

Premium Interface Component

User's Reference

Production Systems

Introduction

Midwest MicroSystems recognizes and applauds the leadership of all production systems interfaced with PIC in encouraging electronic data transfer. Accordingly, we have developed a production template in the **Premium Interface Component (PIC)** that customizes **Cow Sense** to fit the exact fields of information that the production system 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: maintain standardized fields required by the respective production system; send in herd data; and to receive back updates.

The Cow Sense Users' Guide will explain the use and functionality of the program and the many 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 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.

Installation of the PIC Production System Template

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

If you are applying the template to a previously established or new herd for the first time, Go to **PIC Main Menu Select: Production > Templates > (Choose Production System)**. Currently the Production Template is available for those listed. Others are in progress. If you are involved with a coordinated production system, which is not listed please notify Cow Sense Support.



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. Once 'Yes' is chosen, you will be asked to register with Midwest MicroSystems if you do not have a production system ID on file yet. Simply fill out the necessary information and follow the instructions to upload your registration information to Midwest MicroSystems via the Internet. Once that is accomplished, Midwest MicroSystems will send you an update to run so you can start exporting and importing herd data to the production system of your choice.

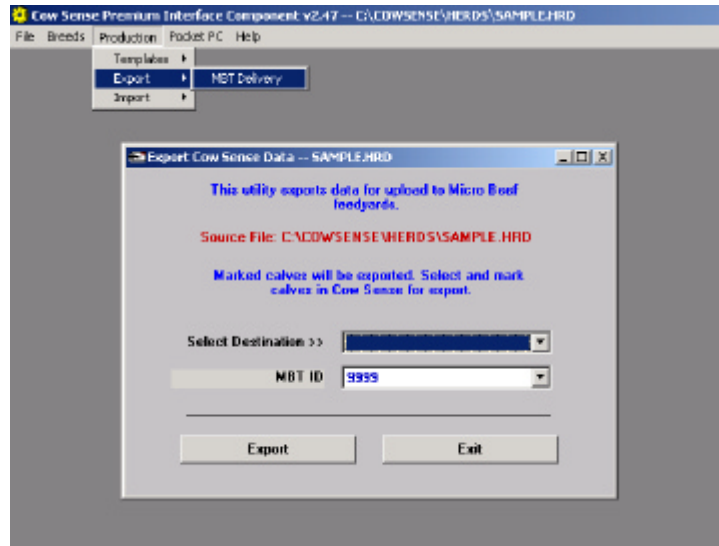
Exporting Data

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

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 **PIC Main Menu Select: Production > Export > (Choose Production System)**.

Cow Sense® Herd Management Software

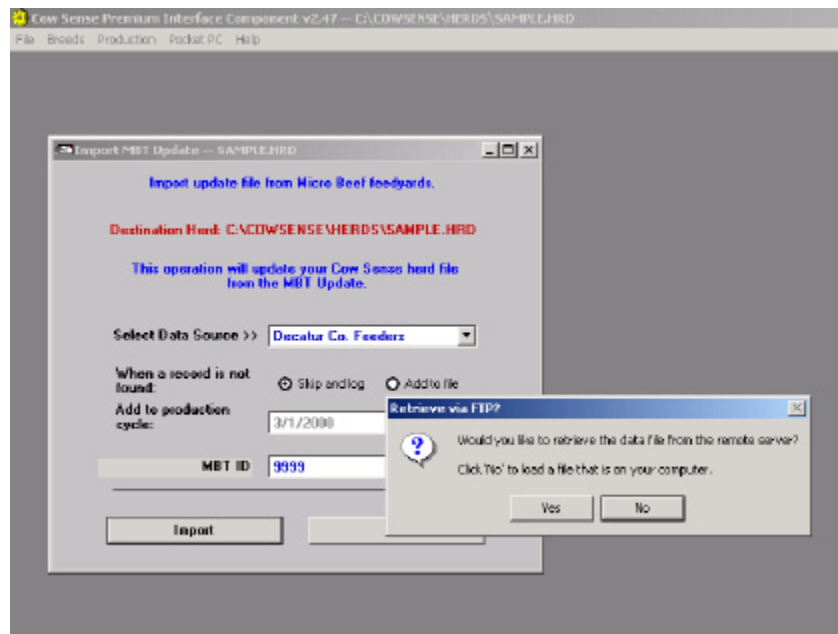
4. Once export is complete, you can either send the data file via the Internet using a built in Cow Sense Utility called MicroFTP, or you can copy the export file to a floppy disk and send it in yourself.



Importing Data

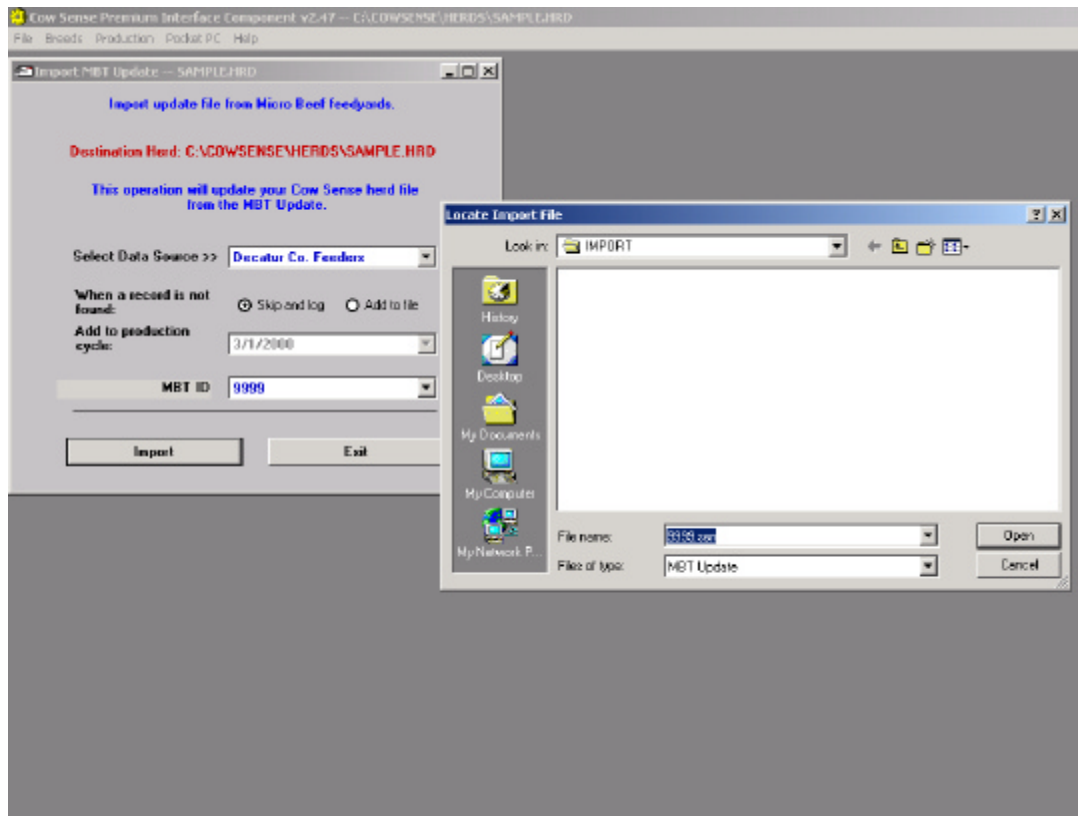
This utility is used when the production systems send back update information for your herd. This information may be sent directly to you, or the production system may upload it to Midwest MicroSystems' MicroFTP Server where you can automatically download it from our Internet site. The following steps will help guide you through the process of updating your herd:

1. Go to the Cow Sense Main Menu and **Select > Utilities > Transfer Data > Premium Interface Component.**
2. Once PIC has launched, proceed to the Main Menu bar and **PIC Main Menu Select: Production > Import > (Choose Production System).**



Cow Sense® Herd Management Software

3. A message box will appear asking if you would you like to retrieve the data file from the remote server. Click 'Yes' if this is what you want to do. Click 'No' if you wish to choose a file located on your computer.
4. To import the file from the Micro FTP remote Server, open your internet connection and Select the "Yes" button which will initiate the MicroFTP retrieval process. Simply follow the prompts provided on screen.
5. To import the file from a location on your computer Select the "No" button. It is recommended that you save this file to the Cow Sense Import File Folder as shown in the figure below.



6. After you have retrieved the data file from the remote server or chose your own file located on your computer the update process will take place. Depending on the size of the file this could take some time.
7. After PIC finishes processing the updates, you will have the option of reviewing the log file for any errors. Open the log file to review any possible errors.
8. If there are any errors, determine what the problem is and make any changes if necessary.
9. You have successfully updated your herd.

The update file from Micro Beef Technologies will be a text file, and the update files from Angus GeneNet and U.S. Premium Beef will be Excel files. In order to Import the Excel Files, you must have Microsoft Excel installed on your computer. If you encounter any errors you can't resolve yourself, contact Midwest MicroSystems Customer Service. Update file formats may change once in a while and Midwest MicroSystems will help in making the appropriate accommodations.

Cow Sense Electronic Data Exchange

