Current Report

EXTENSION

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 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

Some programs are a one-time purchase while others require annual or monthly subscriptions. The program costs range from $149 to $600 for a one-time purchase. Subscriptions range from $4.85/month to $85/month and $40/year to $950/year. 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 software websites. 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.

Acknowledgements

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • Oklahoma State University

Ranch Manager Open
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Phone: 1-800-364-7231

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Cow Calf Manager
8456 Broadway, Ste. 250
San Antonio, TX 78217
Email: hello@digitalbeef.com
Website: digitalbeef.com/cowcalf
Phone: 210-721-0689

Cow Sense®
Midwest MicroSystems, L.L.C.
245 S. 84th Street, Ste. 218
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: 1-800-584-0040
Fax: 402-323-6968
Email:info@cowsense.com
        support@cowsense.com
Website: cowsense.com
Contact: Tim Davis, Vice President

CattleMax Online
Cattlesoft, Inc.
1511 Texas Ave S., #256
College Station, TX 77840
Phone: 800-641-2343
Email: howdy@cattlemax.com
Website: cattlemax.com

THE Beef Cattle fIRM
University of Tennessee
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314 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle
Knoxville, TN 37996
Phone: 615-345-0561
Email: agriff14@tennesse.edu
Website: arec.tennesse.edu/the-beef-cattle-firm/

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

CattleWorks
CattleWorks, LLC
Bristol, VA
Phone: 1-800-507-2902
Email: info@cattleworks.com
Website: cattleworks.com

GEM Data Management Capability
Benyshek and Hough Consulting Services, Inc.
1860 Barnett Shoals Rd., PMB 103-453
Athens, GA 30605
Phone: 706-296-9757 or 706-202-5538
Email: Larry_Benyshek@benyshek-hough.com
        John_Hough@benyshek-hough.com
Website: www.benyshek-hough.com

Go360 bioTrack
AgSights
294 E. Mill St. # 209
Elora, ON N0B 150
Phone: 1-855-246-2333
Fax: 519-767-2502
Email: service@biotrack.ca
Website: agsights.com/what-is-go360-biotrack/

COW INFORMATION

• = yes   ✗ = no   ✔ = user defined field

	Cow Calf Manager		Cow Sense			CattleMax Online				CattleWorks	GEM Data	
	Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	Online	NxGen E2	NxGen Pro	Commercial	Registered	THE fIRM	CattlePro	Production	Management	Go360 bioTrack
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Registration #	•	•	✗	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Tattoo/Brand Number/Eartag	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Purchased/Raised, Cost and Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Pedigree	•	•	✗	✗	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weaning Weight/205-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Yearling Weight/365-day/Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Additional Weights	•	•	✗	✗	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Cow Weight/Weigh Dates	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Condition Score	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hip Height	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Age	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Horned/Polled/Scurred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Temperament Score	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
MPPA Score	•	✗	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Management Code	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
No. Calves Born, Weaned	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
No. Calves Held as Yearlings	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Calving Interval	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Date of Last Calf	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Projected Calving Date	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Days Open	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Avg. Calf Performance Weights (Birth, Weaning, Yearling)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. Adj. Calf Performance Wts.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Avg. Calf Performance Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Avg. Daily Gain of Calves	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Heat Detection Information	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	✗
Breeding Information	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pregnancy Status	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pregnancy Check Date	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pelvic Area Measurements	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	✗
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause/Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sold To/Price	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Pasture/Location	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Embryo Transfers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Average Calving Ease Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Number of User Defined Entries	10	unlimited	none	none	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	41	unlimited	41	3

1 with Embryo Transer

SIRE INFORMATION

• = yes   ✗ = no   ✔ = user defined field

	Cow Calf Manager		Cow Sense			CattleMax Online		THE fIRM	CattlePro	CattleWorks	GEM Data	
	Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	Online	NxGen E2	NxGen Pro	Commercial	Registered			Production	Management	Go360 bioTrack
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Percentage Fullblood/Purebred	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Breed Registration #	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Purchased/Raised, Cost and Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pedigree	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weaning Weight/205-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Yearling Weight/365-day Weight and Ratios	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Central Bull Testing Information	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
On-Farm Bull Testing Information	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Percent Pregnancy Rate	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	✗
Condition Score	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Hip Height	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Horned/Polled/Scurred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Contemperary Group	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Breeder of Bull	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Pelvic Area Measurements	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Management Code	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
No. of Calves Sired	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of Calves Sired Weaned	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of Calves Sired Yearlings	•	•	✗	✗	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Avg. Calf Performance Weights (Birth, Weaning, Yearling)	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Avg. Adj. Calf Performance Wts./Ratios	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Avg. ADG of Calves	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Avg. WDA of Calves	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Semen Inventory	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
List of Sires	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Purchase/Sale Price	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
No. of User Defined Entries	10	unlimited	none	none	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	41	unlimited	41	3
Expected Progeny Differences	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Breeding Soundness Exams	✗	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	✗

(NA indicates that no response was provided)

CR-3279.4

CALF INFORMATION

• = yes ✗ = no ✔ = user defined field

	Cow Calf Manager		Cow Sense			CattleMax Online				CattleWorks	GEM Data	
	Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	Online	NxGen E2	NxGen Pro	Commercial	Registered	THE fIRM	CattlePro	Production	Management	Go360 bioTrack
Individual ID, Name	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Composition	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Breed Registration #	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Tattoo/Brand Number/Ear Tag	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pedigree	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Sex	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dam ID	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sire ID	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Calving Ease Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Calving Period	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Age of Dam at Birth	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Management Code (e.g. creep)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weaning Date/Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Horned/Polled/Scurred	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•
Color	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hip Height/Frame Score	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Muscling Score	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Grade/Carcass Data	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	✗	•	✗	•	•
Health/Vaccination Records	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Death/Disposal Cause/Date	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sold To/Price	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pasture/Location	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Adjusted Birth Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Age in Days	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Average Daily Gain (weaning)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Weight per Day of Age (weaning)	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Adjusted 205-day Weaning Wt./Ratio	•	•	•	•	•	•*	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Adjusted Hip Height	•	•	✗	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Yearling Weight and Date	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Adjusted 365-day Weight/Ratio	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
Average Daily Gain/Ratio (yearling)	•	•	•	✗	•	•	•*	•	•	✗	•	•
Ratio/Index By Sex/Group	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	✗	•	•
No. of User Defined Entries	10	unlimited	N/A	N/A	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	0	41	unlimited	41	3

* Ratios are not calculated

HERD INFORMATION

• = yes ✗ = no

| | Cow Calf Manager | | Cow Sense | | | CattleMax Online | | | | CattleWorks | GEM Data | |
	Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	Online	NxGen E2	NxGen Pro	Commercial	Registered	THE fIRM	CattlePro	Production	Management	Go360 bioTrack
Pounds Weaned Per Cow	●	●	✗	●	●	●	●	✗	✗	✗	●	●
Common Weaning Date	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	✗	●	●	●	●
Avg. Inseminations/Cow Bred	✗	●	✗	●	●	●	●	✗	●	✗	●	✗
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 (cont'd)

	Cow Calf Manager		Cow Sense			CattleMax Online				CattleWorks	GEM Data	
	Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	Online	NxGen E2	NxGen Pro	Commercial	Registered	THE fIRM	CattlePro	Production	Management	Go360 bioTrack
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	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	●	●	●	●
Related Animals report by	●	●	✗	●	●	✗	●	✗	●	✗	✗	●
Ancestor, Descendent or Sibling	●	●	✗	●	●	●	●	●	●	✗	✗	✗
Livestock Show Entries	●	✗	✗	●	●	✗	✗	✗	●	✗	✗	●
Milk Production	●	✗	●	●	●	●	●	✗	●	✗	✗	●
Cow/Calf Pair Picture List Report	●	✗	●	●	●	●	●	✗	●	✗	✗	●
(print to color printer for field identification)												
Disposed Animals	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	✗	✗	●
Inventory on a Specific Date	●	●	✗	●	●	●	●	✗	●	✗	✗	✗
Embryo Inventory and Sales	●	✗	✗	●	●	✗	●	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Pre-load Values for New Animal Records	●	✗	✗	●	●	●	●	✗	●	✗	✗	●
Bulk Add Animals	●	✗	✗	✗	✗	●	●	✗	●	✗	✗	●

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

	Cow Calf Manager Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	Cow Sense	CattleMax Online
Operating System		Win 7 or newer Mac OS 10.7.1 or newer	Win. XP or internet	Internet or newer connection required
Minimum RAM		4 GB	32 MB	N/A
Hard Disk		500 MB	30 MB free space	N/A
Printer				None, Monitor
Monitor				none
Last Updated	Continuing updates	Constant Revision at web (through auto update function)	Constant Revision	Constant Revision
Cost	$15-$85/month based on herd size or $162-$918/year based on herd size	$39.99/device/year for mobile $150-$500 for desktop	EZ-100 $150 EZ $300 Pro-100 $300 Pro $600 subscription $4.95/month	Starts at $9/ month to $55/month based on herd size
Demo Avail./Cost	Free 30 days	No	Free working trial (No time limitation)	Free
Support Avail./Cost	Included with purchase of yearly update subscription	Dedicated support site with licenseand	Free Internet Account Access 30 day free, several plans available, workshops offered online and on site	Free phone, e-mail, and Web site support and monthly online workshops
Cloud Based or Computer Based	Cloud Based	Locally installed Online version, cloud based	Locally installed Online version, cloud based	Cloud Based
Recommended Internet Connection Speed				Any
One-time fee or subscription	Subscription	One-time for desktop subscription for mobile	One-time purchase of within version	Subscription
Data Backup Service		Through cloud service	$75-1yr then $60/year	Included

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

	THE fIRM	CattlePro	CattleWorks Production	GEM Data Management	Go360 bioTrack
Operating System	Win. 98 or newer	Win. XP or newer	Win. 98 or newer	Internet connection required.	Internet connection required.
Minimum RAM	32 MB	32 MB	16 MB	N/A	N/A
Hard Disk	30 MB	30 MB free space	30 MB	N/A	N/A
Printer	No Requirements	No Requirements	Ink Jet or laser	N/A	Any printer.
Monitor	SVGA 800 x 600	VGA	VGA or SVGA 800 x 600	N/A	N/A
Last Updated	01/14	Constant Revision	Constant Revision	Continuously Constant revision	Continual, no downloads, just log in.
Cost	$150	Prime Plus $595 Prime $495 Choice Plus $495 Choice $395 Select $295 Standard $195	$74.95	Variable, based on active females maintained on the system. All records on inactive females maintained indefinitely.	100 head=$510 annually. Varies based on herd size. 500 head=$950 annually.
Demo Avail./Cost	No	Free	Free	Free	Free
Support Avail./Cost	Free phone and e-mail Support via email and/or phone Training available on request	Free lifetime CattlePro	Available	Unlimited	Free e-mail, phone support, access to online workshops.
Cloud Based or Computer Based	Computer based		Computer Based		Cloud Based
Recommended Internet Connection Speed	N/A				High speed
One-time fee or subscription	One-time		One-time		Ongoing Subscription
Data Backup Service			Included		All data backup and secure with no additional cost

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Cow Calf Manager Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	CattleMax Online	Cow Sense Nx Gen EZ & Pro
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. ID and Animal Type.	Sort, filter, and print based on any piece of information.
Specific data entry fields that are required for program to work.	No.	ID, location, group, characteristics, event information	No.	Only requires Animal Type and Status.
Does the program generate Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) values? If yes, are they production values, financial values, or both?	Export of animal data to PDF or Excel file.	Yes, production.		Yes, the production report is pending.
Is the program integrated with other agricultural software?	Data synchronizes to affiliated breed association registry.	Support for AllFlex and IDology wand readers.	Microsoft Excel, electronic ID readers, cattle weight scales, and most popular breed associations.	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 Cow Sense allows for the collection of data in the field. Interface with sale manager for customer and sale 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?	No.	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.	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.
Is the program NCBA SPA accredited and if yes, Production Report, Financial Report, or both?	No.	No.	No.	Yes, Cow Sense was the first commercially developed program to be SPA accredited, with our Production Report.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Cow Sense Online	THE fIRM	CattlePro	CattleWorks Production	GEM Data Management	Go360 bioTrack
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.	Ascending, descending shorts and user defined filters or use of standard filters.
Specific data entry fields that are required for program to work.	Cows and Bulls: Animal ID & type, birth date. Calves: also require sex and outcome.	Birthdate, sex, sire, and dam.	ID.	Birthdate, sex, sire, dam, purchased/ raised/AI	ID, duplicate IDs not allowed for active records	Gender, birth date, location, form of ID.
Does the program generate Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) values? If yes, are they production values, financial values, or both?	No.	No.	Yes, production.	Yes, production.	No	Yes—both.
Is the program integrated with other agricultural software?	No.	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).	Flexible imports of scale information from all ASCII files. Export to Excel (.rsv format)	Several breed associations for automated updates and exporting data to associations (Angus, Hereford, Red Angus, Brangus, Charolais and Limousin). Reports can be exported to Microsoft Excel, Word and PDF. Tab delimited files can also be created.	Yes
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.	Yes, EID numbers can be imported from Microsoft Excel	Yes.	Can accept inputs, but cannot interface with databases at this time.	System handles EIDs	Yes. Can interface via bluetooth or by importing cvs files from other systems.
Is the program NCBA SPA accredited and if yes, Production Report, Financial Report, or both?	No.	No.			No.	

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	Cow Calf Manager Commercial	Ranch Manager Open	CattleMax Online	Cow Sense Nx Gen EZ & Pro
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?	Yes.	Yes.	CattleMax Online currently exports data to breed associations. As industry databases and standards are developed, CattleMax Online will be updated to accommodate data exchange.	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 Premimum 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 can be printed or exported. As additional public databases are USDA approved, required information will be delivered in the same fashion.
Does the program store 15-digit identifications (such as NAIS numbers) in addition to other animal identifications?	Yes.	Yes. Allows multiple IDs.	Yes	Yes. (See previous question regarding EID systems for more detail.)
Can electronic identifications be read directly into your software? Or is the purchase of companion software necessary for this purpose?	Yes. Included within the program.	Yes	All CattleMax Online editions can read EIDs directly.	Yes, our Tag Wizard offers a manual option for users. However, our Companion products of Pocket Cow Sense and Cow COMM Chute-side provide users realtime automation.
Will scanning of an electronic ID recall previously recorded management information?	Yes, retrieves and desplays record for animal upon scan of IED tag.	Yes	Yes	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.
Grouping of Cattle and group editing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User defined data entry fields/ User customized data fields	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Addition of animal photos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business contact manager	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. Interfaces with Sales Manager
Pasture rotation tracking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Calendar to track upcoming events/calving	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User defined comments or notes for records	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Data Export		Yes	Yes	
Spreadsheet	Yes			Yes
Graphs				Yes
PDF	Yes			Yes
Word				Yes
Text				Yes
E-mail	Yes			Yes
Pedigree trees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION

	Cow Sense Online	THE fIRM	CattlePro	CattleWorks Production	GEM Data Management	Go360 bioTrack
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 Benchmark Wizard provides for the submission of data to secure Internet site for comparative analysis and benchmarking.	Yes, can export data to Microsoft Excel.	System can interact with other databases.	System can interact with other databases.	System handles IEDs	Yes. Bridges to other databases are currently offered.
Does the program store 15-digit identifications (such as NAIS numbers) in addition to other animal identifications?	Yes.	Yes for Calf Records.	Yes.	Yes.	No.	Yes. Up to 8 set identifies plus ability for 3 client custom ID's.
Can electronic identifications be read directly into your software? Or is the purchase of companion software necessary for this purpose?	No.	No, electronic Identifications must be imported from Microsoft Excel file.	Requires EID vendor software.	Requires EID vendor software.	The system can interact with other databases	Yes. Other software may be required for some devices.
Will scanning of an electronic ID recall previously recorded management information?	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Grouping of Cattle and group editing	No	Yes.	Yes.			Yes.
User defined data entry fields/ User customized data fields	No.	No.	Yes.			Yes.
Addition of animal photos	Yes.	No.	Yes.	Yes.		Yes.
Business contact manager	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes.		No.
Pasture rotation tracking	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes.		Yes, at group or individual level.
Calendar to track upcoming events/calving	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes.		No, but management flag reminds users of tasks to be done with e-mail reminders.
User defined comments or notes for records	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.		Yes.

Data Export
    Spreadsheet
    Graphs
    PDF
    Word
    Text
    E-mail
	
	Yes.
	Yes.
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						Yes.
						Yes.
						Yes.
						Yes.

Pedigree trees	Yes.	No.	Yes.	Yes.		No.

Smartphone Application and Mobile Use

CattleMax Online   Cattle Max Online for iPhone® and Android $9/month and up.

CattlePro   PDF reports can be sent and opened with smartphones.

Ranch Manager Open   Ranch Manager cloud for any device with internet access. iPhone and Android $39.99/year.

Cow Calf Manager   Windows tablets natively, iOS and Android through apps. One-time only fee for an on-going subscription and data entry using mobile apps. Used in conjunction with computer program with a with cloud access for mobile devices.

CowSense   Mobile field data collection.

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. $4.95/month.

Go360 bioTrack   Mobile Access to data browser based (Chrome preferred) or mobile application. Android, iPhone/iPad/iPod and Microsoft - any device with access to the Internet. Go360 option allows full use outside internet range. Pricing based on herd size with no limits to number of SmartPhones accessing information and reports (add, edit, look up) branded with your logo/Brand. Go360 option for 100 cow herd is $16.99 per month for on-going subscription. Unlimited user access.

Critter Works   Critter Works is available on any device with internet access. $6.95/month.

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 Management and Finance Resources:
extension.okstate.edu/programs/farm-management-and-finance

Quicken materials for farm financial records:
extension.okstate.edu/programs/farm-management-and-finance/
quicken-for-farm-financial-records

Animal and Food Science Resources:
agriculture.okstate.edu/departments-programs/afs