

Premium Interface Component

User's Reference

American Angus Association

Introduction

Midwest MicroSystems recognizes and applauds the leadership of the American Angus Association in encouraging electronic data transfer. Accordingly, we have developed a breed template in the **Premium Interface Component (PIC)** that customizes **Cow Sense** to fit the exact fields of information that the Association requires. Cow Sense then allows you maximum flexibility to customize the rest of the program to your individual management needs. The software handles all of the technical aspects of data structure and file layouts and gives you the simple convenience of menu driven commands. Apply the pre-defined data structure to your Cow Sense herd, then simply select import and export routines that are written for specific data exchange functions. Validations operate in the background to ensure that data requirements are met on both import and export.

The primary functions of PIC are to: maintain standardized fields required by the respective breed associations; send in applications for animal registration; meet the requirements of total herd reporting; and to receive back registrations and EPD updates. Accordingly we have organized this document to follow the format of the respective procedure(s) documented in the *American Angus Association Breeder's Guide*.

The Cow Sense Users' Guide will explain the use and functionality of the program and the many new features available with Cow Sense Version 4. This document will assist you in locating and working with the specific fields that are used in the Angus Premium Interface Component (PIC) of Cow Sense Software. To launch the Premium Interface Component from the Cow Sense Main Menu - Go to: **Utilities > Transfer Data > Premium Interface Component**.

The following are detailed instructions for entering information, required field verification and data location within Cow Sense herd management software. In addition, this information has been condensed in a series of Quick Reference Tables for easy reference in using the Cow Sense Premium Interface Component.

Installation of the PIC Breed Template

The first step when using PIC for the first time is to install a breed template. A breed template is used to customize your herd by adding necessary fields or changing description codes so you can conform to association rules and export the necessary information needed by that association.

If Midwest MicroSystems did your initial herd build or conversion then your template is already in place and you do not need to apply it to this herd. If you are applying the template to a previously established or new herd for the first time, Go to **PIC Main Menu Select: Breeds > Templates > Angus**. The program will display the name and location of the current herd and ask you to confirm that the herd listed is the one, upon which you wish to apply the template. Select either the 'Yes' or 'No' button.

After a breed template is applied PIC will customize itself for the specific breed by adding menu options that can be chosen to perform various operations like exporting registration and performance data to the association and even updating your herd with data received from the association. Please note that you can only apply one breed template to your herd at a time.

Submitting Registration and Performance Information from PIC

To electronically submit a registration application with the Association via the Cow Sense Premium Interface Component the following information must be gathered and input into Cow Sense. On the following pages that follow is a quick reference table where you can locate the fields and the type of information that is required to be entered in those fields. After reviewing these tables, you will better understand the type of data that needs to be entered before trying to export data to the association.

Once all necessary information has been entered into Cow Sense Version 4, you can then prepare to submit that information to the association. The following steps will help guide you through the process of submitting registration information to the association:

1. First review the list of calves in Cow Sense and Mark all records to be Exported (refer to page 69 of the *Cow Sense User's Guide*).
2. Once records are Marked for Export proceed to the Cow Sense Main Menu and **Select > Utilities > Transfer Data > Premium Interface Component**.
3. Once PIC has launched, proceed to the Main Menu bar and **Select: Breeds > Export > Angus > Registration > Verify**.
4. A Verify Registrations window will appear asking if you wish to verify the information from the Cow Sense herd listed before exporting it to a file for submission to the association. Select the 'Verify' button.
5. An Export File window will appear asking you to confirm the number of records to be verified. If this is the same number as the records you marked, Select the 'Yes' button, if not Select the 'No' button and repeat the procedure to determine the discrepancy.
6. After selecting the 'Yes' button another window will appear that asks if you want to print warnings in the result log. It is recommended that you choose 'Yes'. After selecting the 'Yes' button a progress bar will appear and the verification process will take place. This could take some time.
7. After this process is complete a window will appear either telling you that no errors were found or asking you if you wish to view the error log file. Choose 'Yes'. If any errors were encountered, they will now be displayed in Notepad. Please note that PIC validates all records to ensure that all required information is included and reports any errors encountered, all warnings that were issued, as well as all records exported at this time. Also notice that the program displays the name of the exported file and where you can find it (in the Cow Sense folder of the installed drive in a sub-folder labeled Export).
8. Review these errors (if there are any) and make any necessary changes in Cow Sense.
9. Repeat the verification process until no errors are encountered.

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10. Once you have completed the verification process you are now ready to run the final export for the association. Go to the Main Menu bar and **Select: Breeds > Export > Angus > Registration > Export.**
11. An Export Registrations window will appear asking if you wish to export the information from the Cow Sense herd listed, exporting it to a file for submission to the Association. Select the 'Export' button.
12. An Export File window will appear asking you to confirm the number of records to be verified. If this is the same number as the records you marked, Select the 'Yes' button, if not Select the 'No' button and repeat the procedure to determine the discrepancy.
13. After selecting the 'Yes' button another window will appear that asks if you want to print warnings in the result log. It is recommended that you choose 'Yes'.
14. After selecting the 'Yes' button another window will appear asking you to confirm the breeder information that will be used for the registration of your calves. Click on 'Submit Under Different Name' if you wish to change the person who is registering the calves.
15. After selecting the 'Done' button you will be asked to confirm your email address. Re-enter your email address and click 'OK'.
16. The information you chose to use will be displayed in another window for your review. After clicking 'Yes' a confirmation window will appear telling you who will be registering the marked calves. Please note that if there is more than one breeder registering calves you will have to run a separate export for each of them. Click 'Yes' if this information is correct and a progress bar will appear and the export process will take place. This could take some time.
17. After this process is complete a window will appear that indicates the Export function was complete. Please note that PIC will validate the data one last time to ensure that there are no errors. If there are errors encountered you will be able to review them the same way as in the verification process. Please note that the error log displayed in the Export routine is more abstract and may not list every error. It is recommended that you always use the verification process until no errors are found. This will save you some time.
18. When all records have been successfully exported you can either attach the export file to an e-mail and send it to the association or copy it onto a diskette and send it to the association. If you decide to send the export file via email you may zip it up or send it as is. If you are sending multiple export files zipped up be sure each one of them is zipped individually in their own zip file with the zip file's name being the same as the export file's name. If you wish to print out the registration report with all of the calving information, go to the Main Menu bar and **Select: Breeds > Export > Angus > Registration > Print.** *If you are submitting electronically, **do not** send the printed report to the Association.*
19. A new window will open up displaying the report. Please note that this report can only be displayed once. If you wish to print out this registration report do it now or you will have to run the export again in order to display the report for printing. It is recommended you print two copies of the registration report so you also have a copy to keep for you records.

You have now completed registration of your calves. This same process can be used for both weaning, yearling and 2nd yearling information. These processes are available in the menu options much like the registration of your calves.

NOTE: The export files produced for weaning and yearling information have the same file name. If you do not want an export file overwritten when you run your next export, be sure to copy or move the file you wish to save to another location.

NOTE: Do not send both the printed report and the electronic file to the association, just one or the other. This can cause confusion at the association and could cause delays in receiving your performance information back.

Submitting EPD Request File to AAA from PIC

To electronically submit a EPD request file to the Association via the Cow Sense Premium Interface Component go and **Select: Breeds > Export > Angus > EPD Request > Verify**. The verification process is used so the file contains all the information the association needs to send you back an EPD update file. Once you have ran the verification process successfully without any errors, go and **Select: Breeds > Export > Angus > EPD Request > Export**. An EPD request file has now been created and is located in the subfolder called 'Export' in your Cow Sense directory. The file name will be in the form E9999999.AAA where 9999999 is your member number. Association charges do apply when sending this EPD request file. Consult with the American Angus Association as to what the cost will be.

Updating your Herd with Update Files from the Association

There are two update files which you can receive from the American Angus Association which can be imported into your Cow Sense herd using PIC. These two files are:

1. Performance Update File: P9999999.EXP where 9999999 is your member number.
2. EPD Update File: D9999999.EXP where 9999999 is your member number.

When you receive these files from the association and they are located on your computer go and **Select: Breeds > Import > Angus > Performance Update** or **Select: Breeds > Import > Angus > EPD Update**, depending on the file you wish to import. When you select these import options, you will have to locate the file on your computer. After you select the file your herd will automatically be updated with the associations adjusted measures and EPD information. If an animal is not found in your herd to be updated, it will be logged into the build log located in the folder called 'Import' in your Cow Sense directory.

Preserving Association Calculations

Since Cow Sense also calculates adjusted weights and ratios, it is important to take measures to preserve the association's values after importing an update. Cow Sense uses the "Lock Cycle" function to prevent re-calculating adjusted weights and ratios on calves. Set Cow Sense to the production cycle you have imported, then run the command **Maintenance > Current Cycle > Lock Cycle**. Here are some tips on locking cycles:

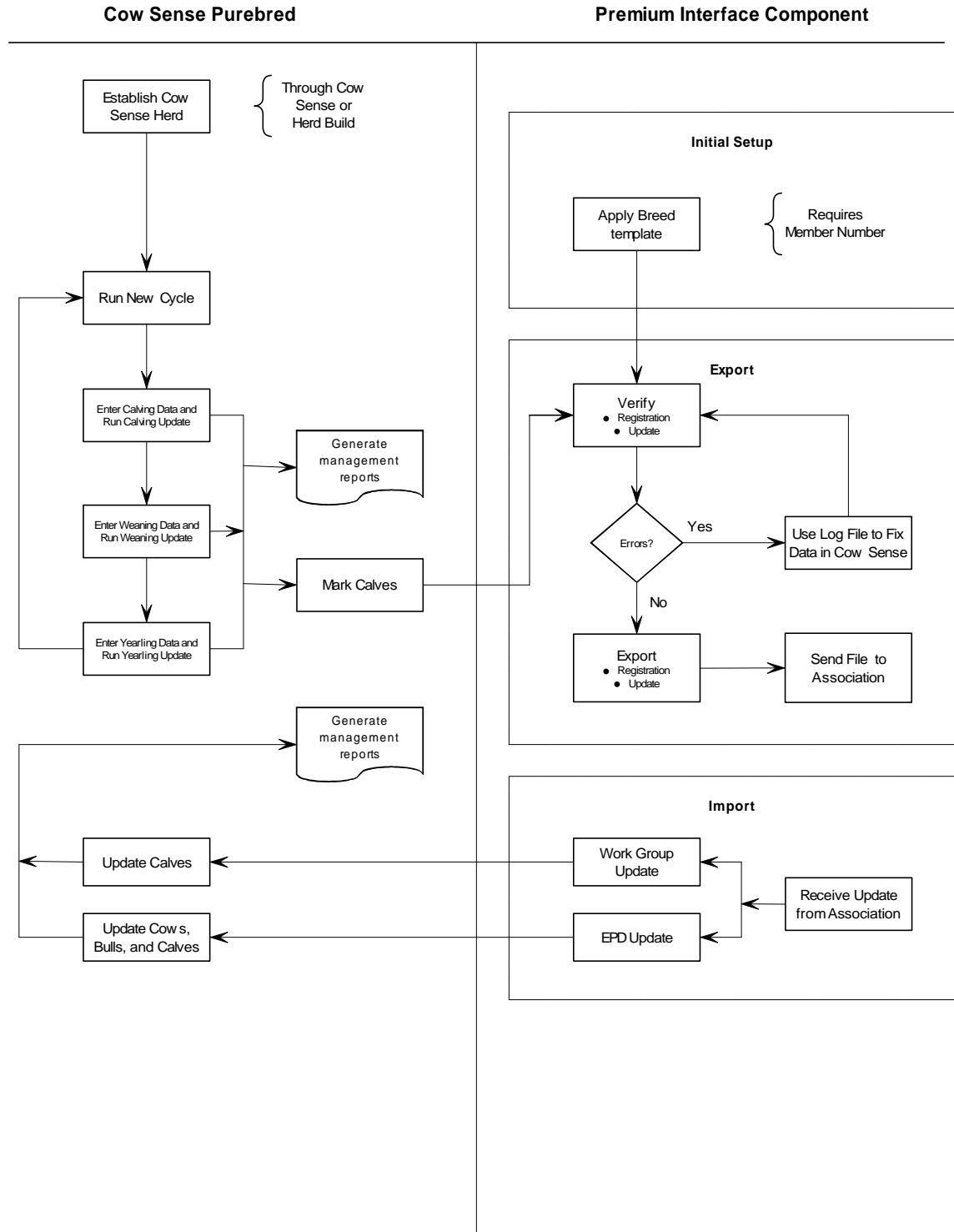
- You cannot enter or modify data in a locked cycle. To add additional data, such as yearling weights, you must either import the data using the Import Tool on the Utilities menu, or set the cycle to 'Yearling' under **Maintenance > Administration > Setup > Production Cycles**, enter the data, and then lock the cycle again.
- You cannot make a locked cycle the current production cycle. You will need an open production cycle (any status other than 'Locked') to set as your current production cycle. If you are not ready to move forward with your next

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production cycle, then create a 'dummy' production cycle for one cow and enter 99 in the calf history.

- Reports are not affected by locking a production cycle. You can always run reports for all of your entered or imported data.

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ANGUS REGISTRATION FILE LAYOUT

TABLE 1: ENTER DATA CALVES, COWS AND BULLS

Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Calving Main	Birth Date	Always	Calf's Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	BDAY
Calving Main	Born As		Twin Code Enter type of birth: S = Single (Converted to '0' for export to the association) TB = Twin to Bull (Converted to '0' for export to the association) TH = Twin to Heifer (Converted to '0' for export to the association) E = Embryo Transfer ES = Split embryo (Converted to 'S' for export to the association) C = Clone R = Triplet (Converted to '0' for export to the association)	ET
Calving Main	Calf ID	Always	Calf ID (Left 4 characters are used in the export to the association)	TAG
Calving Main	Cow ID	Always	Cow ID (Left 4 characters are used in the export to the association)	DTAG
Calving Main	Tattoo	Always	Tattoo of calf (maximum of 4 characters, both ears the same).	TATT
Calving Main	Tattoo	Always	Tattoo of calf (maximum of 4 characters, both ears the same). PIC creates the AAA tattoo in the form 9999-9999 for association use.	TATTOO
Calving Main	Sex	Always	Calf sex (Enter one of the following) B = Bull H = Heifer (Converted to 'C' for export to the association) S = Steer	SEX
Weaning Main	Name	Always	Calf's Name (must be no longer than 28 characters)	NAME

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Supplemental (Calf)	AI		Artificial insemination Enter 'Y' for yes Leave blank if not AI	AI
Supplemental (Calf)	AI Cert		AI Cert Enter 'Y' for yes Or leave blank	AICERT
Supplemental (Calf)	Breeder Cert needed		Breeder Cert needed Enter 'Y' for yes Or leave blank	BRDRCERT
Supplemental (Calf)	Breeder Cert Customer		Breeder Cert Customer	BRDRCERT_C
Supplemental (Calf)	Bull Permit needed		Bull Permit needed Enter 'Y' for yes Or leave blank	BULLPERM
Supplemental (Calf)	Bull Permit Type		Bull Permit Type Enter one of the following: 1 = AI – Employee 2 = AI – Relative 3 = AI - Condition of Sale	PERMITCT
Supplemental (Calf)	Bull Permit Customer		Bull Permit Customer	PERMITID
Supplemental (Calf)	Castration Date		If there is a castration Date, PIC automatically fills in 'Y' If there is no castration Date, this field is left blank	YSEX
Supplemental (Calf)	Embryo removal date	If ET calf	Embryo removal date Enter this date if the calf is an ET calf (mm/dd/yyyy)	ETREMOV
Supplemental (Calf)	First Owner Member Code		First Owner AAA Member Code. If left blank, the submitter's member number is used.	FOWNER

Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Supplemental (Calf)	Sex of Twin	If calf has a twin	Sex of Twin Enter one of the following if there is a twin to the calf: B = Bull C = Heifer S = Steer M = Male	TW
Cow Main	Registration	Always	Cow's registration number	DREG
Cow Main	LE Tattoo, RE Tattoo	Always	LE Tattoo and RE Tattoo of cow PIC takes these two fields and automatically combines them into the form 9999-9999 for association use.	DTATT
Bull Main	Registration	Always	Bull's registration number	SREG

ANGUS WEIGHTS FILE LAYOUT

TABLE 2: ENTER DATA CALVES, COWS AND BULLS

Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Calving Main	Birth Date	If live calf (wn), Always (yr)	Calf's birth date (mm/dd/yyyy)	BIRTH
Calving Main	Birth Weight		Calf's birth weight	BWT

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Calving Main	Born As		Twin Code Enter type of birth: S = Single (Converted to '0' for export to the association) TB = Twin to Bull (Converted to '0' for export to the association) TH = Twin to Heifer (Converted to '0' for export to the association) E = Embryo Transfer ES = Split embryo (Converted to 'S' for export to the association) C = Clone R = Triplet (Converted to '0' for export to the association)	ET
Calving Main, Supplemental (respectively)	Calf History, Sale Date		Calf History Enter one of the following if it applies: 1 = Live calf (default in CowSense) 2 = Calf died after weaning 3 = Calf died after branding (Converted to 'D' for export to the association) 4 = Calf died before branding (Converted to 'D' for export to the association) 5 = Calf dead at birth (Converted to 'C' for export to the association) 6 = Abortion (Converted to 'B' for export to the association) 7 = Open cow (Converted to 'A' for export to the association) 8 = Bred cow didn't calve (other) 9 = Bred cow sold 80 = Embryo – flushed 81 = Embryo – implanted 82 = Embryo – in storage 99 = Missing data If there is a Sale Date, PIC uses the association birth code of 'E' automatically. If Calf History is 1, 2, 8, 9, 80, 81, 82 or 99, PIC will leave the birth code blank for the association.	BC
Calving Main	Calf ID	If live calf (wn), Always (yr)	Calf ID (Left 4 characters are used in the export to the association)	CTAG

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Calving Main	Calving Ease		<p>Calving Ease Enter one of the following : 1 = Unassisted 2 = Easy pull 3 = Hard Pull – puller used 4 = Caesarean 5 = Abnormal Presentation</p> <p>If Calving Ease is left blank, PIC converts it to 0 for the export to the association.</p>	CE
Calving Main	Cow ID	Always	Cow ID (Left 4 characters are used in the export to the association)	DTAG
Calving Main	Sex	If live calf (wn), Always (yr)	<p>Calf sex (Enter one of the following) B = Bull H = Heifer (Converted to 'C' for export to the association) S = Steer</p>	SEX
Calving Main	Sire ID	If live calf (wn), Always (yr)	Bull ID (Left 4 characters are used in the export to the association)	STAG
Calving Main	Tattoo	If live calf (wn), Always (yr)	LE Tattoo (maximum of 4 characters)	TATT
Calving Main	Tattoo	If live calf (wn), Always (yr)	<p>Tattoo of calf (maximum of 4 characters, both ears the same). PIC creates the AAA tattoo in the form 9999-9999 for association use..</p>	TATTOO
Weaning Main	Creep		<p>Management Code</p> <p>Based off of Creep field in CowSense. If Creep Fed is checked, PIC will convert it to '3' for the export. If the Creep Fed field is not checked, PIC will convert it to '1' for the export to the association. If you are submitting yearling information, this field is left blank.</p>	MGT

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Weaning Main	Contemp Group (A-Z)		Exports left most character (user enters contemporary groups) ex) A – 1st Management Group B – 2nd Management Group (etc.) A, B, etc. are then used automatically in the export.	CG
Weaning Main	Hip height		Enter hip height at weaning in inches if submitting weaning information. Enter hip height at yearling in inches if submitting yearling information.	HEIGHT
Weaning Main, Yrlg Main	Weaning weight, Yearling weight		Wean weight if submitting weaning information. Yearling weight if submitting yearling information.	WEIGHT
Weaning Main, Yrlg Main	Weaning weight date, Yearling weight date		Date the wean weight was taken if submitting weaning information. Date the yearling weight was taken if submitting yearling information. (mm/dd/yyyy)	WDATE
Yrlg Main	Pelvic Area Date		Date pelvic measurement was taken (mm/dd/yyyy). Enter if submitting yearling information. NOTE: If yearling report then Pelvic Area Date minus Birth Date must be from 305 to 640 days. If this condition is not met, pelvic information will not be used in the export.	PELVDT
Yrlg Main	Pelvis - H		Pelvic width in centimeters Enter if submitting yearling information.	PELVWD
Yrlg Main	Pelvis - V		Pelvic height in centimeters Enter if submitting yearling information.	PELVHT
Yrlg Main	Scrotum		Scrotal measurement in centimeters. This measurement is used in the weaning export if the Scrotal Measure Date is within 10 days of the weaning weight date. This measurement is used in the yearling export if the Scrotal Measure Date is within 10 days of the yearling weight date.	SC

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Supplemental (Calf)	Member Number, Breeder ID	Always	AAA member code PIC uses the Member Number field on the calf for exports. If it is blank, the Breeder ID entered when the template was applied is used.	MEMBER
Supplemental (Calf)	Castration Date		Yr-sex at yearling If there is a Castration Date, and it is before the Yearling Weight Date, PIC will print 's' in the export to the association automatically.	YSEX
Supplemental (Calf)	Location code (wn or yr)		Location code (weaning or yearling depending on export) maximum of 4 characters	LOC
Supplemental (Calf)	Pelvic device (yr only)		Pelvic device Enter one of the following codes if submitting yearling information: 1 = Caliper type device 2 = Piston type device 3 = Other device	PELVDV
Supplemental (Calf)	Secondary owner member c		Secondary owner member code	SECOWN
Supplemental (Calf)	Suppl Weight 1		Preyearling 140 day test weight	TESTWT
Supplemental (Calf)	Suppl Wt Date 1		Date the preyearling 140 day test weight was taken (mm/dd/yyyy) NOTE: If yearling report then Suppl Wt Date1 minus Yrlg Weight Date must be from 85 to 195 days. If this condition is not met, Suppl Weight Information will not be used in the export.	TESTDT
Supplemental (Calf)	Suppl Weight 2		2nd Yearling weight	WEIGHT
Supplemental (Calf)	Suppl Wt Date 2		Date the 2nd yearling weight was taken (mm/dd/yyyy)	WDATE

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Supplemental (Calf)	Sex of Twin		Sex of Twin Enter one of the following if there is a twin to the calf: B = Bull C = Heifer S = Steer M = Male	TW
Cow Main	Birth Date	Always	Cow's Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	DBIRTH
Cow Main	Condition		Cow's body condition score Enter one of the following if it applies: 1 = Severely emaciated. All ribs and bone structure easily visible. Very little visible muscle tissue, physically weak. 2 = Emaciated. Similar to score one, but not weakened. Little visible muscle tissue. 3 = Very thin. No fat on ribs or brisket. More apparent muscling than on condition score two. Backbone easily visible. 4 = Thin, with ribs easily visible, but shoulders and hindquarters show fair muscling. Backbone visible. 5 = Moderate to thin. Last two or three ribs can be seen. Little evidence of fat on brisket, over ribs, or around tail head. 6 = Good condition. Smooth appearance throughout. Slight fat deposition on brisket and over tail head. Ribs covered, and backs appear slightly rounded. 7 = Very good condition. Brisket full. Tail head shows pockets of fat. Back appears well rounded due to fat. Ribs very smooth. 8 = Obese. Back square due to fat. Brisket distended. Heavy fat pockets around tail head. Neck thick. 9 = Rarely seen. Very obese. Similar to condition score eight, except more extreme. Heavy deposition of udder fat.	CS

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Cow Main	Disposal Code		Cow disposal code (reason code) Enter one of the following if it applies: 1 = Open 2 = Poor maternal milk 3 = Poor growth EPD's 4 = Mastitis/milk problems 5 = Feet/leg soundness 6 = Body condition 7 = Temperament 8 = Udder problems 9 = Genetic defects 10 = Health problems 11 = Reproductive disease 12 = Died natural death (old age) 13 = Sold as purebred 14 = Sold as commercial 15 = Struck by lightning 16 = Died at calving 17 = Died accidental 18 = Died due to respiratory disease 19 = Died due to digestive disease 20 = Died from poisonous plants 21 = Died from other health problems 22 = Other	DR
	Hip height		Cow's hip height at weaning in inches. PIC will use this data in the weaning export only if the cow's hip height date is within 15 days of the calf's wean weight date.	COWHT
Cow Main	Registration	Always	Cow's registration number	DREG
Cow Main	Registration		ET recipient's registration number	ETRREG
Cow Main	Tattoo	Always	Tattoo of cow (maximum of 4 characters, both ears the same). PIC creates the AAA tattoo in the form 9999-9999 for association use.	DTATT
Cow Main	Weight		Cow's weight at weaning. PIC will use this data in the weaning export only if the cow's weight date is within 15 days of the calf's wean weight date.	COWWT
Cow Main	Wt. Date		Date the cow's weight was taken (mm/dd/yyyy). PIC will use this data in the weaning export only if the cow's weight date is within 15 days of the calf's wean weight date.	COWDT

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Entry Form	Cow Sense Field(s)	Required	Description/Use	Assoc Field Name
Supplemental (COW)	Temperament (1-5) of Cow		Cow's temperament Enter one of the following: 1 = Docile 2 = Somewhat docile 3 = Average 4 = Somewhat aggressive 5 = Aggressive	TMPR
Bull Main	Registration	If live calf (wn), Always (yr)	Bull's registration number	SREG