



Current Report

EXTENSION

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extension.okstate.edu

Crop and Forage Recordkeeping App¹

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Producers who have computers frequently ask about the availability of software programs to manage crop and forage production records. Before purchasing a software program, it is important to analyze the value of such a system with regard 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. This publication is a compilation of software programs to be used as a reference for agricultural producers.²

If no records on crop or field performance are currently being kept, a good starting point may be some basic production records. Managers will want to maintain records on variety, planting rates, fertilizer rates, pesticides, fuel consumption, grain, hay or forage matter produced, etc. for each field to determine prolific or inefficient areas of the operation. Some records, such as Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) application, must be maintained according to the 1990 FACT Act.³

The most difficult steps to building a valuable record-keeping system are (1) making time for recordkeeping, (2) determining which information is economically feasible to collect and (3) summarizing the data for use in the decision-making process. Meaningful crop and forage records may be handwritten (for example, see extension.okstate.edu/programs/farm-management-and-finance/farm-and-ranch-account-book/index.html) or kept on a computer, tablet or

mobile application. The choice of programs, features and cost of software are the “fine-tuning” portion of recordkeeping. In the following summary of nine commercially available crop record keeping software packages, the features are described under three headings:

- Common Features
- Technological Information
- Advanced Features

The program purchase costs range from \$20 per month to \$300 per month for basic versions of the software; advanced versions are more expensive. Many software companies offer free program demonstration copies. Most programs provide comprehensive data entry fields, as well as production summaries.

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 enterprise information that is required before the program will work. Sorting and filtering capabilities 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 field information. Every operator must determine the amount of time available to devote to practical recordkeeping and weigh this commitment against software costs, data entry features and the need for information for management purposes.

Information provided about the following programs was gathered from software websites. The summary does not cover all available programs or individual program features. Programs may have other capabilities that are not described in the summary. Producers should contact the respective companies for current purchase information, details on features and specific hardware requirements.

The features summarized in the following tables are not all-inclusive. As the user experiments with software packages, the capabilities of each program become clearer. Ultimately, the end user decides how much information to input, track, calculate and summarize to best suit their needs.

1 Update from an earlier version co-authored by Randy True, former Extension Assistant and Damona Doye. Current updates by Brent Ladd, Extension Assistant.

2 An internet search was used to identify widely used commercial software products with multiple applications. All information was gathered from published websites. Inclusion in this report is not an endorsement of a product nor is exclusion of a program a rebuke of the product.

3 For more information about the FACT Act, please refer to Extension Fact Sheet EPP-322, Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirements for Crop Production.

Proagrica Sirrus/Summit Basic
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
Phone: 888-377-5334
Email: support.us@proagrica.com
Website: <https://proagrica.com/solutions/farm-and-agronomy-solutions>

Trimble Ag
Trimble
Website: agriculture.trimble.com/en/products/software/trimble-agriculture-software

Ag Expert Field
Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Ag Expert
Phone: 1-800-667-7893
Email: Info@fccagexpert.ca
Website: www.agexpert.ca/en/products/field.html

Crop Tracker Crop Production Software
Crop Tracker
Phone: 1-800-903-1492
Email: support@croptracker.com
Website: <https://www.croptracker.com/resources/crop-production-software.html>

Granular Ag Studio
Phone: 1-833-933-1733, Option 2
Email: agstudiosupport@granular.ag
Website: <https://support.agstudio.granular.ag/hc/en-us>

Farmbrite Crop Management Software
Farmbrite
Email: hello@farmbrite.com
Website: <https://www.farmbrite.com/crop-management-software>

Bushel Farm
Bushel Inc.
Phone: 734-431-6788
Email: sales@bushelfarm.com
Website: <https://bushelfarm.com>

Easy Farm Crop & Field Manager
Vertical Solutions
Phone: 1-800-396-3279
Email: support@easyfarm.com
Website: <http://easyfarmdata.com>

Table 1. Technological Information

	Proagrica SIRRUS	Proagrica Summit Basic	Trimble Ag Farmer Starter/ Pro	Easy Farm Crop & Field Manager	FCC Ag Expert Field	Crop Tracker Crop Production Software	Granular Insights Ag Studio	Farmbrite Crop Management Software	Bushel Farm
Usable	Mobile, Web App	Mobile	Mobile, Web App	Mobile, Laptop	Mobile, Laptop	Mobile	iOS	Mobile	iOS and Android
Internet Required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offline Accessibility		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (through SELECT). Free via email.	Yes	Yes
Free Demo	Free	Free, 30 days	Call for free demo	Downloadable on website	Downloadable on website	Downloadable on website	Downloadable on website	Free, 14 days	Free, 30 days
Support	Free		\$300 per calendar year for unlimited technical support and upgrades. Free email, internet discussion groups and fax alternatives.	1 year free with purchase. Available via phone, email and YouTube.	Support with premium. Online user community YouTube channel with instructional videos.	Free	Minimum free phone support with a certified tech.	Free	Free
Online Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (videos)	Yes	Yes
Remote Training	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	GoToMeeting Training		
Classroom Training	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	
Data Access Sharing opt in/out									
Data Access Administrative Rights Assignment General Customizable	agX Platform	agX Platform	TrimbleID						
Operating System	iOS	Microsoft® Windows 8 or higher	iOS/Android		iOS/Android	iOS/Android	iOS	Web	Web, iOS/Android
Processor		2.5 GHz		1GB					
Minimum RAM		8GB		1GB					
Hard Disk Requirement		250GB		1.5GB					
Mobile Operating System	iOS		iOS/Android	Android	iOS/Android	iOS/Android	iOS	iOS	iOS/Android
User Registration Required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost*	Free/Paid App \$49.99 monthly \$499.99 annually	Contact Publisher	Contact Publisher	\$595	\$399 annually	\$900 annually	Contact Publisher	\$29-\$79 monthly \$29-\$790 annually	\$19.99 monthly \$199-\$1,999 annually

*Prices are subject to change.

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Table 2. Common Features

	Proagrica Sirrus	Proagrica Summit Basic	Trimble Ag Farmer Starter/Pro	Easy Farm Crop & Field Manager	FCC Ag Expert Field	Crop Tracker Crop Production Software	Granular Insights Ag Studio	Farmbrite Crop Management Software	Bushel Farm
Record Quantity:									
Tillage Practices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Machinery Usage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Seeding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fertilizing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Insecticide Application	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Field Level Reports	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Harvest Data		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Planting Date	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ability to Import:									
Machine Logged Data		Yes		Yes	Yes				No
Yield Data	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				No
"As Applied" Data	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				
Planted	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				
Sprayed				Yes	Yes				
Fertilizer		Yes		Yes	Yes				
Crop Protection	Yes			Yes	Yes				
Variety	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Log Soil Test Points/ Manage Soil Nutrient Levels	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inventory/Storage Tracking				Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Irrigation Expense Calculation				Yes	Yes		No		Yes
Crop Insurance			No	No	Yes		No	No	Yes
Break-Even Analysis			No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Collect/Import Field Boundaries	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes
Calculate Acreage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
Equipment Records:									
Serial Numbers					Yes				Yes
Hours Used					Yes	Yes			Yes
Purchases			Yes		Yes				Yes
Repairs			Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes
Service Interval			Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes

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Table 2. Common Features (Continued)

	Proagrica Sirrus	Proagrica Summit Basic	Trimble Ag Farmer Starter/Pro	Easy Farm Crop & Field Manager	FCC Ag Expert Field	Crop Tracker Crop Production Software	Granular Insights Ag Studio	Farmbrite Crop Management Software	Bushel Farm
Cost Groups				Yes					
Track Crop Rotation	Yes		Yes		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Delineate Patches of Weed & Insect Infestation	Yes	Yes	No		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Customizable Reports	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Previous Crop	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	Yes	No	No
View Local Weather	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes
Current Conditions	Yes	Yes					Yes		
Rainfall	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes
Temperature	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes
Wind Speed & Direction	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Relative Humidity	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes
Forecasts	Yes	Yes					Yes		
Import Imagery		Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	No	Yes
Satellite		Yes							
Aerial		Yes							
UAV									
Historical Weather Data							Yes		
Rainfall	Yes								Yes
Temperature								No	Yes
Record Weather Conditions					Yes		No		
Rainfall	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Temperature	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Wind Speed & Direction	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Relative Humidity	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Field Observed (User Defined)	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Calculate Net Income				Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Divide Fields into Multiple Crop Zones	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	
Mapping Ability	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
View Chemical Labels				Yes			Yes		

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Table 3. Other Features

	Proagrica SIRRUS	Proagrica Summit Basic	Trimble Ag Farmer Starter/ Pro	Easy Farm Crop & Field Manager	FCC Ag Expert Field	Crop Tracker Crop Production Software	Granular Insights Ag Studio	Farmbrite Crop Management Software	Bushel Farm
Restricted Usage				Yes		Yes	Yes		
Pesticide Reporting									
View Pesticide Labels							Yes		
Label Checking									
GIS ¹ or GPS ² Technology	GIS/GPS	GIS/GPS	GIS/GPS	No	GPS	No	GIS/GPS	GPS	GIS
Compatibility with other Software	Any AgX Platform	Additional SST Software	Additional Trimble Software	No	AgExpert Accounting	Yes	Yes	Additional Farmbrite Software	Yes
3rd Party Apps	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Online Database	AgX Platform	AgX Platform	Data Warehouse	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Password Protection for Data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Planning Tools					Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Plan									Yes
Plan Versus Actual									Yes
Recommendations Converted to Actual									Yes
Define Soil Type Per Field	No	Multiple	Advisor Prime	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Record Government Subsidy	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Leasing Arrangements:									
Define Tenant/Landlord		No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Share %	No								
Override Default Share	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

¹ Geographic Information Systems.

² Global Positioning System.

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

Education Everywhere for Everyone

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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