

Guidelines for Feedlot Calves

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 feedlot placement.

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.

BACKFAT: (8 characters max.) The reading of backfat with a real-time ultrasound image using a wave guide that fits the curvature of the animal's back and the transducer.

RIB-EYE: (8 characters max.) Area of the longissimus muscle measured in square inches at the 12th rib interface on the beef forequarter. Rib-eye area is measured between the 12th and 13th ribs. This requires collecting a real-time ultrasound image using a wave guide that fits the curvature of the animal's back and the transducer.

MARBLING: (8 characters max.) The specks of fat (intramuscular fat) distributed in muscular tissue. Marbling is usually evaluated in the rib-eye between the 12th and 13th rib and is performed with the real-time ultrasound image using a wave guide that fits the curvature of the animal's back and the transducer. The predicted value is reported in whole percentage units to the nearest tenth of a percent.

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.