certain steps you should perform to make entering the records go more smoothly. The following is a brief outline of the proper steps needed to get your records entered. A more detailed explanation of the steps will be outlined in later sections.

1. **Create a new herd.** If a group of animals are managed totally separate from other animals, and they do not intermingle, then they should be stored in a separate herd. Animals can be moved from one herd to another if the need arises.

2. **Enter all the Dams in the herd**. All the cows in the herd should be entered. The only permanent information required for a cow is a birth date.

3. **Create a production year.** Create a production year for each year of production data that you wish to enter. Only create historical production years, future production year records will be created as the need arises.

4. **Add calving info for the years created.** Enter the calving data for each year. You can only enter yearly data year by year, so enter one year's data, then enter other year's records if you have them.

5. **Add any other production data** that you might have for each year. If you wish to enter past breeding or pregnancy data, enter it for each year.

6. **Enter weaning info.** If weaning info is collected for the calves, enter it. Once entered, you can run the weaning summaries.

7. **Promote calves.** If the calves were promoted to the feedlot, replacement heifers, or bull development, then promote them after entering weaning info.

8. **Enter any development data.** Enter the breeding/preg/weights etc. for heifers, or feedlot/bull dev data that you might have.

9. **Promote heifers to dams.** Any heifers that will remain in the herd need to be promoted to herd once it is determined that they are going to stay in the herd.

10. **Enter Disposal Info for Dams that die or leave the herd.** All cows that leave the herd need to have a disposal reason and date entered as to why they left the herd.

11. **Create the next production year.** This will create a production year for all cows that are still in the herd, including the newly added heifers.

Entering New Animals

New Dams

To enter new cows into CowCalf5, be sure that you are in the herd that you want the cows included in. *See the **Open/New Herd** section for information on creating and opening herds in CowCalf5.*

From the **Enter Data** menu, select **New Dams**. The enter data screen will open, allowing you to adding new cows to your herd.

*See the **Enter Data** section of this tutorial for information on using the Enter data section.*

Enter a Dam's ID in the ID field. The program will search for that Dam ID in the current herd, and if it is not found, then you will be prompted if you wish to enter this dam to the herd, Simply click the Yes with the mouse or tab over to Yes and hit Enter. You should enter any additional information that you know for that animal. CowCalf5 **requires** that every Dam have a **birth date** entered. If you don't know the actual birth date, enter a date representative of when she should have been born, with the appropriate year so that her age (in years) will be calculated accurately.
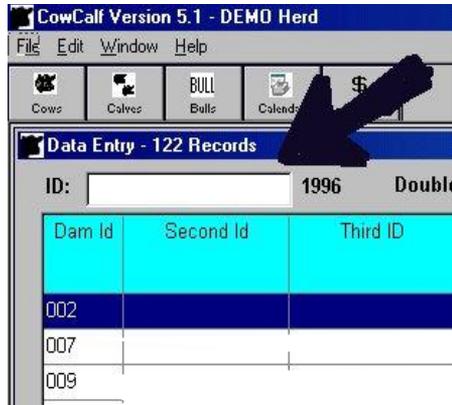
The only data that is required on a permanent dam is a unique id (must be unique across all years) and a birth date. When a Dam is disposed or dies, CowCalf5 **requires** that you enter a disposal date.

Create a New Production Year

Before you can enter new calving information you should first create a production year record for all the Dams that will calve that year. Cow-Calf5 will automatically create a record for every dam that should have a production record when you run the **Create Production Year** function from the Edit menu option. The criteria used by CowCalf5 to determine if a production record is needed for a particular Dam is:

- The Dam doesn't have a production record for that year

- The Dam is at least 2 years old

- Dams Origin Date is not after the production year

- Dams Disposal Date is not prior to the production year

When you run the Create Production Year routine, you will be displayed a list of the Dams that meet the criteria and will receive new production year record. Review this list to make sure the list agrees with the animals that will be calving that year. If the list is correct, then click on Proceed.

You will notice that each dam will have that production year listed in the window in the upper left corner of the display/edit screen when that Dam is displayed.

Enter New Calves

Once you have created a production year record for each Dam, you are now ready to start entering new calving data. From the Cows tab page, select the year that you will be entering calving data. Go to the Enter Data menu, and select **New Calves or Calving**. The enter data template, with a list of all the cow that should calve that year will be displayed.

The production year corresponds with the year that the calf was weaned. The production record contains all production data for both the Dam and calf from the start of calving to start of the next calving

Type the first Dam's ID in the upper left hand corner field, and press Enter. The cursor will automatically scroll to that Dam's production record, where you can then enter the calving data for that Dam. Use the **Tab** key to jump between the fields of that record.

When you are through entering data for that Dam, press **F10**, and the cursor will return to the upper left box, awaiting the entering of the next Dam's ID. Repeat these steps to enter all calving data.

Be sure and save your changes periodically by clicking on the **Save** button on the bottom of the screen. No changes are saved to the database until the **Save** Button is pressed. Pressing the **OK** button, saves your changes and closes the Enter Data window, while the Save button, saves your changes and leaves the Enter Data window open.

CowCalf requires that each calf have the following information in order to function properly.
- Unique ID (unique for that year)
- Sex
- Birth Date

All other variables are optional, depending upon the types of reports and analysis you wish to perform.

If you wish to change the order or select different variables for the Enter Data window, see the section on Enter Data for all the options available.

Entering Additional Production Data

Additional production data can be entered any time after the production record is created for the Dam. CowCalf5 has various predefined Enter Data forms that can be used for these functions. If you wish to create your own Enter Data Forms, then see the section on Enter Data for additional info.

Weaning

Use the weaning worksheet to enter weaning weights for calves. This form is based upon Calf ID's. To use this form correctly, have the Calves tab page open, and the correct year selected prior to opening this form. Two data fields must be entered in order for CowCalf5 to be able to adjust and ratio weaning weights: the **Weaning Weight** and **Weaning Date** fields. If desired, additional weaning information can also be collected.

To adjust and ratio weaning data, enter all weaning info and then go to the Reports menu selection and select **Weaning**, **Summary**. This report will use the records for the year that is selected, and adjust the weaning weights within each sex contemporary group.

Breeding/Post Weaning/Pre Calving

Use these forms for entering Dam weights and condition scores collected during other times of the year.

Pregnancy

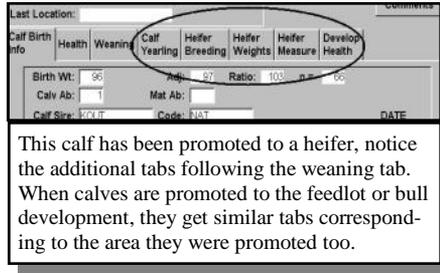The Pregnancy Enter Data form is designed to enter pregnancy information. This is information that is collected at pregnancy checking time. You must stage pregnancies, and enter the equivalent number of days pregnant in the Days Pregnant field. The date that Dam was pregnancy checked also needs to be entered. Once both these fields are entered, a projected calving date is displayed, indicating when the Dam is projected

to calve based upon the number of days pregnant.

The Pregnancy Enter Data template will also display the projected number days pregnant based upon AI. This number is calculated based upon the last AI date entered on the breeding record.

If the Dam is Open, you can choose a Code from the drop down list. This Code is used to describe the reason why the Dam is open. You can also use a 0 days pregnant for open Dams.

Promoting Calves

If calves are kept after weaning, then they need to be promoted to the appropriate enterprise (feedlot, replacement heifer, or bull development) so that additional information can be collected.   When a calf is promoted to one of these enterprises, it gets additional tab pages on the display/edit screen.

This calf has been promoted to a heifer, notice the additional tabs following the weaning tab. When calves are promoted to the feedlot or bull development, they get similar tabs corresponding to the area they were promoted too.

Retained calves should be promoted after their weaning weights have been adjusted (see Adjusting Weaning Weights for info on adjusting weaning weights). To promote a calf to one of three (feedlot, heifer, or bull development) enterprises, do the following:

Go to the **Calves Tab** page

From the **Work Group** menu, select **Promote**.

Choose the appropriate enterprise (**Calf to Repl Heifer**, **Calf to Bull Development**, or **Calf to Feedlot**)

A list of all the calves will be displayed, highlight each calf you wish to promote by clicking on the ID

Once all ID have been selected, click on the **Promote** button.

You will be prompted for a development ID for that calf. If you change the ID at promotion time, enter it here.

Note: A calf can be re-promoted to a different enterprise by simply doing the same steps, but selecting the different enterprise.

To group or view the calves that have been promoted to a particular enterprise then simply click on the appropriate radio button on the bottom of the calves page. Use this function when entering yearling and other development data for promoted calves.

Promoting Heifers to Dam

Replacement heifers that have been breed and pregnancy checked, and determined that they are staying in the herd should then be promoted to Dams.

If you will be changing the ID's of the Heifer calves when you promote them to dams you can either assign them ahead of time or when you are promoting them. To assign these new ID's prior to promoting, simply enter the new Dam ID in the Permanent ID field located on the Replacement Heifer record. If you have not entered a ID in the Permanent ID field, then you will be prompted for the permanent ID during the promotion process.

To promote them to dams, then do the following:

Click on the **Calves tab** page

Click the **Repl Heifer** radio button to display just the replacement heifer calves.

Goto the **Work Group** Menu, and select **Promote**.

Select Replacement Heifers to Dam.

A list of all the replacement heifer calves will be displayed, select each the calf that you wish to promote by clicking on the ID.

Once all the ID's you wish to promote are selected, click the Promote button to promote them to Dams.

If you have not entered a Permanent ID on the Replacement Heifer record, then you will be prompted for the new ID for each heifer.

Promoting Bull Development to Bulls

After bull calves have been determined that they will be staying in the herd as herd sires, should be promoted to Bulls (herd sires).

If you will be changing the ID's of the bull calves when you promote them to bulls, you can either assign them ahead of time or when you are promoting them. To assign these new ID's prior to promoting, simply enter the new Bull ID in the Permanent ID field located on the Bull Development record. If you have not entered a ID in the Permanent ID field, then you will be prompted for the permanent ID during the promotion process.

To promote them to bulls, do the following:

Click on the **Calves tab** page

Click the **Bull Develop** radio button to display just the bull development calves.

Goto the **Work Group** Menu, and select **Promote**.

Select Bull Dev to Perm.

A list of all the bull development calves will be displayed, select each the calf that you wish to promote by clicking on the ID.

Once all the ID's you wish to promote are selected, click the Promote button to promote them to permanent Bulls.

If you have not entered a Permanent ID on the Bull Development record, then you will be prompted for the new ID for each bull.

Enter Data

Using Predefined Forms

CowCalf5 comes with many Enter Data templates to make data entry easy. These templates are available for events from entering new dams and calves to entering weaning and pregnancy data. Depending upon if you are on the Cows, Calves or Bulls tab will determine which templates are available from the Enter Data menu option.

If you are entering dam's data like pregnancy, breeding, weights, or calving data, then you want to have the **Cows** tab page open. When entering weaning data, the **Calves** tab page with the **All Calves** button clicked needs to be active. To enter bull data, be sure and have the **Bull** tab page active.

In order to use a Replacement Heifer, Bull Development, or Feedlot enter data form, the **Calves** tab page needs to be active and the **appropriate radio button** in the lower left selected.

Select Variables

If the included data entry forms don't contain the variables that you wish to enter, you can create a customized Enter Data template that contains the variables desired. From the **Enter Data** menu, select **Select Variables**. You will be prompted how you wish to enter the data by. Generally, you will enter the data by Dam ID. You can also do it by Calf ID or a Development ID. This ID will be located in the first column, and you will use this ID to identify which record you wish to update.

A screen will open, with the upper left window containing a list of all the variables that are available for the selected category. The lower half of the window displays all the categories available, and which ones are being used. It is best to utilize variables from only one of the main category types (Perm Dam, Prod Dam, Heifer, etc.). Mixing variables from multiple categories can cause a malfunction, though if done properly, it works.

To select the variables that you want to work with, simply locate the variable name in the upper left window, click on it with the left mouse button, and holding down the left mouse button, **drag it to the upper right hand window**. Do this for all the variables that you desire and then press the **OK** button.

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Sorting columns

There are two ways to sort the data in a column(s). The first is to simply **double click the left mouse button on the column header**. This will sort the column ascending, and double clicking the column again will sort it descending.

The second method is to use the menu and select **Edit**, and **Sort**. A screen will open, listing all the variables available in the left window. Simply **drag** (holding down the left mouse button) the variables you wish to sort on into the right hand window. If you select more than one variable, the others will be a secondary sort after the primary (first variable on the list). Click **OK** to sort the data based upon the variables selected.

Reordering

You can change the order that the variables are displayed on screen by simply clicking on the column header and **drag** (click and hold down the left mouse button) the column to the new location and let up on the mouse button.

To change the size of the columns, place the cursor on the column boundary, in the header row, until a double arrow appears. Hold down the left button and drag to the size desired.
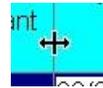
Batch Entry

If you want to enter the same data into a particular variable for all the records displayed, then you want to Batch enter the data into the column. Click on the column header (be sure to click on the **text** of the header) and the Batch Entry button will enable. Click on the Batch Entry button and type in the value to be entered into all the records. Once you press OK, that value will be entered for all the records.

Saving a Form

If you created a customized enter data form that you want to be able to use multiple times, then you can save it for later use. After you have selected the variables, and are using the customized form, to save it, simply select **File** from the menu and choose **Save Form As**. You will be prompted for the name that you want to assign this form design.

Using Batch Entry is an excellent way to delete data as well.

To retrieve a Saved form, simply choose the **Enter Data** menu, and select **Use Saved Form**, and select the saved form from the list.

Editing Forms

If you wish to change the order of or variables selected from a form then use the **Edit Form** choice under **Enter Data.** You can edit either a saved form or the last enter data form that was created. Choose the form that you wish to edit, and the Create Enter Data Template window will be displayed with the variables previously selected shown. Make the appropriate changes and press OK to use the updated template.

Customizing Predefined Forms

You should have noticed that when you saved an Enter Data Template that there were many forms already saved whose filename began with **CC5_**. These are the predefined forms that CowCalf5 accesses from the Enter Data Menu. From the name of the file, it should be evident which form is for which menu choice.

You can use the **Edit Forms**, and select one of these forms to customize the predefined forms that come CowCalf5. Once you have made the changes, be sure to go to **Save Form As** and overwrite the existing form if you want to make this new form the default for the menu choice.

If you want to remove a variable that was selected, simply drag it back to the left window.

Reports

Weaning Summary

Once you have entered weaning weights, then you are ready to adjust them and summarize the performance of each dam. In order to adjust weaning weights, the following variables must have been entered:
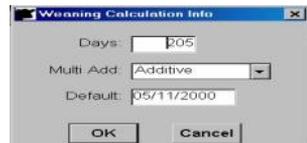
Dam Unique ID	*Calf Birth Weight (optional)*
Dam Birth Date	*Calf Weaning Weight*
Calf ID (Unique for that year)	*Calf Weaning Date*
Calf Birth Date	*Calf Rank must 0*
Calf Sex	

The weaning summary report will utilize the group of animals listed in the left hand list. For most herds, this group should probably be all calves for a particular year. For larger herds though, it may be desirable to utilize a smaller workgroup of animals. To round up a new workgroup see the section on Creating a Work Group later in this manual.

To run the Weaning Summary, have the **Calves** tab page open, and the appropriate **Year** or **Workgroup** selected. Choose **Weaning** from the **Reports** menu. Then choose **Summary** to run the Weaning Summary.

You will then be prompted if you want to **Update Calculated Fields**. If you select **Yes**, then the weaning weights will be (re)adjusted and weaning ratios and ranks will be calculated. If you choose No, then no adjustments will be calculated, and just the reports will be created using any values stored on each record. *Note: Choose No if you have already adjusted weaning weights and just want to view the reports again*.

The Weaning Calculation Info window will be displayed prompting you for default adjustment values. Enter the number of days that you want the weaning weights adjusted to (this should be the average age of the calves). Then choose if you want to use **Additive** or **Multiplicative** adjustments (most herd associations recommend Additive). Enter the default date that the calves were weaned (this date is used if a calf has a weaning weight, but the weaning date field is not entered. The click **OK** to view

the weaning summary reports.

Yearling Summary

In order to adjust yearling summaries, the following is required:

Dam Unique ID	*Calf Weaning Weight entered*
Dam Birth Date	*Calf Weaning Date entered*
Calf ID (Unique for that year)	*Calf must be or have been promoted*
Calf Birth Date	*Yearling Weight entered*
Calf Sex	*Yearling Date entered*
Calf Birth Weight (optional)	

To adjust yearling weights, select the **Calves** tab page, and the **appropriate development radio button** in the lower left window. Select the **year** of the calves that you are going to adjust, and the calves should be listed in the window. Select **Reports** from the menu, select the **development type** (ex, Replacement Heifer) , then choose **Yearling Summary**.

You will be asked if you wish to update calculated fields. Click on **Yes** to (re)adjust the yearling weights. Choose No if you want to just recreate the yearling summary reports without (re)calculating adjustment values. Then a window will be displayed requesting the number of days that the weaning summary used for the adjusted age at weaning. Clicking **OK** displays the yearling summary reports.

Notes about Reports

The main thing to remember when running any report is that the animals that will be included in the reports is based upon what animals listed in the left window on the display edit screen.

Any report can be printed by clicking on the **File** menu and choosing **Print** when that report is being displayed on the screen.

Reports can be saved to a variety of different types of files by selecting **Save As** from the **File** Menu when the report is displayed on the screen. If the report contains summary data, then the file that is created will contain all the data that was summarized, not the summary data as displayed in the report.

Work Groups (WGP)

What are Work Groups

CowCalf5 utilizes subsets of the whole herd when ever performing any function like enter data or reports. On the main screen, a year and list of dams/bulls/calves that correspond to that year are displayed. Generally, this work group of animals is the appropriate group needed to run functions within CowCalf5.

Occasionally, there is a need to sub group this list of animals further. In this case, the need to create a new work group is required. Work groups can be created utilizing any variable or combination of variables used in the program. Because of this extreme power, it is advised that you have a good feel for your data and the database structure of CowCalf5 before using this function.

Creating a New Work Group

To create a new work group, select **Work Group** from the Main Menu, and click **Create New**. A screen will be displayed requiring you to put in your search criteria.

The first thing you should do is identify what category (perm dam, prod dam, etc.) of variables you will be using. Although CowCalf5 supports selecting variables from different categories, it is advised to try and keep your selection of variables from within the same category.

In the Display Column select the variable name that you wish to sort on. If you click on the drop down list, you will be displayed a list of all variables for the category you selected.

Display Column	Operator	Value	Logical

In the Operator field select what you want the variable to be, for example = (equal to) , > greater than, etc. In the Value field, type in the value for the search criteria you are looking for. If you wish to search multiple columns, then select AND or OR from the Logical field and add an additional line of criteria.

When finished, press the Search button to find the animals. You will be prompted for a name for this workgroup. This name will be listed in the **year drop down box** on the main page if you want to retrieve it again.

Customizing CowCalf

Editing Codes

Many fields within CowCalf5 are coded fields. These codes can be customized to meet the needs of each herd. The following codes should be changed for each herd: **Pastures, Management Groups** and **Calendar Categories**. The **Health** and **Disposal** codes should be edited to correspond with herd management terminologies.

To edit codes select **Edit** from the Menu and choose **Edit Codes**. Select the appropriate category and code that you wish to edit. A window will be displayed listing all the current codes for the particular code you chose. It is advised that you change the wording for codes that exist, and add new codes in blank slots provided. A code number/letter will correspond with each code. This code number/letter is used by the software to minimize the database size, and is not important to the end user.

Editing Function Keys

There is a function that is available for enter data that can be used to speed up repetitive data entry. If you will be entering the same data in multiple fields, you can assign a function key to the value. Then by simply placing the cursor in the appropriate field and pressing the function key, the value will automatically be inserted in that field.

To change the values assigned to function keys **F2**, **F3** or **F4**, select **Edit** from the menu and choose **Edit Function Keys**. A window will be displayed showing the current settings for each function key. Each function key can contain any text or number, or a function.

Use the **Today** function to put in today's date. The **Current Time** function puts in the current time. The **Random** function places a random number from 0 – 9 in the field. If you assign a function key a number, you can click on the increment box to have that number automatically increment by 1 each time the function key is pressed.

Auto Save Timer

When you are entering data using the **Enter Data** feature, many changes can be performed on many records without saving these changes to the database. These changes are stored only in the memory of the computer.

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If the computer would happen to lock up or get shut off, all these changes would be lost.

CowCalf5 has a feature to set up a reminder to save your changes at regular intervals. The default interval is to remind you to save once every 15 minutes. If you wish to change this interval or disable this function, you need to change the setting in the **Edit**, **Preferences**, **Herd Information** menu selection. Valid intervals are anywhere from 1 to 60 minutes. If you set the interval to 0 (zero) then the auto reminder is disabled and will not prompt you to save your data a regular intervals.

EID Readers

CowCalf5 supports various Electronic ID readers. If you would like incorporate EID's into your records, first configure CowCalf5 for the type of EID reader that you have. Go to the Select **Preferences** from the **Edit** menu choice, then choose **Equipment Setup**. A window will be displayed indicating the various types of EID readers available. Select the **Reader and Communications Port** that the reader is attached.

When using Enter Data, place the cursor in the field to enter the EID and press the F6 function key to read the EID tag from the reader. If you have previously entered EID's into your database, then in Enter Data, press F10 to prompt for a new ID, press F6 to read a new ID, and when you press Enter, the cursor should go to that animal's record.

Electronic Scales

Electronic Scales work the same as EID's. See the section on EID's for information on how to configure Electronic Scales.

To read the weight of an electronic scale into a weight field, place the cursor in a weight field, and press F4 (read scale). A window will open, with the weight that is currently on the scale head flickering. When the weight balances out, press **OK** to enter that weight into the field.

Importing Data

Data can be imported into CowCalf5 from various sources. The only requirement for importing data is that the text file must be in tab delimited (separated) format. A tab delimited file is a file in which each field (variable) is separated by a Tab. Most all spreadsheet and database programs can export data in this format.

Importing data works very similar to Enter Data, using a custom worksheet. You create a custom enter data worksheet that identifies the variables that you will be entering in the order that they appear in the text file. You then identify the (tab delimited) text file that you wish to import. A window will open displaying the data in the columns that they will be imported into. If the data looks correct, click the **OK** button.

A log file will open, displaying all the errors that occurred during the importing.

The following key fields are required when importing data: (these variables must be included in your text file)

Type of Data Importing	Primary Fields Needed
Permanent Dam	Dam ID
Production Dam	Dam ID Production Year
Replacement Heifer	Development ID Production Year Development Type (H)
Feedlot	Development ID Production Year Development Type (F)
Bull Development	Development ID Production Year Development Type (B)

Exporting Data

Data can be exported from CowCalf5 from either Enter Data or from the Reports section. Using the Enter Data feature, you can identify which columns and what order you wish to have the data in when you export it.

To Export Data from with in the Enter Data function, have the data displayed on the screen as you wish to have it exported, and choose **Save As** from the **File** menu. You will be displayed a pop up window prompting for the name and location to save the file, as well as the type of file that you wish to export. Depending upon what you are exporting the data to, will determine what type of file to create. Generally, most programs can read data that is either tab (Text) or comma (CSV) delimited. If you are exporting it to Excel, choose the **HTML TABLE** type. This will create a file with the extension of HTM, which can be opened in Excel..

When exporting a CowCalf5 report, follow the same steps. Display the report you wish to export to the screen. Select the Save As menu choose and identify the name, location and type of file to export. Summary reports and graphs will export the data that makes up the report NOT the actually summary data that is displayed on the screen.

Appendix

Overview

CowCalf5 is specifically designed to take full advantage of the Windows environment. As such, CowCalf5 will not run on machines running DOS or Windows 3. CowCalf5 has been tested fully compatible with Window 95/98, NT4, 2000 or XP and should have no problems running on new versions of the Windows operating system.

CowCalf5 is a program that utilizes a **Sybase SQL Anywhere** database engine, which makes for very quick data access and analysis. When CowCalf5 starts up, the database engine will also be started. Users will notice a separate icon on their start bar for the CowCalf database, this **program can not be closed during the normal operation of Cow-Calf5**. The database engine closes when CowCalf5 is shutdown properly. If CowCalf5 in not closed properly, then the database engine may remain open. To close it simply double click on the icon, and press the Shutdown button displayed on the window.

Database structure

CowCalf5 utilizes a single database for all herds. This format makes it possible to do across herd summaries and comparisons. The database is made up of 5 primary database tables. These tables are important to know and understand the relationships between them.

The **Permanent Dam** table is where the permanent information about each dam is recorded. This table includes all cows both current and those that have been culled from the herd. This table requires that there be no duplicate dam ids for any herd. Because of this, you can NOT duplicate Dam Ids within a herd, even it one of the animals had been disposed of previously.

The **Production Dam** table is where yearly production data is stored. The Production table is linked to the Permanent Dam table. Only Dams that are in the Permanent Dam table can have entries in the Production Dam table. The Production Dam table has a field for Production Year. Each year that a Dam is in the herd, she will get a new Production record.

On the Production record goes information such as breeding information that happened to her for that year, any weights/condition scores for the dam, and information about the calf that she raised that year. Each dam will get a new Production record for each year that she is in the herd. Once a Disposal Date has been placed on the Dam record, CowCalf5 will prevent that Dam from getting subsequent Production Years.

The **Development** table contains information about the calf if it is retained past weaning. Replacement Heifer, Feedlot, and Bull Development records are all contained within the Development table.

Development records can be created by promoting calf records from the Production table, or created from scratch. Development records don't need to be associated with a Dam that is already in the database. As such, CowCalf5 allows adding purchased Heifers, Bull Development, and Feedlot records directly into the Development table. Records that are added in to the development table must be associated with a production year, and have an associated development type of either Heifer, Bull Dev, or Feedlot. Do NOT create new development records if a previous production record had been created. Use the promote feature to create the record with all the historical data being transferred and appropriate links established.

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