

FARM DATA TYPICAL TIMING

Basic records for livestock, poultry, dairy, maize and vegetable enterprises

How to use: Use this sheet as a guideline for when farm data should be collected. The typical timing shown for each record is a starting point: adapt it to your production cycle and assign each record to a named person.

1. UNIVERSAL FARM RECORDS

These records apply to every enterprise and connect physical performance to costs and income.

What to record	Typical timing
Opening and closing stock, inventory or planted area	Cycle / monthly
Purchases: product, quantity, price, supplier and date	Every purchase
Sales: quantity, quality or grade, price and date	Every sale
Labour, fuel, electricity, water, repairs and overhead costs	Weekly / monthly
Mortalities, rejected products, theft, wastage and other losses	As they occur
Weather, water availability and unusual management events	Daily / as relevant
Targets or budgets for the same production period	Before cycle
Physical stock reconciled with recorded stock	Weekly / monthly

2. BEEF FEEDLOT

Record information by arrival group and pen so that feed use can be linked to growth and sales.

What to record	Typical timing
Arrival date, source, animal count, sex, breed/type and purchase cost	Each group
Arrival weight and scheduled intermediate weights for a growth curve	Arrival + 2–4 weekly
Ration, feed delivered, refusals or wastage and estimated intake	Daily
Average daily gain, dry-matter intake and feed conversion ratio	Each weighing
Induction procedures, vaccinations, treatments, morbidity and mortality	As they occur
Water availability, pen conditions, temperature and heat stress events	Daily
Days on feed, exit weight, sale date and slaughter or carcass results	Each group
Feed cost, cost per kilogram gained and margin per animal	Each group

3. BEEF EXTENSIVE GRAZING

Link breeding and growth records to herd class, camp, rainfall and grazing conditions.

What to record	Typical timing
Herd inventory by class: cows, heifers, bulls, calves and weaners	Monthly
Breeding season, bull groups, services and pregnancy results	Each breeding cycle
Calving dates, calves born, birth difficulties and calf survival	At calving
Birth, weaning and yearling weights plotted against target growth curves	Key ages
Pregnancy, calving and weaning percentages	Each cycle
Body condition score and cow weight where practical	Key production stages
Camp movements, stocking rate, veld condition and available grazing	Weekly / monthly
Rainfall, water-point status and supplementary feed consumption	Daily / weekly
Disease, treatments, mortalities, theft or predator losses	As they occur
Animals sold, live weight, price, cost per breeding cow and gross margin	Each sale / annually

4. SHEEP AND GOAT FEEDLOT

Capture each intake group separately and follow feed, growth, health and marketing results.

What to record	Typical timing
Arrival date, source, number, sex, breed/type and purchase cost	Each group
Arrival and follow-up weights for the group growth curve	Arrival + 2–3 weekly
Ration, feed delivered, refusals or wastage and feed consumption	Daily
Average daily gain, feed conversion ratio and days on feed	Each weighing
Vaccinations, parasite control, treatments, morbidity and mortality	As they occur
Water, pen conditions, weather exposure and heat or cold stress	Daily
Exit weight, sale price, carcass result and condemnations	Each group
Feed cost, cost per kilogram gained and margin per animal	Each group

5. SHEEP AND GOAT EXTENSIVE GRAZING

Connect flock reproduction and growth with grazing, weather, nutrition and losses.

What to record	Typical timing
Flock inventory by class, age, sex and breeding group	Monthly
Joining dates, ram or buck groups and pregnancy or scanning results	Each cycle
Lambing or kidding dates, born alive, birth type and mother ID where practical	At birth
Birth, marking and weaning weights plotted against growth targets	Key ages
Pregnancy, birth, survival and weaning percentages	Each cycle
Body condition score at joining, late pregnancy and weaning	Key stages
Camp movements, stocking rate, grazing condition and rainfall	Weekly / monthly
Supplement feed issued and estimated consumption	Each feeding
Parasite control, disease, treatments, mortality and predator losses	As they occur
Wool or mohair yield and quality where applicable; animals sold and margin	Shearing / sale

6. PIGS

Record by production stage and batch so reproductive, feed, growth and carcass performance can be connected.

What to record	Typical timing
Animal inventory and movements by sow, litter, batch and production stage	Daily / weekly
Services, returns, pregnancy results, farrowings and farrowing rate	As they occur
Total born, born alive, stillborn, mummified and piglets weaned	Each litter
Sow parity, body condition and feed use during gestation and lactation	Each cycle
Birth, weaning, nursery and grower-finisher weights versus growth curves	Key stage changes
Feed delivered or consumed by phase, feed wastage and feed cost	Daily / weekly
Average daily gain, feed conversion ratio and days to market	Each batch
Pre-weaning, weaner and grower-finisher mortality and removals	Daily / batch
Treatments, medication use, disease events and environmental conditions	As they occur
Sale weight, carcass weight, grading, feed cost per kg and margin over feed cost	Each batch

7. BROILERS

Use flock and house as the recording unit, with daily feed, water, environment and mortality records.

What to record	Typical timing
Placement date, chick source, strain and number placed	Each flock
Feed delivered, feed remaining and calculated feed consumption	Daily / weekly
Water consumption and water-to-feed ratio	Daily
Body weight and flock uniformity compared with the target growth curve	Weekly
Daily mortality, culls and likely causes	Daily
Temperature, humidity, ventilation, litter quality and stocking density	Daily
Vaccinations, treatments, disease signs and condemnations	As they occur
Final live weight, age, feed conversion, performance index and margin	Each flock

8. LAYERS

Track flock production, feed efficiency, egg quality, health and replacement performance.

What to record	Typical timing
Flock ID, strain, placement date, age and birds housed	Each flock
Feed delivered and feed consumption per bird	Daily / weekly
Water consumption and unusual changes	Daily
Egg number, hen-day production, egg mass and average egg weight	Daily
Egg grades, cracks, dirty eggs, rejects and sales	Daily / weekly
Body weight and flock uniformity versus the target growth curve	Regularly by age
Mortality, culls, health events, vaccinations and treatments	Daily / as needed
Lighting programme, temperature, ventilation and housing conditions	Daily / when changed
Feed per dozen or kilogram of eggs, egg income and margin	Weekly / monthly

9. DAIRY

Link reproduction, milk output, feed intake, health and replacement growth at cow and group level.

What to record	Typical timing
Cow inventory by lactation group, dry cows, heifers and calves	Daily / monthly
Calvings, services, returns, pregnancy diagnoses and conception rate	As they occur
Days open, calving interval, abortions and reproductive removals	Monthly
Milk yield per cow and group	Each milking / daily
Milk fat, protein, somatic cell count and rejected or discarded milk	Each test / event
Feed offered, refusals and estimated dry-matter intake by group	Daily
Milk over feed cost and feed efficiency	Weekly / monthly
Body condition at calving, peak milk, breeding and drying off	Key stages
Calf and heifer weights against target growth curves	Birth + regular intervals
Mastitis, lameness, disease, treatments, mortality and culling reasons	As they occur

10. MAIZE FIELDS

Link field inputs, weather and crop development to harvested yield, quality and gross margin.

What to record	Typical timing
Field ID, hectares, soil type, soil analysis and previous crop	Before planting
Cultivar, seed lot, seed cost, planting date, population and row spacing	At planting
Fertiliser product, nutrient rate, application date and method	Each application
Herbicide, insecticide and fungicide product, rate and application	Each application
Rainfall and irrigation date, volume and cost	Daily / each event
Emergence count, plant population and crop growth stage	Key stages
Weed, pest, disease, nutrient deficiency and stress observations	Weekly / as found
Machinery hours, fuel, contractor and labour use	Each operation
Harvest date, yield, moisture, grade, field and storage losses	At harvest
Income, variable cost per hectare and gross margin per hectare	After harvest

11. VEGETABLE GARDENS AND FIELDS

Record each crop and planting block separately because planting, harvesting and marketing dates may overlap.

What to record	Typical timing
Block ID, crop, cultivar, area, planting or transplanting date	Each planting
Seed or seedling source, quantity, cost and germination or establishment	Each planting
Soil or growing-medium analysis and bed preparation	Before planting
Fertiliser, compost and fertigation product, rate and date	Each application
Rainfall and irrigation duration or volume	Daily / each event
Pesticide, herbicide and biological-control applications	Each application
Pests, diseases, weeds, nutrient problems and weather damage	Daily / weekly
Labour, machinery and packaging used	Each activity
Harvest date, quantity, grade, rejects, waste and storage losses	Each harvest
Sales by market and grade, production cost and gross margin	Each sale / crop

12. FINAL DATA-QUALITY CHECK

Reliable decisions require complete records that use consistent definitions and measurement methods.

What to record	Typical timing
Dates, units and animal, group, flock, field or block IDs are complete	Every review
Feed, stock and input records agree with physical quantities	Weekly / monthly
Missing values are identified and are not automatically treated as zero	Every review
Unusual results have been checked against the original records	Every review
Performance is compared with a target, budget or previous cycle	Every review
A responsible person and next action have been recorded	Every review

MANAGEMENT REVIEW QUESTION

What changed, why did it change, and what action will we take before the next review?

Agritistics - You measure. We manage.