

# DAIRYQUEST NEWS

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## DairyQuest Mobile

By Lee Mc Cauley

May all of you have a safe and wonderful holiday season. We would like to thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to working with you in the future.

We are pleased to announce a new software addition to our DairyQuest line. It's name is DairyQuest Mobile.

DairyQuest Mobile is designed to run on a Tablet PC or a laptop computer. Its objective is to allow you to capture events to a computer as the event occurs.

You may use manual entry or RFID to record information in DairyQuest Mobile. It also contains a unique list feature that allows you to quickly determine if an animal needs a Vet Check, Pen Move, Controlled Heat or BST.

## New Registration Codes

As some of you have already recognized, we are changing how DairyQuest is licensed. We are moving to a new means of licensing.

In the past, when you needed a registration code for a new installation or a yearly update, you had to phone or email to us the System ID. The System ID allowed us to give to you a Registration Code that would allow DairyQuest to run for a given number of days.

This method keeps honest people honest. However, it did create an inconvenience to you, our customer.

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For example: Using RFID, if an animal needs to be Vet Checked, DairyQuest Manual will “speak” to you and tell you if she is on the Vet Check List. Similarly, if the animal is to get a Controlled Heat shot, DairyQuest Mobile will speak to you and tell you what shot she needs.

DairyQuest Mobile is ideal for RFID. It is also easy to record manual information. All entry in DairyQuest Mobile is synchronized into DairyQuest.

If you would like more information on DairyQuest Mobile, feel free to give us a call.

If DairyQuest expired on a weekend, you had no way of obtaining a new license. This new licensing scheme will allow you to purchase and obtain an new Registration Code 24 hours a day over the Internet. You will also be able to obtain codes via email and phone just like in the past.

Our first step to moving towards our new licensing means that you will need to obtain a new Registration Code when you obtain the latest version of DairyQuest. We are not quite ready to do them over the Internet yet. You will need to obtain from us a new code when you install the latest version of DairyQuest.

## Backing Up Your Data

In the month of October, we received 7 cases where someone's computer had crashed and died. All but 1 had backup files for DairyQuest.

We may sound like a preacher who tells you to repent. But heed the warning: **BACKUP YOUR DAIRYQUEST DATA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!**

Maybe you could get by if you lost all of your DairyQuest data. You might also spend countless hours entering your animals again.

Today's hardware offers you many options to backup your data. Flash Drives (also known as memory sticks), CD and DVD burners (DairyQuest

has an easy means to utilize these), zip drives and portable hard drives all work very well to store backup files.

A good routine to get into is to rotate your backup media. Let's say you backup daily. You could have one flash drive for each day of the week. This way you will nearly be guaranteed of having a good backup to restore from if your system should go down.

## Archiving Animals

Back in the old DOS days of dairy management software, archiving meant to conserve disk space by deleting events and summarizing others whenever you freshened a cow. Today, some dairy software programs continue to do this.

In today's DairyQuest, archiving has a much different meaning. With today's large hard drives, there is no need to delete or summarize events when you freshen a cow.

In DairyQuest archiving means to move animal data from your working data files to data different data files called archived files. What this does is make your working data files smaller and can help DairyQuest run faster.

Today's computers come with huge amounts of

RAM and processing speed. There usually is no need for you to archive animals.

However, if you have been recording data for many years, you will notice that DairyQuest may run slower as time goes on. If you notice this, please contact us and we can help advise you on whether you should archive animals or not.

Archiving is done under Tools|Archive|Archive Animals. You can only archive animals who have been removed at least 1 year.

When you archive, the animal and all of her events are deleted from your working data files and moved to the archive data files. We recommend that you backup your data prior to archiving.

You may also move archived animals back to your working data files. Choose Tools|Archive|Restore Archive Animals from within DairyQuest.

Make sure that you lean on the edge of caution before you archive animals.

*Hardware: the parts of a computer that can be kicked.*

*~Jeff Pesis*

*Computers have lots of memory*

*but no imagination. ~Author*

*Unknown*

## DairyQuest Tips

Have you been wondering how to speed up your data entry? Hopefully this DairyQuest tip will help you out.

Let's pretend that you recently gave all or your dry cows some type of treatment. You could record a group treatment event by clicking on the group entry button and manually entering each ID. However, in the scenario mentioned above, there is an easier way.



Click the filter icon. Check the By Status box and then select "Dry" in the Prod Box.

Click the "Enable Filter" button and only your dry cows will appear in the animal list.

Click on the first cow in the list and then hold down your shift key on the key board. Click on the last cow in the list and all of the cows will be selected.

Simply record the treatment and click save. All of the dry cows will then have the treatment event in their event list.

You can do this type of filtering any time you need to record an event on groups of animals. Go ahead and play with the filtering options available. You may find that you can cut your time considerably in recording events.

## New Addition Features

Some of the newest features found in DairyQuest is under options. These new features are all due to feedback that we get from you, our customer.

Select Preferences|Miscellaneous from the main menu of DairyQuest. You will see the following new options:

**Length of Gestation Period PG Multiple:** This allows you to set the Gestation Length for a cow who is pregnant with twins.

**Auto Remove Electronic ID at Dry Off:** If you have recorded an Electronic ID and you record a dry off event, DairyQuest will automatically remove the

Electronic ID on the animal. This is useful in a milking parlor where you have electronic tags on the cows.

**Length of Dry Period if PG Multiple:** You can set the length of the Dry Period specifically for those animals who are PG with twins.

With the use of ultra sound these preferences have become necessary. As technology advances, DairyQuest continues to change with it.

## Extended Support Hours

We have extended our support hours for your convenience. If you need emergency support after 5 PM Weekdays and on Weekends, feel free to call 715-805-6000. If you receive voice mail, please leave your name and number and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We hope that you appreciate this added service.

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