

HEIFERPRO NEWS

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RFID Update

By Lee Mc Cauley

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) has been a buzz word in agriculture for the past few years. Identifying cattle is a great fit for its use.

Do you know who is fast becoming the largest user of RFID? It's no one in agriculture. It's Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart is using RFID to identify merchandise as it is moved from warehouse to warehouse. It will be a few years, but they are slowing converting each warehouse and store over to RFID.

What does this mean for agriculture? As large companies utilize RFID the technology moves at a fast pace. It may be hard to believe what will come next.

Tablet PC Update



In our April newsletter, we announced a new addition to our product line: The xTablet T8600. This is a rugged computer that can be used in the cold, rain and has a drop rating of 3 feet on concrete. This computer can run any application that you have on your desktop PC.

We have a demo available for you to try out. You

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The chips used for RFID are in the tech world, are rather large. They also require a good deal of battery strength to read them.

The RFID chip makers have recently come to an agreement with a company that makes very small chips and uses very little power.

What may become of this? Wrist watches with RFID that need to have their batteries changed only once a year. Toy dolls with RFID chips that do animation on voice command.

If only they could invent a chip to place in our children so they would listen to us.

may use the demo for 20 days at no charge. If you are interested, please contact us at 888-597-2977.

Due to the response we have received, the demo unit is not always available. Call today to ensure your spot to give it a try.

We are currently working on a HeiferPRO application designed specifically for a Tablet PC. We will keep you informed of its progress.

For more information on the Tablet PC, please visit our website www.heiferpro.com

Auto Save on Exit

There is a feature in HeiferPRO that you may not be aware of. It is called "Auto Save on Exit". What does this thing do?

Whenever you exit HeiferPRO, your data files will be copied to a folder on your hard drive. This does not replace backing up your data. However, it is another means to recover your data in case your tables become damaged.

The Auto Save on Exit feature will keep up to 5 different datasets at any given time. For example, if you exit HeiferPRO 5 times in one day, it will have 5 different datasets saved. After the 5th time, it overwrites the oldest dataset.

View of Custom Heifer Grower Industry

Did you know.....

The average size of a heifer grower in the Northeast is around 380 head?

The average size in the West is around 4200?

When asked why a grower went into the heifer growing business, the number one answer was "I view it as a good business opportunity"?

The number one concern when housing heifers from more than one farm is bio-security?

A little over 17% of growers raise heifers for only one farm?

The majority (around 58%) have between two and

So what does all of this mean? If your power goes off or you have a power surge while HeiferPRO is up an running, you risk damaging your data.

If you have Auto Save on Exit enabled and your data becomes damaged, you simply select File| Recover Data Files from the main menu. You can then select data based upon the last time the data was edited. This has already saved a few people.

To enable Auto Save on Exit, select Preferences| All Preferences from the main menu. Click on System Settings and check the Auto Save on Exit box and click save. It could save you a lot of grief.

five clients?

When asked why clients were sending heifers to them to raise, 24% indicated that the producer was in an expansion mode?

22% indicated that a lack of facilities and management time was the reason why clients were sending heifers to them to raise?

Around 52% of growers charge a flat daily charge per head per day?

Here at ProfitSource we are seeing constant change in the heifer raising industry. Your customers want to be informed quickly and accurately on the performance of their heifers on your operation.

While not always easy to do, we are constantly monitoring this situation. As things change, we all have to remain flexible be ready to change also.

One thing is certain about change. It will happen.

*I like my new telephone, my
computer works just fine, my
calculator is perfect, but Lord, I
miss my mind! ~Author
Unknown*

HeiferPRO Tips

If you have been manually entering animal weights in HeiferPRO, there is an easier way.

Most of the weigh scales have the ability to store the animal ID and weight of the animal. When you are finished weighing the animals, the weigh scale should be able to create a text file of all the weights. Please reference your weigh scale manual to see if it has this ability.

After the text file is created, you must tell HeiferPRO what the structure of the file is. In other words, the ID of the animal might be first, the weight second and if utilizing it, the RFID tag third. You can tell HeiferPRO this by selecting Preferences|All Preferences from the main menu. Click the Weight File Import tab and move the fields to their proper order.

New Changes to HeiferPRO

Listed here are some of the changes made to the latest version of HeiferPRO:

We Added Estimated Heat Date as an item in custom reports. This means when you print a report it can print the date that an animal should be coming into heat.

When recording actions, you have always had the ability to do a Group Entry. On the Group Entry Window, you can now filter the animals by their Receive Action Date. This makes it easier to select animals for Group Entry.

5/16/07 – Added to Custom Reports ability to turn on/off shading on headers

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.

If you have trouble determining the structure of the file, the easiest solution is for you to send to HeiferPRO support a copy of the file. You could email it or send it to us on a CD. We can quickly determine the structure for you.

To import the weights select Tools|Import Weights from the main menu. Select the date the weights were taken and click the Import button.

Select the weight file and click Open. HeiferPRO will list all of the animals and weights that it finds in the file. At this point, your weights are not saved to your data files.

Click the Post button to actually save the weights. Feel free to contact support if you need any help.

If you attempt to add a breeding action on a heifer that was bred \leq 18 days ago, a warning message will appear.

Growing Costs (from billing rate) has been added as a data item in custom reports.

Many people are faxing reports from HeiferPRO to their customers. Custom Reports have “shading” on all header columns. Unfortunately, the shading doesn't fax well. You can now turn the shading off on all custom reports.

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