

## Guidelines for Weaning

**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.

**ACTUAL WT:** (4 characters max.) - the actual weight, in lbs., of the calf at weaning.

**DATE WEIGHED:** (8 characters max.) - date calf was weighed. See the previous explanation for CALF BIRTH DATE for proper format to enter dates. CAUTION: Calves which are younger than 120 days or older than 290 days at weighing will be classified as irregular calves because they fall outside the age range for accurate calculation of the adjusted 205 day weight. Irregular calves do not have weight ratios calculated and are not included in sex group averages, breed averages, sire summaries or herd averages. Both irregular calves and regular calves are included in the herd summary data.

**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.

**DATE MEASURED:** (8 characters max.) - The date the hip height was measured in the form Month/Day/Year (00/00/YEAR, substituting the four digit year for "YEAR").

**MANAGEMENT CODE:** (1 character max.) - the purpose of management codes is to concisely record anything unique about an individual cow or calf, or to record the number of months a calf is on creep. Management codes can only be one character, so for calves that need a letter code you should ignore the months creep fed, even though the calf may have been creep fed. The available codes are:

0 = No management code	F = Purchased foster calf
1-7 = Month(s) calves actually consumed creep feed	K = Non-purchased foster calf - twin calf (F and K codes account for dead calves)
8-9 = Miscellaneous private codes	N = Calf raised on nurse cow
A = Cow did not calve	S = Twin, raised on own dam as a single
B = Cow aborted	T = Twin, raised on own dam as a twin
C = Calf died before two weeks of age	X = Calf has incomplete record or no weight
D = Calf died after two weeks but before weaning	
E = Embryo transplant calf	

**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.

**MUSCLE GRADE:** (3 characters max. - optional) - grade of the calf.

The USDA feeder calf grades are: L1, L2, L3, M1, M2, M3, S1, S2, S3, and I.

The letter stands for the frame size specifications. Large (L) represents steers and heifers that would have choice carcasses at approximately .5 inch fat at 1200+ lbs and 1000+ lbs, respectively. Medium (M) represents calves that would have choice carcasses at approximately .5 inch fat at 1000-1200 lbs for steers and 850 - 1000 lbs for heifers. Small (S) type calves would grade choice under 1000 lbs for steers and under 850 lbs for heifers. Inferior (I) represents unthrifty or double muscled calves. Those calves with predominantly beef breeding are number 1, while number 2 represents breeding characteristically narrow through the hindquarter. Number 3 represents cattle that are very thin through the hindquarter. The older version of calf grades can no longer be used.

**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.