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Popular Article

Record Keeping: A Tool for Better Management of Farm

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Introduction

For efficient and better productive performance of dairy farm, producer must be able to evaluate the events that occurred in the farm that will have the impact on the farm performance. Record-keeping is the most efficient tool to know the production and productivity dynamics of the farm, as well as the particularities of each livestock operation. Recently, computer programs are used that facilitate record-keeping along with and its analysis, it immensely shortens the time required for data processing. These computer programs are segment of the information and communication technologies (TIC) and the management information systems (MIS). The best way of transmitting what is known as a new technology within the dairy sector is demonstrating that it has important advantages related to the efficiency, efficacy, and income of a dairy farm.

Types Of Record Keeping in Dairy Farm

There are different types of dairy farm records that a farmer should keep to run a successful farm business. It may vary from farm to farm depending on the size of the herd, farmers' preferences and the importance of record keeping. Generally, types of records maintained in dairy farm include:

► Identification of Cattle

Animals may be identified by their breed's name or a number depending on the preference of the owner. A better herd recording system will include identification of every animal as each calf as soon as possible after birth. In addition to the identification name or number, the calf birth date, its size, name and its sire and dam's identification number must be recorded.

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➤ Financial Records

Financial records consist total costs of production (expenditure records) which includes costs of equipment, land, labor payment, farm facilities of farm and sales record. Sale records include are used to keep a record of all sales made from farm produce. In other cases, these records may project cash flow for the next month, year or other period of time using reasonably valid assumptions of future prices and yields.

➤ Production Records

Production records contains details of all farmers used to document everything that is produced. on the farm. These records are maintained and kept every day and analyzed weekly, monthly and yearly. Production records are necessary since farmers everyday decisions based on these values. Production record play important role to cull the least profitable animal, make precise management decisions, for greatest returns and selection of the animals with greater returns and genetic producing ability.

➤ Record of Agricultural Inputs

Maintained especially in extensive and semi-intensive dairy farm, this record helps to monitor all agricultural inputs used on the fields such as fertilizers, seeds etc. The record often also contains the purchased amount, amount that has been used, and what is remaining.

➤ Records of Animal Feeds

This record is used for documentation of keeping an inventory of the types of animal feed and the quantity purchased, used, and also quantity in stock on a daily basis. This record will help keep a track of the amount of feed that is provided for the animals.

➤ Daily Farm Records

These are the records of all important daily activities and events that occurs on the farm. These records help the farmer keep track of all past farming activities and help to form plan for future activities.

➤ Workers and Vehicle Records

Worker's record is used to keep the record of staffs. It is also known as labor record while vehicle record is a record of all vehicles used on the farm, petrol and oil used, and also any repairs and servicing and the dates of the repair or servicing.



Financial Statements and List of Required Records

| Statement | Records Required |
|---------------------|--|
| Balance Sheet | Farm Assets Cost & Value Farm & Personal Asset Changes Livestock, Crop & Other Product Inventories Loan Balances |
| Cash Flow | Farm Income and Expenses Non-Farm Income & Expenses Debt Payments |
| Enterprise Analysis | Farm Income and Expenses Livestock & Crop Yields |
| Income Statement | Farm Income & Expenses Interest Payments Livestock & Grain Inventories Accounts Payable & Receivable |
| Income Taxes | Farm Income & Expenses Non-Farm Income & Expenses Interest Payments Depreciation Schedule |

Record Keeping by Computer

Many farm managers have found maintaining keeping and evaluating farm records as a challenge. However, a number of challenges have been addressed through computerized record-keeping systems. A computer allows the dairy producer to have management reports available for an individual animal and a group. These reports then allow the quality and effectiveness of management to be improved by using information in a condensed form.

Computerized record-keeping system utilizes dairy management software which can be categorized into three different types:

- Simple event and record display program
- Fully-featured management program
- An integrated management programs

A simple event and record display program is designed to just keep and view the records. Whereas, the fully-featured management program, does not only keep records, but also analyzes them. While the integrated management program, is a full featured management program that is incorporated with real time sensors and monitors such as milk flow meters and feeding systems.

The dairy producer should choose a software program that best suits to their needs. The data should allow dairy producers to determine how they compare to other dairy producers so they can determine the various strong and weak points of the farm operation. This comparison allows dairy producers to determine the areas they can most improve in their herd management.



Benefits of Computer Based Record Keeping

Computerized record-keeping system were developed and have been applied in large dairy farms. Once the information is posted in the computer software, reports and analyses can be created, changed and printed. Computerized systems quickly and accurately sort and report a great deal of information. They can also provide monthly or annual summaries for identifying strengths and weaknesses of an operation. Allowing information to be summarized more easily Printing the reports more easily and handling huge data. It helps to give accurate and precise information at faster rate.

Conclusion

Record keeping and their assessment serves an efficient tool for the better performance of the dairy animal and to generate profit from the farm business. It must be done regularly either manually or mechanically but computerized software-based recording is more effective for this purpose.

