

HerdTrack Tips and Tricks

By Dana Stewart, AGA Director of Member Services

How do I add weaning data to my calves?

After adding calving information to your existing dams, first create a group that will encompass the calves that you want to submit data for. The simplest way to do this is create a group for “calves born on or after” your beginning calving season date, *and* “on or before” the end date of your calving season. Name the group so that you will recognize it in the future, such as “Fall 2005 Calves.”

After you have created and named your group, open the group and select calves individually to enter weaning information. To enter the weaning data, in the “Animal Main” menu for an individual, select the weaning tab. A weaning date and weight are required for a registration certificate on heifers and bulls. Repeat this step until you have entered data for all animals.

The same process can be applied to enter yearling information for animals. Rather than selecting the weaning tab for an individual, select the yearling tab. A weight and date are required to receive a registration certificate for all bulls.

When you are finished, create an export file to attach to an email and send to herdtrack@gelbvieh.org.

Now that I've entered my weaning date, how do I calculate performance values for adjusted weaning weight, ratios and ranks within a group?

HerdTrack is capable of calculating the performance values in the same manner as the Association's computer **IF** all contemporary grouping has been followed. However, the only time the performance values should be considered official is when an Association Work Order Number is present.

First, if all the calves you would like to calculate are already grouped, simply open the existing user-defined group.

If not, create a group containing all the calves you would like to calculate. Typically, the best approach is to use the New Group by Query and select animals based on birth date and open the group.

Next, while the group is open, select “Group” | “Calculate” | “Weaning” from the HerdTrack menu.

*Note: The group menu item is only active and available for selection **IF** a user-defined group is open.*

HerdTrack will display a list box containing all animals that are missing data and can NOT be calculated. Required data fields include:

- Sex
- Birth Date
- Registry
- Weaning Weight
- Weaning Date

If you accidentally omitted entering data, select the “Close” button and update the animal record with missing data since animals with missing data will NOT be calculated. After adding the data, follow the process again to open the weaning calculations screen.

Finally click on the “Calculate” button. HerdTrack will present you with a warning dialog box. If all of the calf information is correct, click on the “OK” button.

When the calculations are finished, HerdTrack will display a "Weaning Calculations Complete!", choose OK and select the Close button to return to the main menu.

To review the calculated data, you must open the group again.

How can I manage my Commercial animals with HerdTrack?

Managing your commercial animals with HerdTrack is a simple process. First, from the main screen in HerdTrack, select the “New Animal” button.

Second, in the New Animal box, enter the required fields: Tattoo, Sex, and Birth date and any additional information that you have such as sire, dam, etc. Tattoo will likely be your in-herd ID for that animal

Third, in the registry box that is defaulted to AMG, use the pull down menu to select COML. This designates the subject as a commercial animal.

When you are finished entering known information for the new COML animal, click next. A warning box may appear that says “No Registration.” Click “OK” since you’re entering your commercial animal for management purposes.

Follow this same process for all the commercial animals in your herd. After you have finished, I recommend creating a new group for your commercial animals. To create a new group, select “New Group” from the HerdTrack main screen. From the pull down menus, select “Animal ID: Registry” | “Matches” | “COML.” Now you have all your commercial animals grouped together and you’re ready to start adding calving and other management information.

Note: Animals with the COML registry are recognized as non-registered and will be ignored by the AGA animal database.

Visit <http://www.gelbvieh.org/htfaq.html> for frequently asked questions. If you have other HerdTrack questions, please call Dana Stewart, AGA Director of Member Services.

Photo Caption: The weaning tab within the Animal Main menu can be used to input weaning data. After weaning data has been added, use the weaning calculations tool to add performance values to animals within a group. When both steps are complete, your weaning information should look similar to this.