

BenguFarm™



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

Newsletter 4/2019

22 December 2019

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

BenguFarm MOBILE iOS (Apple) app

BenguFarm-MOBILE for the iOS operating system, the long-awaited Apple app, was released the 4th December. BenguFarm-MOBILE is an application installed independently of BenguFarm on a smartphone or tablet. No more papers or books when recording data at the crush or in the field – do all your recording on the app and sync it afterwards to BenguFarm on your PC/laptop.

For more info on BenguFarm-MOBILE and/or to order it, reply to the email with which this newsletter was sent or contact our benguFarm agent or go to www.bengufarm.co.za > Order.

New Update

We are excited about the new features and reports that have recently been developed. See What's New? below for more information.

Please install the update (v19 December 2019) to ensure you will be able to use all the new and improved features and reports in BenguFarm in order to get the most value from your program.

- **If your BenguFarm version is currently v16 July 2018 or later** (the version date is displayed at the top of the BenguFarm main window), you can update 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, please contact your BenguFarm agent for help to download and install the newest version.**

What's New in the 19 December 2019 update?

All modules:

- **IMPORTANT:** Heifers and Cows/Young Ewes and Ewes for Pregnancy Test recording list: Option Display Period Since Mating As Days/Weeks/Months.
- **IMPORTANT:** Settings > Herds > ID Methods and Numbering: Apply Sequencing Settings of First Herd to All Herds.
- **IMPORTANT, specifically for sheep and goat farmers:** Calculate Average Dam Weaning Weight Ratio based on Individual Animals (i.e. the weaning weights are not added for multiple births). We recommend that this option be OFF, i.e. for multiple births the weaning weights are added in the calculation. To check or change this setting, go Settings > Herds > Performance Testing > Calculate Average Dam Weaning Weight Ratios based on Individual Animals. Please note that you must recalculate summary information after changing this setting.
- Main Screen > Herd Layout:
 - Breed (Species for GAME module), Birth Status (single, twins, triplet), Rearing Status (only SHEEP & GOATS module), % Calves/Lambs Weaned and Last Calf/Lamb's ID number, ADG and FCR indexes (only BEEF module) columns added. To add these columns to the default Herd Layout, go to View Options, select the applicable fields and click on Save Options as Herd Default.
 - 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).
 - Counter added (bottom left of screen) to indicate how many animals are selected (also on some other screens where animals can be selected).
- Existing matings report:
 - Multi-bull matings: Option "Print Multiple Bulls as Multi-Sire on Single Line" added.
 - Option to sort by Mating Type (Natural, AI) added.
- Matings and Pregnancy report: Select animals and Link Animals to Group feature added. This is handy to link cows/ewes to management groups, e.g. Not Pregnant, Pregnant Single, Pregnant Twins, etc.
- Tru-Test XR5000 Integration screen:
 - Can now compare session also with other groups (additional to camps)
 - Option added to save animals in a session as Sightings
- RFID Experts APR500 EID Reader screen:
 - Edit Tasks > Calving/Lambing: Calf/Lamb Status at birth (alive/abortion/still born/died after birth) added at task 8014.
 - Edit Tasks > Matings: Task 8030 added. This task allows to scan the bull/ram's EID instead of choosing it from the breeding bull/ram list on the APR500.
 - APR500: Option to save Animals Seen on BenguFarm from other task, e.g. if Vaccinations is recorded, Animal Sightings can be saved for the same animals.
 - Calving import from APR500: Weigh dates for performance testing are calculated automatically.
- Vaccinations, Dosing, Dip and Supplements screen:
 - If stock is set up and batch nr is filled in, cost is calculated automatically.
 - Option to Calculate Dosage Based on Last Animal Weight added.
- My Reports > Report Columns (Layout): Last Procedure section added
- ZooOmics DNA Services request form added and Clinomics removed.
- Speed improvement with Recalculate Summary Data as well as Logix Main Data File importation.
- Existing Matings report: Option to sort by Mating Type (Natural, AI) added.
- Link Animals to a Group function added on the Pregnancy Tests, Weights for Performance Testing and Wool Data for Performance Testing screens.
- Heifers and Cows Calved / Not Calved Yet // Maiden Ewes and Ewes Lamed / Not Lamed Yet report: Option added to list calves with specific birth status (e.g. abortions).

- Sales, Deaths and Culls screen: Recalculate Income per Animal feature added. This is to be used when the Income per kg and/or the Animal Weight and/or the Carcass Weight has been changed.
- Inbreeding Calculation for Planned Matings screen: Feature added to select a ram(s) and ewes and record matings for those combinations directly from this screen. If a female animal(s) is selected with more than one bull, a warning will be displayed that the relevant mating(s) will be saved as a multi-bull/ram mating.
- Breedable Heifers and Cows report: An option "Include Pregnant Animals about to Calf in next ... # Days" was added to the General Selection Criteria. With this option selected, pregnant animals that have not yet calved/lambled but should be mated soon after calving/lambing are also included in the report.
- General Herd Expenditures screen: Provision has been made to record general income (e.g. wool sales) on this screen. The screen's name was changed to General Herd Income and Expenditures. Similarly, the General Herd Expenditure report's name was also changed to General Herd Income and Expenditure.

BEEF Module:

- **IMPORTANT for stud breeders:** Genomic testing results can now be recorded in BenguFarm [Animals > Genomic Results]. It can also be viewed on the main screen [Animal View > Genomic Results]. To display this view screen, go to Display > Select Main Screen Animal Layout View Screens > Genomic Results.
- Weights and Traits not linked to a Test > Traits > Condition score: Can now record scores with 0.5 intervals (e.g. 0.5; 1.0; 1.5; 2.0; 2.5; 3.0; ...)

SHEEP & GOATS Module:

- **IMPORTANT for stud breeders:** Provision has been made for additional breeding values provided by SA Studbook. The new breeding values can be viewed on the animal and herd layout on the main screen as well as on My Reports: Animal data.
- Matings and Pregnancy report: Summary added for Percentage Ewes pregnant with a Single, Twins and Triplets.
- **Döhne breed:**
 - Performance Test Results report: Grade added.
 - Main Screen > Animal Layout > Progeny > W2 Weight: Columns added for W2 Grade (W2) and Grade (Wool 1).
 - Main Screen > Herd Layout: Section Wool 1 added with Grade as column.
 - My Reports > Wean (W2) Weight: Column for Grade added.
 - Animal Summary report > Progeny: Choose own layout to display Grade.
 - Society-specific format for sending Matings added [Data Send > Matings > Döhne Merino format will be automatically be selected].
- Open File Format (CSV) data import screen: Advanced Options added for use, when applicable, with import of wool data.
- White Dorper breed added.

GAME Module:

- MolzooLab (University of Johannesburg) DNA Service Request form updated.
- RAU Quagga Zebra species added

Training Courses

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

BEEF module:

- Introductory course 26-27 November 2019, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 11-12 February 2020, Bloemfontein. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 13-14 February 2020, Bloemfontein. Presentation in Afrikaans.

- Introductory course 3-4 March 2020, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 5-6 March 2020, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.

SHEEP & GOATS module:

- Introductory course 21-22 January 2020, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 23-24 January 2020, Pretoria. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Introductory course 4-5 February 2020, Bloemfontein. Presentation in Afrikaans.
- Advanced course 6-7 February 2020, Bloemfontein. Presentation in Afrikaans.

GAME module:

- Busy with planning of courses for 2020 – dates to be announced later.

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 e-mail him at leslie.bergh@vodamail.co.za 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 www.bengufarm.co.za > Training.

New manuals

The manuals of the BEEF, SHEEP & GOATS and GAME modules 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?

The BenguFarm main screen has two options, namely the Herd View and the Animal View. To switch between the two options, click on the left side of the screen on Herd View or Animal View.

The Herd View is a VERY popular option, not only to display certain important data of a group of animals in table format, but many other very useful features.

- **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), 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 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.

Offices closed

Please note that most of our staff is on leave from 16 December to 1 January. If you need assistance during this period and your agent is not available, try any of the other agents. Visit www.bengufarm.co.za > Contact for a list of our agents.

We would like to thank all our customers for their support during 2019. It was a pleasure to be of service to you.

For those who are fortunate to go on holiday during December: May you have a safe trip and a wonderful holiday with your families. May all of us be aware this Christmas of the love of Jesus for us and what Christmas is really about. May 2020 be a wonderful year filled with peace, joy, hope, cheerfulness and, above all, love for you and your loved ones.

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