

BenguFarm™



ADVANCED LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE
BEEF • GAME • SHEEP • GOATS • PIGS • GENETICS

Newsletter 1/2023

13 January 2023

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To view previous newsletters, go to www.bengufarm.co.za > Downloads > Newsletter.

New Update – BenguFarm BEEF, SHEEP & GOATS, GAME and PIGS

The past eight months, many new features and reports have been developed. See What's New? below for more information.

Please install the new update (v13 January 2023) to ensure you will be able to use all the new and improved features and reports in BenguFarm and get the most value from your program.

- **To update your BenguFarm through the web-update utility in BenguFarm**, go, while your computer is online, in BenguFarm to **File > Update from Web** and follow the instructions.
- If your BenguFarm version is still *before* v16 July 2018 (the version date is displayed at the top of the BenguFarm main window), please contact your BenguFarm agent for help to download and install the new version.

New Update – BenguFarm MOBILE app

Please install the new update (v19 December 2022) to ensure you will be able to use all the new and improved features.

- First ensure you have installed the newest version of the BEEF/SHEEP & GOATS/GAME module – see above.
- **BenguFarm MOBILE for Android:** At the top right of BenguFarm Mobile's main menu, press the three dots and select Check for Update / Kyk vir Opgradering **OR** go on the Android phone / tablet to www.bengufarm.co.za > Downloads > Updates. Download and install the v19 December 2022 version of BenguFarm MOBILE for Android.

- **BenguFarm MOBILE for Apple:** An Apple phone or tablet will automatically download and install the newest update.

What's New in the newest update?

All modules:

- **Important:** A new feature "Synchronization via the "Cloud" has been developed whereby a client can synchronize data on different computers via the "Cloud". There are no additional costs for this. This new feature is still under beta testing, but clients who want to use this feature in the meantime can contact their BeguFarm agent and request that it is activated.
- **Important:** Inbreeding Calculation for Planned Matings: A new option "Calculate Inbreeding for Females born from Multi-sire Matings for Possible Sires" was added. Activate this option if you want to calculate the inbreeding for the selected females born from a multi bull mating, i.e. where the sire is "MULTISIRE" and the bulls concerned are specified. If this option is checked, the inbreeding will be calculated as if each of the multiple bulls is the sire of the female animal and the highest inbreeding for all the given bulls will be displayed. Note that where an animal without a sire, but born from a multi bull mating, appears anywhere else in the pedigree, the calculation will be done as if that sire is unknown.
- **Important:** On the Calving / Lambing window a field "Notes" has been added where *general notes* can be recorded for the calf / lamb in question. Notes recorded here can be viewed on the main screen > Animal View > Notes and on the Add and Edit Animals (Single animal layout) window > Miscellaneous data > Notes. Notes can be included in the My reports > Animal data. Click Report Columns (Layout) and then select General > Notes.
- **Important:** Reports > Matings and Pregnancies: Options added to be able to select mating as well as animal's current pregnancy status. When the mating status options are selected, the animal's pregnancy status is automatically selected, but the user can specify another combination. The worksheet also has the "Success" and "Possible" columns added to the mating. This should make the report more understandable and also give users more control over what they would like to display.
- **Important:** My Reports > Criteria > Genomic tests (e.g. animals tested positive for a certain Myostatin gene) can now be used to filter animals for the report.
- **Important:** File > Support > Change ID Numbers and/or Names: An option "Change for Selection of Animals" was added to change the format of ID numbers and/or names of only a *selected group* of animals (e.g. only active animals or only a certain lambing season). This can be used, for example, where lambs have been recorded on the EID reader without HDM and the user has neglected to specify the HDM during importation.
- **Important:** Other Data > Photos and Documents > An "Add Document for Group of Animals" option was added to link a document to *multiple* animals without having to select the animals one by one.
- My Reports > Report Columns > Last Mating (After Last Calving/Lambing Date): Added field Comments recorded during pregnancy test.
- Settings > Herds > Other: The following settings were added:
 - Auto Alert if updated BeguFarm CLOUD Data Available.
 - Skip Scanning of COM Ports when Connecting to EID Reader.
- Data Send / Import > Send: A feature "Send Electronic EID Reader Files" was added to create a file with visual ID number (VID) and the electronic number (EID) combinations to send it to Tru-Test SRS2 and Tru-Test XRS2 EID readers.
- Purchases window: The order of columns was changed for a more logical layout.
- Sales, Deaths and Culls screen: A column with the animal's age has been added. It is useful to check, for example, carcass classification.
- New filters set up in My Animal Data Reports now display immediately on the main screen's groups filter list.
- On reports with the Display Worksheet option:
 - The number of animals on the worksheet and the number selected are now displayed at the bottom left.
 - A Display Report button has been added to create the report directly from the worksheet without going back to the previous screen.
- Settings > Groups and Camps > Group / Camp > A column "Calf/Lamb" was added. If checked, new calves/lambs recorded on the Calving/Lambing window (on the PC program, Mobile app and EID reader) will automatically be linked to this group.

- A new recording window "Unknown Calvings/Lambings" has been added under Reproduction. This window can be used to create calving/lambing records where no calving/lambing data is available, for example where it is impossible/impractical to record calvings/lambings but want to keep a record of animals that are likely to have calved/ambled, on the basis that they tested positive for pregnancy. Calves/lambs will only be created for cows and heifers/ewes that have been tested for pregnancy and tested positive.
- Existing Matings report: At the bottom of the report, a summary with the total number of females and number of matings for each bull/ram was added.
- File > Update from Web: This feature has been changed to, where applicable, also install the Genetics module's update.
- Camp Activities report: A "Stock Item" column has been added so that it can be seen which stock item in question, if applicable, has been used.
- Data Send / Import > Import > Database > Open File Format (CSV): A warning message has been added to the top of the window that this screen should NOT be used to for example logix files [BEEFDATA_... (Beeste) or SKP_ONT2_... (Sheep & Goats) but using the specific window [Logix Main Data File].
- Link Animals to Group feature added on Sales, Deaths and Culls, Diary and Management Calendar* and Find Duplicate Animals windows. On the Diary and Management Calendar window it will only be displayed when animals are listed on the screen.
- File > Change Active Herd to: The list of herds now displays up to 8 herds without the need to click List All and Select
- Reports > Matings, Pregnancies and Calvings / Lambings > Existing Matings:
 - The column that displayed the Status now displays the Camp
 - At the bottom of the report, the total number of matings per bull / ram is summarized
- To include measures and scores set up on the main screen's Herd Layout at Setup My Columns to Display on My Reports: Animal Data, go to Report Columns (Layout) > My Columns at the bottom of the list. **Please note:** Saved My Reports layouts containing My Columns will not be populated with data due to technical reasons.
- Settings > Procedures: Implant Growth Stimulant added to default list
- Disease Tests report: Titer count added
- Various cosmetic changes.

Beef and Sheep & Goats modules:

- **Important:** Add-Inns > Feedlot Manager:
 - Interest on capital (calculated on animal's purchase price), management costs, (e.g. labour costs) and processing costs (e.g. ear tag, vaccinations, growth stimulant implantation) can now also be recorded. The total of these three items are displayed in the Pen column.
 - Purchases: Costs per Animal (e.g. transport costs not included in purchase price) can now be recorded.
 - Sales and Deaths screen:
 - Carcass Classification (e.g. A2 / A3) can now be recorded
 - Sales and Deaths screen > Income Basis: Option "Per Animal" added.
- **Important:** Main Screen > Herd Layout:
 - If enabled at Display Options > Enable Highlighting and Rank Value, in the BEEF module in the Reproduction section the AFC (Age at First Calving) field of heifers that are older than 36 months and have not yet had a calf on record / and in the SHEEP & GOATS module AFL (Age at First Lambing) field of ewes that are older than 18 months and that do not yet have a lamb on record, will automatically be highlighted in red
 - If enabled at Display Options > Enable Highlighting and Rank Value, the ID No will be displayed on a green background, the sire on a blue background and the dam on a pink background.
 - View Options > Column > Birth: Horn/Poll can be displayed (off by default)
- RTU measurements (Rib fat thickness, Rump fat thickness, Marbling and Eye muscle area) can now be recorded with *two* decimal places on the Weights, Measurements and Scores window. These RTU measurements can also now be imported into BenguFarm by means of the csv format import feature.
- If births are recorded in a commercial herd, the default section of the calf is now Comm instead of NFR

- Settings > Herds > ID Methods and Numbering: The setting "Auto Remove EID when Animal is Sold or Died": This option should only be changed to "No" if EIDs should NOT be removed from animals that are sold or dead, e.g. for traceability purposes. It cannot be changed by the user. Contact your BenguFarm agent to help with this.
- Weights, Measurements and Scores Not Linked to a Test: Teeth Condition has been added to the default list of traits
- With recording of abortions after 7 months, BenguFarm now checks that the DSLC is at least 210 days instead of 269 days in the Beef module and DSLL 120 days instead of 150 days in the Sheep & Goats module.

Beef module:

- Main screen > Animal View:
 - Breeding values table: Logix-imported Inbreeding % are now displayed at the bottom of the window.
 - Genomic Results: The reference number now displays on the screen.
- Data Send / Import > Stud Book/ARC > Birth Notifications. BenguFarm will prevent births from being sent if:
 - The dam is a marked as a commercial cow.
 - The dam was rejected at inspection.
- Logix Direct > Import Missing Animals screen: The number of animals listed on screen is now displayed at the bottom of the window.
- On the Calving window, a field "Group" has been added where the calf can be linked to a group, e.g. to the management group in which the dam is.
- Herds where BreedPlan is the service provider for breeding values:
 - The *carcass* breeding values for EMA, Rib fat, Rump fat, RBY and IMF are now displayed on the main screen.
 - The names of certain breeding values have been changed and, where necessary, translated into Afrikaans.
 - The Observer Code was added in the file with RTU measurements that is sent to the relevant breeders' society
 - Data Import > Open File Format (CSV): Condition and Docility scores can now be imported

Sheep & Goats module:

- **Important:** The Meatmaster breed's sections have been changed from F1, F2, etc. to A, B, etc. **PLEASE NOTE:** Meatmaster breeders must download and re-import all their animals' data from Logix to change the existing animals' sections in BenguFarm.
- **Important:** Add-Inns > Feedlot Manager: Income from wool sold per sheep before sale can be recorded per animal and this is considered for total income per animal.
- **Important:** Main Window > Animal View > Breeding Values: The Breeding Value Indices are now displayed in a separate "Index" column (as in the Beef module).
- **Important:** Weights for Performance Testing window: A "Calculate and Save" button has been added (as in Beef module). The "Save" button will therefore only save the data, i.e. not calculate the indexes.
- Certain breeding values' names have been changed to be consistent with the Logix names.
- Body weights imported with wool data from Logix, are now displayed on the main screen > Animal View > Weights view window.
- Data Import > Open File Format (CSV): Famacha scores can now be imported.

Game module:

- No GAME specific developments were done.

Mobile app:

- **Important:** Move Animals to Other Herd recording screen added

- **Important:** Cow weight at calving can now be recorded on the Calving screen and viewed on the General view window.
- Display Animal > More: A window to look up Procedures has been added.
- Non-active animals born in the last two years are also now synced to the Mobile app.
- Various cosmetic changes.

Genetics module:

- No GENETICS specific developments were done.

Training Courses

Do you and your staff know the BenguFarm program well enough to use it fully for day-to-day management, selection, breeding and marketing? If not, consider it to attend or let your staff attend one of the following BenguFarm training courses:

BEEF and SHEEP & GOATS modules combined courses:

- Introductory course 24-25 January 2023, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 26-27 January 2023, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 21-22 February 2023, Bloemfontein. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 23-24 February 2023, Bloemfontein. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 22-23 March 2023, Pretoria. Presentation in English.
- Introductory course 18-19 April 2023, Howick. Presentation in English.
- Advanced course 20-21 April 2023, Howick. Presentation in English.

GAME module:

- Please contact Leslie Bergh at 082 801 2026 if you are interested in attending a training course.

If you are interested to attend one of these courses yourself or to send some of your staff, please contact Mr. Leslie Bergh at 082 801 2026 or email him at bengufarm@gmail.com and indicate in which course you are interested. He will send you the booking form for the applicable course with the details of the course. The booking forms are also available at bengufarm.co.za > Training.

If you are interested in online training or individual training or a course in another region, please contact us so we can discuss which training option is the best for your needs.

Course dates for other regions will be finalised later.

New manuals

The manuals of the BEEF, SHEEP & GOATS and GAME modules and the MOBILE app were updated to include all new and improved features and reports. To download the latest version of the applicable BenguFarm manual, go in BenguFarm on the main screen to Help > English/Afrikaans Manual OR go to www.bengufarm.co.za > Downloads > Manuals.

Did you know?

Link animals to a Group

Animals can be linked or moved to camps or groups on the Herd View of the main window, all the data recording windows and on report windows where the Display Worksheet option is available. It is simple as selecting the applicable animal(s), click at the bottom of the window on Link Animals to Group, select the applicable group or camp and to Save.

Please note: If animals are moved to or from a group while that group has been selected with the group filter on the Herd View of the main window, the animals in the relevant group will only be updated after the group filter has been switched off (No Group Filter) and the relevant group has been filtered again.

Highlight data on the main screen:

Data on the main screen's Herd Layout can be highlighted, e.g. Cows/ewes with an average inter-calving/lambing period of more than 400 days or days since last calving/lambing more than 400 days. To setup highlighting as well as ranking values for the selected criteria, on the main screen Herd Layout go to Display Options and click on Setup Herd Layout Highlighting and Rank Values (icon with small squares with different colors). Use the Help function if necessary. **Please note:** If Highlighting Relief and Rank Values is checked, the field AFC (Age at First Calving) of females that are older than 36 months and do not yet have a calf on record / AFL (Age at First Lambing) of females that are older than 18 months and do not yet have a lamb on record, automatically highlighted in red. The columns IDNr, Sire and Dam are also automatically highlighted green, blue and pink respectively. Under the Pregnancy section, the Expected Calving/Lambing Date will automatically be highlighted in red if it is already more than two weeks past.

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