



Data integrity

management systems and eartags

Identifying individual animals and recording data in accordance with a unique eartag is the cornerstone of a healthy livestock business.

It is essential that livestock farmers keep records with the aim of managing disease. Combating infectious and erosion diseases in a herd poses its own challenges. It is almost impossible to manage infection in your herd without a unique eartag number for each animal. Without a proper management system it is near impossible to record disease examinations and follow-up examinations accurately.

Ensure that your animals are marked with a unique eartag and number. When it comes to disease control and management, re-usable eartags are a major no-no. Duplication of numbers can become a major problem when positive blood results have to be linked to animals, where the animal's identity is doubtful or where eartags can be swapped between tests and results.

It is also essential that a particular animal's information is available when cull animals are selected. Do not make the mistake of sending good genetic material to the auction or abattoir while some of the weaker "passengers" remain behind because your management system failed you.

Immunisation data

Ensure that each blood test is recorded in the system and continue to monitor

that animals' disease status. Implement a management system that can record the results of blood tests in your database using Internet-based technology. It is crucial that you keep records of the animal's original immunisation information. Record the information and make sure that you can use the name of the product, expiry date and serial number for later reference or audits.

Besides disease control, it is important to keep immunisation records as a tool to manage input costs and to comply with legal obligations. The audit feasibility of the management system makes planning and managing immunisations and legal requirements a walk in the park. A proper system will allow you to print and plan a numeric list of numbers, historical data and records, thus allowing you to purchase the right vaccine, diarise the day and time

of the next immunisation and prepare the animals.

The integrity of all data is vested in the person collecting, recording and entering the data. The processing environment has its own challenges and the numbers can easily be entered or written down erroneously. Therefore it is much more accurate and convenient to enter the eartags from an inventory that was received electronically in your management system. Proper management software will eliminate the duplication of eartags and human error where numbers are accidentally switched.

The animal's history

Insist on each animal's health and reproduction history, certification and producer statements when buying animals. Protect your herd against risks by insisting on certification before buying that "beautiful infected bargain" at the auction, and releasing it into your clean herd. Infectious diseases such as brucellosis are raising concern in our livestock industry – losses due to infection, quarantined farms and compulsory slaughter of infected animals can be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Using GMPBasic® management software and ear tags will enable both the buyer and the seller to have the necessary information at hand. It presents the user with traceability and identification and ensures more profitable precision farming.



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