

Completing your Post-Birth Weight Performance Recording Forms

The following document is designed as a basic set of instructions for use when completing your post-birth weight paper performance recording forms. It is important to read these instructions carefully before completing your forms. Remember, the EBVs calculated for your animals are based on the performance you record.

General Information

* The paper performance recording forms can be used to submit the post-birth weight information (ie. 200, 400 & 600 day weight) of your animals to BREEDPLAN. The one post-birth weight performance form layout should be used irrespective of whether you are recording a 200, 400 or 600 day weight.

* Using this method of data submission, breeders will automatically be forwarded post-birth weight performance recording forms shortly after they have recorded/registered their calves with their relevant Breed Society/Association. Breeders should then enter the 200 day weight performance of their animals into the relevant columns and mail the completed forms to the BREEDPLAN office at ABRI. The completed forms will be processed and a new set of post-birth weight performance recording forms forwarded to the breeder for use when recording the next set of performance for their calves.

* If you receive the blue & white paper performance recording forms, you will note they are printed onto duplicate paper with carbon paper interleaved. Once you have completed the forms, the carbon copy should be removed and retained for your records. This will enable you to keep a copy of the data you have submitted to BREEDPLAN for future reference.

* If you recorded/registered your calves with your Breed Society/Association in a number of submissions over time, you may receive successive "updates" to your paper performance recording forms for that particular calving year, season & sex. If this occurs, simply throw out the superseded form and submit your performance data on the latest one that includes all the animals (nb. the date each set of forms was produced is printed in the top left hand corner for easy reference).

* Each set of post-birth weight performance recording forms list animals that are in your ownership for a particular calving year, season & sex (as recorded with your Breed Society/Association at the time the forms were produced). The calving year, season of birth & sex of the animals listed on the form are specified in the heading at the top of the page.

* Dam, Sire, Date of Birth, Last Weighing Date & Weight are pre-printed as an easy reference to details already stored with BREEDPLAN for each calf. If you find there are any mistakes in the Dam, Sire or Date of Birth for a calf, please notify your Breed Society/Association. If you find there are any mistakes in the Last Weighing Date & Weight, please notify your BREEDPLAN processor.



* Suggested weigh dates are printed in the top left hand corner of the post-birth weight performance recording forms. These dates indicate when the calves listed on each form are on average 200, 400 and 600 days of age, based on their birth dates. The suggested weigh dates should be used as a guide as to when to weigh your animals.

Completing your Forms

1. Heading Information

Underneath the main heading on the performance form, you will find a section titled “*****Circle Options*****”. You will need to answer these questions by circling the appropriate option before beginning to enter the performance information of your calves.

- All Weights in lbs/kgs - Circle the units in which the weights of your calves were recorded - pounds (lbs) or kilograms (kgs).

- Further Test Yes/No - Circle “Yes” if you would like BREEDPLAN to forward another set of performance recording forms for the calves listed on the form. If this is the last set of performance you will be submitting for this particular group of calves, circle “No”.

An additional option will also be provided on the performance recording forms for breeds who are recording docility information on their animals.

- Docility Scores Crush/Yard ^A Circle the method used to record the docility scores for you animals (if applicable).

2. Dsp Cd (Disposal Code)

If the calf is still active in your herd, leave this column blank.

If the calf is no longer active in your herd, enter the relevant disposal code in this column. An approximate date of disposal should also be entered in the “Date” column.

A list of the relevant disposal codes for your particular Breed Society/Association is listed in the bottom left hand corner of the performance recording forms. Use the code that is most appropriate to the disposal of the animal. In particular, attention should be given to those animals culled for fertility reasons as this may impact on the analysis of fertility data.



^A – This column will only appear on performance recording forms for specific Breed Societies/Associations

3. Date

Enter the date of measurement (or date of disposal) in this column. Day/Month/Year must all be provided (eg. 1/1/2004).

If the date of weighing is the same for all animals on the performance recording form, simply enter the date against the first animal and draw an arrow down the column for the rest of the calves on that page.

NOTE: To ensure the maximum number of calves are analysed in the same management group, you should try to weigh all the animals from one management group on the same day. BREEDPLAN will automatically split your management groups if you weigh on different days.

4. Wt. (Weight)

Enter the weight of the animal to the nearest pound/kilogram in this column. The appropriate weight units should be circled at the top of the page.

Animals must be between 80-900 days of age at measurement to have post-birth weight information analysed by BREEDPLAN.

Do not submit weights for heifers that are more than 3 to 4 months pregnant at weighing, unless they are in a very short joining period, and have been pregnancy tested.

5. Mgt Grp (Management Group)

Enter the calf management group in this column. Management groups can be any alphanumeric code up to 3 characters in length.

A management group should be entered for any calf or group of calves that have either been treated differently or exposed to significant non-genetic influence since the previous weighing. For example, calves given a supplement should be recorded in a different group to those without a supplement. Consideration should also be given to variations in pasture quality, stocking rates, water quality, etc. Note that blank is a unique management group.

Please see the document titled “Recording Management Groups for BREEDPLAN” for more information regarding how to enter the management group information to BREEDPLAN. Recording management group information correctly is an essential component of your BREEDPLAN recording.

6. Castrate (male forms only)

Enter the castration status of your male calves in this column.

“Y” should be entered in this column if a male calf has been castrated prior to the date of weighing. “N” should be entered in this column (or simply leave column blank) if a male calf has not been castrated prior to the date of weighing.

Male calves castrated on the date of weighing should have a “N” entered in this column. A “Y” should be entered with their next set of performance following castration.

A “Y” should be pre-printed in this column if you have previously notified staff at BREEDPLAN that the animal has been castrated.

An approximate date of castration can be recorded in the “Castrate Date” column (optional).

7. Hip Ht (Hip Height)

Enter the hip height of the animal in this column in whole centimetres (optional).

Hip height information is not currently used in the BREEDPLAN analysis, however breeders can record this information in anticipation that it may be used in the calculation of a frame score EBV at some time in the future.

8. Scr Cir (Scrotal Circumference)

Enter the scrotal circumference of the animal in this column in centimetres. Scrotal circumference measurements can be up to 1 decimal place (eg. 35.5 cm). While measuring techniques vary slightly, it is important to use a consistent technique for a whole group of bulls.

Animals must be between 300 - 700 days of age at measurement to have scrotal circumference information analysed by BREEDPLAN. The recommended age for measurement is around puberty, which will usually be 350-600 days (12 to 19 months).

BREEDPLAN can currently only analyse one scrotal circumference measurement on each bull. If multiple scrotal circumference measurements have been recorded, the first/earliest scrotal circumference taken will be included in the BREEDPLAN analysis. The later measurements will be stored for possible future analysis.

9. Serving Cap^A

Enter the serving capacity of the animal in this column (optional). It is important to enter both the test duration (in minutes) as well as the number of services.

Serving Capacity results will only be accepted by BREEDPLAN if they have been recorded using the standard Blockey serving capacity test. The standard 20 minute test is preferred but the 40 minute test can be used and adjusted to the 20 minute standard.

Serving Capacity is not currently analysed by BREEDPLAN. The data is being stored for possible future analysis.

^A – This column will only appear on performance recording forms for specific Breed Societies/Associations

10. Docility ^A

For breeds recording docility, enter the docility score & docility management group in this column.

Animals must be between 60 – 400 days of age at measurement to have docility score information analysed by BREEDPLAN.

Docility should be scored on a scale of 1 – 5 with half scores being accepted. A list of docility scores is printed in the bottom right hand corner of the performance recording forms.

A docility management group should be recorded if a calf or group of calves has had a different level of handling prior to scoring (such that it's docility score would have been affected by the handling).

A docility score, method of scoring & docility management group will be pre-printed on the performance recording forms if a score has previously been submitted to BREEDPLAN for that animal. Please note that BREEDPLAN can only analyse one docility score for each animal.

11. Muscle Score ^A

For breeds recording muscle score, enter the muscle score of the animal in this column.

Muscle score should be recorded on a scale of A to E which extends to a 15 score system as a plus & minus is accepted for each score (eg. A-, A, A+).

Muscle score is not currently analysed by BREEDPLAN. The data is being stored for possible future analysis.

12. Comments

Enter any comments/observations in this column that you think are pertinent to the BREEDPLAN analysis for either a single calf or group of calves.

Commonly Asked Questions

1. How do I interpret the Suggested Weigh Dates ??

Suggested weigh dates are printed in the top left hand corner of the post-birth weight performance recording forms. These dates indicate when the calves listed on each form are on average 200, 400 and 600 days of age, based on their birth dates. The suggested weigh dates should be used as a guide as to when to weigh your animals.



^A – This column will only appear on performance recording forms for specific Breed Societies/Associations

Breeders should choose a weighing date that fits in with their management and is also reasonably close to the suggested weighing date for the trait being recorded. The whole management group should be weighed on this date.

However, it is not essential to weigh calves exactly at the suggested date as BREEDPLAN will adjust the calf weights to 200, 400 or 600 days depending on which trait is being recorded.

In general, calf weights taken between

- 80-300 days will be considered a 200 day weight
- 301-500 days will be considered a 400 day weight
- 501-900 days will be considered a 600 day weight

Ideally, calves should be weighed when they are in as large a group as possible. This means that rather than weigh right on the suggested date, try to weigh before any of the calves in the management group are treated differently. For example, weigh before you castrate some of your bull calves, or before the show team is separated out from the rest of the group.

2. Can I record multiple weights ??

BREEDPLAN can analyse up to two weights in each age range (ie. 2 x 200 day weights, 2 x 400 day weights & 2 x 600 day weights). Generally speaking, it is only necessary to record one weight in each age range, however if a breeder wishes to record multiple weights, all animals in the group should be weighed, otherwise the management groups will be adversely influenced.

3. Some of my calves are missing from the Performance Recording Forms ??

Each set of post-birth weight performance recording forms list animals that are in your ownership for a particular calving year, season & sex (as recorded with your Breed Society/Association at the time the forms were produced). The calving year, season of birth & sex of the animals listed as well as the date the forms were printed are specified in the heading at the top of the page. In general, only animals that are recorded with your Breed Society/Association with a status of “active” will appear on the performance recording forms.

Therefore, if an animal is missing from the performance recording forms, it is most commonly because it was either not recorded with your Breed Society/Association, or it was active and in your ownership when the forms were printed (for that particular calving year, season & sex of animals).

Depending upon the circumstances, the appropriate action to take for missing animals is as follows:-

- If the animal has been pedigree recorded with your Breed Society/Association since the forms were produced, then simply write the animal's ident onto the appropriate area of the performance recording forms and enter the performance details as per normal.

- If the animal's registration/recording is pending with your Breed Society/Association, then simply write the animal's ident onto the appropriate area of the performance recording forms and enter the performance details as per normal. You will need to ensure the animal is recorded/registered by the time the performance forms reach BREEDPLAN.
- If the animal has never been registered/recorded with your Breed Society/Association then you will need to contact them to record the animal. Once the animal has been recorded/registered, submit the relevant performance details to BREEDPLAN.
- If the animal has been incorrectly made inactive or transferred from your ownership then you will need to contact your Breed Society/Association to correct this. Once this has been corrected, simply write the animal's ident onto the appropriate area of the performance recording forms and enter the performance details as per normal.

4. How do I submit historic data ??

To submit performance information collected in previous years that has not already been submitted, simply contact staff at BREEDPLAN and request Performance Recording Forms for the relevant years of calves. It is then just a matter of completing the forms as per normal and submitting the data.

5. How do I submit the other performance information for my animals ??

While the post-birth weight performance recording forms should be used to record the 200, 400 & 600 day weight performance for your calves, separate layouts exist for submitting mature cow weight, ultrasound scanning, structural score and abattoir carcass information. Please contact staff at BREEDPLAN should require any information regarding these layouts.

Please contact staff at BREEDPLAN should you require any further assistance when completing your post-birth weight performance recording forms.

HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR PERFORMANCE RECORDING FORMS

1. Date: 01 JAN 2004

3. INTERNATIONAL BEEF RECORDING SCHEME
EXAMPLE POST WEANING PERFORMANCE RECORDING FORM

Page: 1 of 1

SUGGESTED WEIGHING DATES:
Weaning (200 days) - 28-OCT-02
Yearling (400 days) - 16-MAY-03
Final (600 days) - 02-DEC-03

***** CIRCLE OPTIONS *****
1. All Weights in lbs / Kgs
2. Further Tests Yes / No

Herd: ABC
Name: MR A. BREEDER
Addr:

Dam	Sire	Date of Birth	Last Weighed Date	Wght	Calf	Dsp Cd	Date	Wt.	Mgt Grp	Castrate Y/N	Date	Hip Ht. cm	Sct Cir cm	Serving Cap. Min	Nos	Comments	

1. Suggested Weighing Dates :-

These dates indicate when the calves listed on the form are on average 200, 400 and 600 days of age, based on their birth dates. The suggested weigh dates should be used as a guide as to when to weigh your animals.

2. Calf Details :

Dam, sire, date of birth, last weighing date and weight are pre-printed for each calf as an easy reference to the details already stored for that calf. If any of these details are INCORRECT, provide the CORRECT details.

3. Further Tests :-

If you require additional performance recording forms for these calves, circle "Yes". If not, circle "No".

4. Calf :-

The animals are normally listed in tattoo order within each report. The relevant details on calving year, season of birth & sex are given in the heading at the top of the page.

5. Dsp Cd :-

If the calf is no longer active in the herd, enter the relevant disposal code in this column (see the bottom of each page for a list of the relevant disposal codes for your breed society/association).

6. Date :-

Record the weigh date (or the date of disposal) in this column. (eg. 20-5-01). If the weigh date is the same for all animals, simply enter the date against the first animal and draw an arrow down the column.

7. Wt :

Record the weight to the nearest pound or kilogram in this column. Circle the appropriate measurement units (lbs/kgs) at the top of the page. Animals must be between 80 to 900 days of age to have post-birth weights analysed by BREEDPLAN.

8. Mgt Grp :-

Record the calf management group in this column. A management group should be entered if a calf or groups of calves have been treated differently since the previous weighing.

9. Castrate :-

If the calf was castrated prior to the day of weighing, put a "Y" in the YES column. Enter the castration date in the Date column.

10. Hip Ht :- (optional)

If hip height is measured, record the height (in whole cm) in this column. e.g. 126

11. Sct Cir :- (optional)

If scrotal circumference is measured, record the size (in cm) in this column. (e.g. 35.5). Bulls must be 300 to 700 days of age when measured.

RETURN TO: BREEDPLAN
A.B.R.I.,
University of New England,
ARMIDALE N.S.W. 2351

Disposal: 1 =
2 =
3 =
4 =
5 =

Date: ___/___/___

Signed: