

Cow Sense NxGen

Import Tool User Tips

Step 1: Select File

Choose a file to import. Import Tool works with comma separated text (CSV), tab separated text (TXT) or Microsoft Excel files. Import Tool remembers the last file type you worked with, so if you are importing a different type change the file type dropdown in the Open dialog that appears when you browse for the file.

IMPORTANT: Import Tool is very powerful and enables you to quickly add or modify many records. The changes you make cannot be undone with this tool, so **ALWAYS MAKE A BACKUP** before you proceed.

TIP: be sure your import file is clean. Especially with Excel, you can have extra rows or columns created when you work.

The best practice is to select the data area, copy and paste it into a new worksheet when you are ready to import.

TIP: headers are commonly used to identify data fields, but be sure there is only **ONE** header row.

Step 2: Select Import Options

Target: Data from your import file will be added or updated in one or more Cow Sense tables. 'Animals' includes all identity, performance and trait fields.

Method: Add or update records. Some imports only permit the option to add data. When you update, you must use a linking field to locate the target record.

Linking: This choice determines the identifier in your herd that Import Tool will use to match up records in an update. There are several linking options. If you export from Cow Sense, the GUID (globally unique identifier) may be included automatically. You may then modify or add to the exported data and use the GUID to positively match and update records with Import Tool. EID is also unique and a good linking field if you use EID in your herd. Visual Tag may or may not be unique in your herd. If there isn't a unique match on Visual Tag, Import Tool will not update the record. You may include additional qualifiers, Season or Status, to help Import Tool find an exact match with Visual Tag.

Season: This option will restrict matching on Visual Tag for updating records to the selected calving season.

Status: This option will restrict matching on Visual Tag for updating records to the selected status. You may choose either Season or Status but not both.

Step 3: Choose target fields

Map columns in your source file to target fields in your herd. The target field list contains eligible Import Tool fields that you have set to show in your herd.

If you are updating records, the linking field you selected in Step 2 will be identified. You must select the column in your source data that Import Tool will use to match the linking field and perform the update. If Import Tool does not find an exact match, or if it finds more than one match, it will not update the record. I will log this information for you so you can resolve the problem and try again.

Click 'Import' when you are ready. Import Tool will validate your source data as it adds or updates in the herd file. It will log any problems so you can resolve them and try again.

Common valid dropdown values are listed below. If you create custom dropdowns in Cow Sense, Import Tool will validate source data against your custom settings.

Breeding Type

AI
Natural
Sync
Ovulate
Flush
Transfer

Outcome

Live Calf
Dead at Birth
Abortion
Failed to Conceive
Prior Conception

Sex

Bull
Cow
Steer
Heifer
Heifer-Spay
Unknown

Status

Active
Disposed
Reference

Animal Type

Breeding Bull
Breeding Cow
Nursing Calf
Weaned Calf
Yearling
Replacement
Feeder
Multi Sire
Calving Failure
Unknown

Calving Ease

1
2
3
4
5

Horn Code

P
H
S
D

Nurse Code

Own
Foster
Artificial
Nurse

Preg Code

P
O
U

Twin Code

Single
TH
TB
Mult

Disposal Type

Marketing
Death Loss
Culling

Disposal Stage

Birth
< 2 Weeks
Nursing
Weaned
Yearling
Two
Mature

Disposal Reason

Sold for breeding
Sold for feeding
Sold for harvest
Calving difficulty
Fault of mother
Sickness
Injury
Predator
Genetic defect
Act of nature
Condition
Disposition
Fertility
Milking ability
Performance
Udder
Unsound
Progeny defect
Progeny performance
Progeny quality
Age
Other or unknown

Step 4: Review results

When finished, Import Tool displays information about how the import was done and any problems that were encountered. Use this information to revise your source data or the import method and run the import again to achieve the final result. Depending on problems listed, you may easily restore your herd file to the backup made immediately before importing so you are starting fresh.

Save the log for reference as you work. You may sort or search the log to make your task easier if you have a lot of issues.

Use 'Save Spec' if you intend to use the EXACT SAME process again, or if you need to re-import the same file after making corrections.