

Guidelines for Backgrounding

**Please read and follow directions carefully when filling out the CHAPS 2000 blank input forms.
The biggest delay in processing your records is improperly or poorly completed input forms.**

CALF ID: (8 characters max.) - The ID of the calf. All calf IDs must be unique.

DATE WEIGHED: (8 characters max.) - date calf was weighed in the form of Month/Day/Year (00/00/YEAR, substituting the four digit year for YEAR).

WEIGHT: (4 characters max.) - the weight of the calf at the time of backgrounding.

HIP HEIGHT: (8 characters max.) - The height of the calf at the hip. The measurement should be taken at a point directly over the hip bones (hooks) with the animal standing on a level surface. A simple and quick way to obtain hip height is to position a board at 2 inch increments starting at 36 inches and ending at 50 inches. The 36 inch line should be 36 inches above the floor of the scale. As you record the weight of the calf, estimate the hip height of the calf using the indicator board. Record hip height in inches on the form and the program will compute the frame score of each calf.

FRAME SCORE: (4 characters max. - optional) - there are two options of input:

Option 1: You may directly input the frame scores (1 to 12). The program accepts frame score entries as high as 20, but scores greater than 12 are unrealistic.

Option 2: The frame score will be calculated if you enter hip height of between 20 and 70 inches and the date measured. If a number between 20 and 70 is typed, the program assumes you are typing hip height and will request the date the measurement was taken.

The measurement date must be within 30 days of the date the calf was weighed. Frame score is obtained by measuring hip height. As you record the weight of the calf, estimate the hip height of the calf using the indicator board. Record hip height in inches on the form and the program will compute the frame score.

CONTEMPORARY GROUP: (1 character max. - optional) - flexible 1 letter or number code you assign to represent any contemporary group within herd. Contemporary groups are animals reared and managed together, of the same sex and breed, and within 60 days of the same age. Proper contemporary group definitions are extremely important in the computation of EPD's. Contemporary groups should be clearly defined and animals within a contemporary group should, to the greatest extent possible, be given an equal opportunity to express their genetic potential. Try to keep contemporary groups as large as possible and avoid calving over one of the season dates. If you must separate calves during the pre and postweaning period, try to sort based on sex because they are already considered to be in different contemporary groups. Individual breeders are the only ones who truly know how animals in their herds should be grouped. Separate calf reports can be generated for each contemporary group.

MISC NOTES: (10 characters max. - optional) - flexible 10 character code. This can be any combination of letters and numbers. Comments like "sick", "runt", or "pen 1" could be entered in this column. The program does not use this code for any calculation.