

Herd Management Software

Compiled by Carly Shaw

Herd Management Software allows producers to collect all of the important information for their operation into one place. Each software company offers a slightly different version of similar software with the common theme being that information is entered and stored to be viewed or manipulated later. Some of the common data points we see being collected by the various softwares are calving records and treatment records for animals. Many of the software options available can also sync to scaleheads for immediate entry of weights for ADG calculations.

Below we've compiled a collection of different herd management software options. This is definitely not an all-inclusive list, however it does provide us with some resources and an indication of what the different options are capable of. Herd Management Software is an eligible expense under the Food Safety System GF2 program (which is currently closed), so if you're interested be sure to contact us to get an application ready for the expected reopening of the program in April.



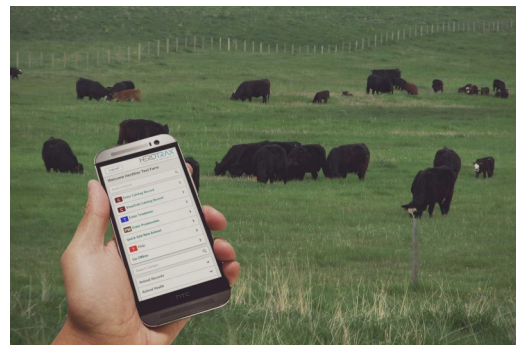
Beef Improvement Opportunities Track (BIO Track)

- BioTrack is web based, giving you a secure system to track animal information from birth till it leaves the farm.
- You can record birth/purchase info, health, movements, preg checks, breeding, expenses, weights, sales, deaths and visitor on/off your farm/ranch.
- BioTrack works on any computer, smartphone or tablet. It is a web-based software with no app.
- No requirements except it needs the ability to access the internet. Data can be entered without an internet connection and synced once you get back to an internet connection
- Pricing is reflective of herd size and the fee is on a per cow basis. All bulls, steers, calves are free.
- A 100 Cow herd would be looking at an annual subscription of \$525+ tax or \$729+tax
- <http://bridgingintelligence.com/beef-cattle-management-software-system/>



HerdTrax - Cattle Record Management

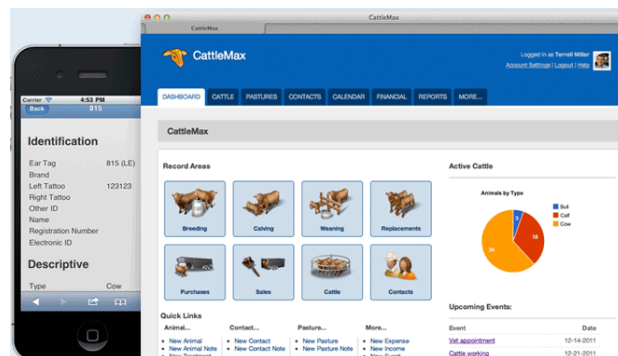
- Multi device support: desktop, smartphone, tablet
- Used for in-herd data analysis and decision support
- Delivered daily, weekly or monthly in PDF or Excel format
- Types of reports:
 - Calving snapshots
 - Treatments and postmortems
 - Animals on withdrawal listing
 - Process and protocol reminders
 - Daily herd activity notification
- Year End Herd Summary • Cow rank and indexing within herd
- Find Pricing for your operation on : <http://herdtrax.com/subscription.html>
- <http://herdtrax.com/>





Cattle Max Herd Management Software

- Cattle records easily accessible and quick to work with
- Maintain breeding and pregnancy details
- Complete medical treatment information
- Financial tracking to compliment production information
- \$36/month for unlimited number of animals
 - (Not eligible for GF2 funding, due to monthly subscription)
- <http://www.cattlemax.com/>



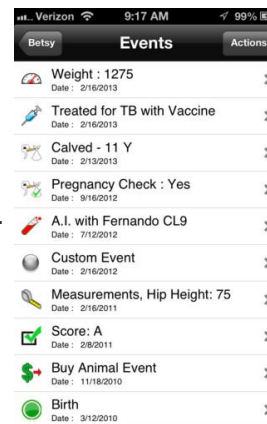
Cow Calf 5 (University of Nebraska)

- Display complete herd inventory from any production year
- Android & iOS apps available
- Unlimited number of herds supported with unlimited number of animals per herd
- Health records for both cows and calves
- Weaning and Yearling weights and adjustments
- Cow Weight and ADG
- \$500 one time fee with unlimited tech support and updates
- Check out more features on <http://www.cowcalf.com/general/features.asp>



Lion's Edge Ranch Manager or Cattle Manager

- Manage both Cow Calf and Purebred cattle records with Ranch Manager: Cattle Edition.
- Android & iOS apps available
- Historical Data produces a complete view of your cattle operation currently and for every year entered (including dead and unmanaged animals).
- Sort, filter, search, and navigate through Ranch Manager to retrieve and view data.
- Features and benefits include: rapid data entry, due date reports, income and expense recording, treating multiple animals at once with vaccinations, interface with wand readers, download weights from cattle scales, average daily gain, other weight and measurement information.
- \$149.99+up
- <http://www.lionedge.com/products/CattleSoftware.php>



BIXS 2.0 Beef InfoXchange System

BIXS 2.0 has undergone a few changes in the last year, with increased information on the advantages of participating. BIXS 2.0 automatically

syncs with your age verification so that information only needs to be entered once, and if we are also using herd management software that is compatible with BIXS then that information is also automatically transferred into the system so the data collected on-farm only needs to be entered once! The advantages to the producers for enrolling in BIXS 2.0 include: Quality Management, Facilitating Trace Back, Increasing Consumer Confidence, Market Differentiation & Industry Collaboration.

Several herd management software platforms are already set up to work with BIXS 2.0, including CattleMax and bio-Track, with more planned to be added in the future. Visit www.bixs.cattle.ca for more details.

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Monitoring Remote Livestock Watering Systems

By Stacy Pritchard

There has been a large uptake in the Peace of remote watering systems that keep livestock out of dugouts and riparian areas, but there are some drawbacks – reliability and confidence in the system being one of them. Well, what if we could monitor our watering systems without having to make a trip out every day to make sure our livestock still had water? A project conducted by the Alberta Agriculture & Forestry Farm Stewardship Centre has looked into just that kind of system. The basis of the project was to assess existing alarm systems that could be modified to monitor remote livestock watering systems. The objectives of the project were to decrease the amount of physical visits producers would need to make to their watering system, as well as increase the confidence in remote watering systems to increase the adoption of remote livestock watering systems.

The basic alarm system was designed to monitor for low water levels and low battery level by using 3 different systems:

Line of site system using a beacon light

A beacon light activates when the watering system has an alarm situation. This is the lowest cost option of the 3 tested, however it does require a line of site to see the activated beacon. The beacon can be elevated on a post so it can be seen from a nearby road, so it is more of a drive-by check than actually going out into the field. This type of system is easy to design and install, and the wiring diagram and list of components is available from Alberta Agriculture & Forestry. Cost: \$350

Cellular system

Producers need a cellphone for this type of system. Then there is an alarm, the producer would receive a text message, although it can be programmed to alert through telephone or email as well. This system was originally designed for use in the oilfield, and is quite expensive. This type of system also has many features that livestock producers would not need, and is limited to areas with good cell service. It also requires a large amount of power of its own, as well as cellular charges. Cost: \$6000 start up, plus monthly cell charges.

Satellite system

This system needs a smart phone to be effective and sends an email when the watering system has an alarm. It is pretty simple to set up, and less expensive than the cellular system. It also has lower power requirements, and has better service coverage than the cellular system. This system isn't as programmable as the cellular system and has fewer alerting options. This system also has monthly contract fees. Cost: \$1500-2000 start up, plus monthly cell/satellite charges.

The three systems were tested with producers, who reported having an increased confidence in their watering system. Having the alarm system also saved the producers time by not having to physically check their watering systems. One issue faced by all the alert systems was the low water level sensor in the winter was that the sensor could freeze into ice and the alert was not sent. So the recommendation is to still check watering systems regularly even if an alert system is installed.

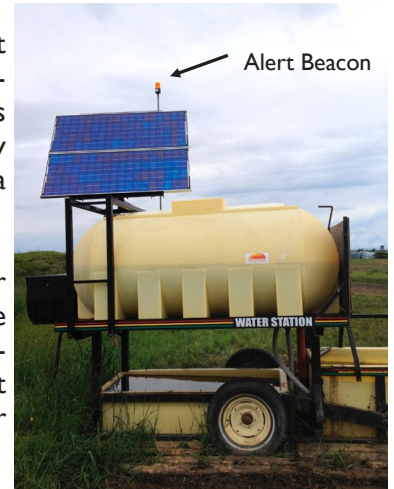
This project is still continuing to do extension work and may do more demonstrations with producers to promote the technology with the final goal to be able to demonstrate to producers that there is technology available to make solar watering systems more reliable. Their hope is also to create awareness among the manufacturers of solar watering systems and alarm system companies that there is opportunity within agriculture to develop and market the technology. They are also looking for suggestions and feedback on these alerting systems. Any feedback can be directed to Ken Janzen.

There are already some commercial systems available: CAP Solar out of Olds has a satellite monitoring system (www.capsolar.com) and BenTek Systems out of Calgary, also have both a satellite and a cellular system that were designed for the oilfield, but do work for this purpose (www.scadalink.com). Component lists and wiring diagram for the beacon light system are available from Ken Janzen at Alberta Agriculture & Forestry's Environmental Stewardship Division (ken.janzen@gov.ab.ca or 403-329-1212 ext 231).

For more information on this project please check out the summary on the project at:

http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/cs/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=AGUCMINT-520345&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased

Alert Monitors for Remote Livestock Watering Systems are now an eligible expense in the On-Farm Stewardship GF2 Program. We would be happy to help you fill out an application!



Contact us for:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Project Ideas | - Growing Forward 2 Assistance | - Environmental Farm Plans |
| - Feed Testing | - Ration Formulation Help | - Past Project Information |

Upcoming Events!

**Thanks
to our
Sponsors!**



**A proud
member of**



Winter Watering Systems Tour

Warm Bus Tour & Learning Day

Join us to take a tour of some innovative winter watering systems & strategies.

Get tips on how to set up your own system and engage in discussion with other local producers!

And get an update on Growing Forward 2!

This event is Free to Attend!
Hot Lunch Included!



January 30, 2016
Eaglesham Social Centre
9:30am Coffee & Registration
10am-3pm Tour



For more Information or to
Register contact PCBFA
780-835-6799

Peace Country Beef Congress

January 8-9, 2016

Dawson Creek

Peace Agronomy Update

January 13, 2016

Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview

Integrated Weed Management Systems

Rail Transportation

Agronomy—It's a Package Deal

Grain, Pulse & Oilseed Market Update

High Quality Forage for Growing & Finishing Cattle

February 1, 2016

Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview

Dr. Anibal Pordomingo & Clayton Robins

Tactical Farming Conference

February 9&10, 2016

Deerfoot Casino, Calgary

Peace Country Classic Beef Market Outlook with Anne Wasko

March 11, 2016

Evergreen Place, Grande Prairie

2016 Annual General Meeting

Dunvegan Inn & Suites, Fairview, AB

Friday, February 26, 2016

4:30pm Registration

5:00pm AGM

3 Board of Director Positions to be elected

6:00pm Supper

Guest Speaker



\$55/Person or \$75/Farm Pair

~Includes 2016 Annual Membership~

To RSVP call us at

780-835-6799 or 780-523-4033

A block of rooms has been held at the Dunvegan Inn & Suites
Call 1-800-546-8898 to book a room



For more information, or to register for PCBFA events please call 780-835-6799!

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