

# BenguFarm™



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

## Newsletter 3/2021

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

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

**Please install the new update (v7 Oct 2021)** 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

Please install the new update (v19 Aug 2021) 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 **OR** go on the Android phone / tablet to [www.bengufarm.co.za](http://www.bengufarm.co.za) > Downloads > Updates. Download and install the 19 Aug 2021 version of BenguFarm MOBILE for Android.
- **BenguFarm MOBILE for Apple:** An Apple phone or tablet will automatically download and install the newest update.

## New Update – BenguFarm GENETICS

Please install the new update (v14 Sep 2021) 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.
- **To update your BenguFarm GENETICS module,** go to [www.bengufarm.co.za](http://www.bengufarm.co.za) > Downloads > Updates. Download and install the 14 Sep 2021 version of BenguFarm GENETICS.

## What's New in the newest update?

### All modules:

- **Important:** New report Livestock Removal Certificate added [Reports > Purchases, Auctions, Sales, Deaths and Culls > Livestock Removal Certificate]
- **Important:** A default group category (e.g. Management Groups) can now be set per herd [Settings > Herds > Other > Default Group Category]
- **Important:** Birth report:
  - Option to sort by Dam added
  - Summary of number and percentage calves/lambs alive, abortions, stillbirths, died after birth, etc. added (Tip: Remember to switch on the non-active filter when creating the report)
- **Important:** Link Animals to Group feature added on the following screens: Purchases; Inbreeding Calculation for Planned Matings; Synchronisation; Vaccinations, Dosing, Dips and Supplements; Diseases, Injuries and Treatments; Disease Tests; Move Animals to Another Herd; Procedures; Animal Sightings
- **Important:** Choose Animals window:
  - Pregnant filter: "No or Not Examined" option added. This option will list female animals that are not pregnant or not examined and that are older than the Minimum Age at First Mating setting
  - A filter Last Mating From [date] To [date] has been added. The purpose is to be able to select only cows/ewes that were mated in a certain period
- **Important:** Calving/Lambing window > Sire (Mating) > Expected Calving/Lambing Date: The possible calving/lambing *period* (Calving/Lambing From date and Calving/Lambing To date) is now displayed. It is (as always) based on the Minimum and Maximum Period Pregnancy settings at Settings > Herds > Matings, Pregnancies and Calvings/Lambings. This will make it easier to select the most probable mating where there is more than one mating on record
- **Important:** Weights, Measurements and Scores not linked to a Test window: The previous weight previous weigh date, gain and ADG are now displayed when capturing new weights
- To select an animal to display on the main window, instead of clicking on the animal list button (pink or blue box at the top left of the main window), you can now press Ctrl+Z on the keyboard to open the list of animals. The animal can be chosen from the list or the IDNr can simply be typed
- Births report: The non-active animal filter is now turned *on* by default to ensure that the percentage of abortions, stillborn calves/lambs and animals died shortly after birth summary is correct
- Foster dam/Foster Pens:

- Can now be recorded on the lambing/calving window
- Can now view on the main window > Herd View > Birth section (disabled by default)
- Main window's Herd View:
  - Weight Type column added in the Weights section. It is disabled by default
  - View Options: An option "Display All Columns" has been added
  - Display Options > Activate My Columns > Set Up My Columns to Display: At Data Type, Disease Tests has been added as an option
- Sales, Deaths and Culls report: Option to sort by Sold To added
- Sale Catalogue report: At Save Animals Selection, can now select Culls and Sale Groups category
- Disease Tests report: Option "Display Worksheet" added. With this option animals can be sorted, filtered and linked to groups
- Weigh list: Option added to print list in "landscape" format
- Weights and Gains Report: The Display Worksheet is now available with all the options to include weights
- Purchases window and report: Costs per Animal added (for recording e.g. transport costs)
- Management Calendar > Period Type: Days after Arrival on Farm (Purchase) added to remind, for example, to do vaccinations a certain number of days after arrival on farm/in the feedlot
- Unistel DNA Service Request Form:
  - Updated with latest Unistel changes
  - **Important:** Send Results to Breeders' Association  Owner  Contact Person  options added on the window. **If you are a stud breeder, tick the Breeders' Association box to ensure the results are sent to your breeders' society and/or SA Stud Book.**
- Vaccinations, Dosings and Supplements report: The comments now also print on the report

### **Beef and Sheep & Goats modules:**

- Feedlot Manager: Can now specify when each animal arrived in the feedlot. Where no date is selected (default), the feedlot start period is used in calculations
- CSV format data import: Dressing Percentage and Carcass Classification fields added

### **Beef module:**

- **Important:** Logix breeding values names changed: Age first calving > Heifer Fertility; Inter-calving period > Cow Fertility; Meat Yield > Red Meat Production
- **Important:** Logix Direct > Import DNA Parentage: Verified parents are now automatically tagged with the DNA icon on the pedigree
- Data Send/Receive > Logix Direct > Import Breeding Values: The Breed and Herd averages are now also imported with the animals' breeding values and appears on the main screen's Animal Layout as soon as the screen is refreshed
- Inbreeding Calculation for Planned Mating: If a heifer is selected from a heifer and bull calf twins, a warning will be given that the heifer is probably infertile (a "Queen")
- Genomic results:
  - Additional Myostatin genes for which testing is now also being done, added
  - Genomic recording window, main screen view window and My Reports were changed so that color results are recorded and displayed according to the genomic results as provided by Studbook. Select the colour and dilution options from the menu and enter the gene codes
- Progeny Summary report > Pedigree section: The inbreeding percentage is now displayed next to the animal's number
- Weights for Performance Testing window > Ultrasonic Measurements > MyLab OneVET added to the list of scanning systems
- Measurements and Scores report: The condition scores now display with the decimal point, e.g. 3.5

## Sheep & Goats module:

- **Important:** Data Send/Receive > Receive > Studbook/ARC > Breeding values as well as Logix Direct > Import Meat/Wool Breeding Values: The Breed and Herd averages are now also imported with the animals' breeding values
- **Important:** Birth report:
  - Number and percentage of *lambs* born as single, twins and triplets+ summary added
  - Number and percentage of *ewes* that had singles, twins and triplets + summary added
- **Important:** Matings and Pregnancies report: # Foetuses / # Animals Pregnant: \_\_.\_% calculation added at the bottom of the report
- **Important:** Ewe Productivity Selection report:
  - An option has been added to Select Animals with which only ewes born in a certain lambing season or in a certain group/camp can be selected
  - The lambing season in which the ewe was *born* is now also displayed in the report
- Main window > Animal Layout > Wool Data: The last recorded Body Weight and Wool Weight values are now displayed (as on the Herd Layout)
- Classing List - Meat indexes: Logix-processed indexes are displayed in bold – as on the Sale Catalogue
- Certain breeding values have been renamed to align with the new names in Logix
- In the Afrikaner sheep breed the sub-breed can now be chosen as Namaqua Afrikaner or Ronderib Afrikaner

## Game module:

- None Game specific additions/changes.

## Mobile app:

- **Important:** The age of an animal can now be displayed on any recording window. Go to Edit Tasks, select the relevant task, click + and select View: Animal Age.
- An animal's foster dam can now be viewed on the View Animal > General
- Beef module: The genomic results can now be viewed
- Foster dam can now be recorded on the Lambing window

## Genetics module:

- **Important:** Synchronisation window: An option has been added where you can choose whether to work with breeding values or breeding value *indices* (Breeding value indices are recommended, if available)
- **Important:** Mating Runs window:
  - Block Matings (General): Blocking has been added for Myostatin (double muscling) genomic results. Click on the info button for more explanation
  - Results Graph: If breeding value *indices* are selected with synchronisation, values are displayed as deviation from breed average
  - Functions > Send Matings to Herd Management Program: Link Animals to Group feature added
- **Important:** Provision has been made for the additional breeding values that were not previously available in the Genetic module
- Compile Breeding Objectives window: If breeding value indices are selected with synchronisation, the descriptions of breeding values are not displayed

## 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 module:**

- Introductory course 12-13 October 2021, Paarl. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 14-15 October 2021, Paarl. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 26-27 October 2021, Upington. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 28-29 October 2021, Upington. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 9-10 November 2021, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 11-12 November 2021, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 23-24 November 2021, Howick. Presentation in English.
- Advanced course 25-26 November 2021, Howick. Presentation in English.

## **SHEEP & GOATS module:**

- Introductory course 12-13 October 2021, Paarl. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 14-15 October 2021, Paarl. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 26-27 October 2021, Upington. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 28-29 October 2021, Upington. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 9-10 November 2021, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 11-12 November 2021, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 23-24 November 2021, Howick. Presentation in English.
- Advanced course 25-26 November 2021, 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](mailto: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](http://bengufarm.co.za) > Training.

## **New manuals**

The manuals of the BEEF, SHEEP & GOATS, GAME and GENETICS 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](http://www.bengufarm.co.za) > Downloads > Manuals.

## **Did you know?**

Most, if not all, BenguFarm users probably know by this time that main window has two options, namely the Herd View and the Animal View. The Herd View is a very popular option, not only to look up important data of a group of animals in table format, but numerous other very useful features. Please read below and familiarize yourself with everything you can do on the Herd Layout – you will definitely not regret it.

- **To switch between the two options**, click on the left side of the window on Herd View or Animal View.
- **To view the new/updated data**, click on Refresh Screen.
- **To fully display data in columns**, click on Auto Width.
- **To select which data should be displayed**, click Display Options at the bottom of the screen and select the relevant sections or fields.
  - **To highlight certain animal data** (e.g. cows with an average inter-calving period of more than 400 days) as well as setting up rank values for the selected criteria, click on Setup Herd Layout Highlighting (icon with small squares with different colours). Use the **Help** function if necessary.

- **To display columns for Vaccinations, Dosings & Supplements, Traits** (e.g. condition score, general appearance score), **Procedures** (e.g. castrate, tail docking) **and/or Additional Weights**, click on the Set Up My Columns to Display (icon at the top).
- **To save the column selections and highlighting options as default for the particular herd**, click on Save Options as Herd Default under the heading Save/Load Layout. The saved options will automatically load the next time the herd is opened.
- **To save a layout for re-use**, give it a name at Save Layout As under the heading Save/Load Layout and click on the Save icon.
- **To load a saved layout**, select the particular layout at Load Saved Layout and click on the Load icon.
- **Please note:** Management groups column: If an animal is linked to more than one management group, only one of the groups will be displayed.
- **To create a report of the data displayed in the Herd View**, click on Display Report. **Please note:** All columns and all animals will be included in the report. Click on View Options to select and deselect columns you wish to include in the report. Use the filters at the top of the window to change the selection of animals which should be included in the report.
- **To view a specific animal's (or sire or dam) data in the Animal View main screen layout**, click on the relevant animal's ID number. To return to the relevant animal in the Herd View, click on the Herd View link.
- **To group records**, click on the column heading and hold the mouse button. Now move the mouse to the open section at the top of the report where there is written "Drag a column header here to group by that column" and release the mouse button. The column name will now be displayed in this open section. To remove the group, right click on the column heading and select "UnGroup".
- **To sort records**, click on the appropriate column heading. To sort in the reverse order, click a second time on the column heading. To sort by multiple columns at once, hold the SHIFT key on the keyboard and click on the column headings.
- **To filter records**, click on the right of a column heading on the filter button. A list of all the values that appear in that column will be displayed. To display only records that have a specific value, click on that value. You can also click on "(Custom)". A screen will open where, for example, you can select to display all records with a value greater than a certain value. Note that more than one column can be filtered at a time. To remove a specific column's filter, click "(All)" at the filter options of that column.
- **To temporarily move a column to another position in the table**, click on the column's heading and drag it to where it should be placed and drop it. When the relevant screen is closed and reopened, such a column will be displayed again in its original location.
- **To temporarily remove a column from a screen**, click on that column's heading and drag it until it displays a large cross and drop it. When the relevant screen is closed and reopened, such a column will be displayed again.
- **To record certain data** (e.g. Natural Matings, Artificial Inseminations, Edit Animals (Table Layout) or Sales, Deaths and Culls) **for a group of animals**, mark the animals in the "S" column and select the appropriate recording screen from the top menu or click on the corresponding icon.
- **To link animals to a group**, mark the animals in the "S" column and click Link Animals to Group.
- **To display animals in the My Reports screen**, mark the animals in the "S" column and click Display in My Reports.
- **To copy the data to your "Clipboard"**, click Copy to Clipboard.
- For step-by-step help, go in the main menu to **Help** > Help with Main Window > Herd View.

**Tip: To select the Herd View** (instead of the Animal View) **as the default layout for the main window**, go to Display and click the Use Herd View as Default Main Window Layout option.



## Tips

### Duplicate animals:

- BenguFarm will not normally allow duplicate animal records (animals with the same IDnr) to be created, but when an animal record was created by hand or imported from some file and then also imported from another file, it is possible in certain circumstances that duplicate records may arise.
- **To search for animals with the same visual or electronic ID (EID) number or computer number**, go to File > Support > Find Duplicate Animals. **Please note:** Animals with duplicate numbers are searched for across all herds in the applicable database.
- If there are animals in the *same herd* with the same ID number, this can lead to several problems. If there are really two animals with the same ID number (e.g. one purchased and one self-bred), add a letter at the back of one of the animal's number to make the animals' numbers unique, e.g. 190022A.
- **To create a report of duplicate animals**, click on Display Report.
- **Duplicate animal records can be corrected manually** by first determining what data (general animal data, pedigree data, progeny data, weights, etc.) differ between the two animals involved, secondly completing one of the two animals' data and then thirdly delete the other animal. However, it is a long and arduous process, especially when there are many such duplicate animals. However, there is an administrative function in BenguFarm [File > Support > Administrative Functions] that performs this merge process programmatically. To access the Administrative Functions, a password is needed. Contact your BenguFarm agent for assistance using this administrative function to merge duplicate animal records into BenguFarm and delete the other record.

### Windows 7:

Please note that Windows 7 is no longer supported by Microsoft. If you still have a PS/laptop running on Windows 7, we advise you to upgrade to Windows 10.

If you are considering buying a new computer, please visit [www.bengufarm.co.za](http://www.bengufarm.co.za) > Info > Computer Requirements which specifications are recommended for BenguFarm.

### Power supply for your laptop:

Your BenguFarm database could be corrupted if you encounter a power failure while working on BenguFarm. For this reason, we advise you to run your laptop, whenever possible, on the main power supply to ensure that the laptop's battery is always fully charged.

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