



LIMOUSIN PERFORMANCE RECORDING

Making Performance Recording Easy!

Most records required for herd recording are already collected for registration and/or management purposes. It really is just a case of making the information available to us. However, some steps can be taken to simplify the process:

- 1. Collect records around other tasks.** There is no need to make a special job of weighings in particular if they can be made to coincide with a time when cattle are being handled anyway. Many herds ensure they weigh at weaning, housing and spring turnout, which can cover three of the ideal four weighings in the year.
- 2. Recording birth weights is not essential.** Although having the data is important, where systems are extensive or there are potential difficulties with aggressive cows, the evaluation will work without it. (Without an actual measurement, a Birth Weight EBV would still be predicted using its known correlations with the other traits that are measured e.g. growth rate, calving ease, gestation length etc. Where this occurs, the accuracy of the EBV will be lower than if the trait had been measured).
- 3. Only collect additional data when there is sufficient need.** In particular, it is recommended that scanning should only be carried out when there are at least five animals in the management group (or 'contemporary group'). Too few animals in a group means an insufficient number is available for comparison purposes which limits the value of the data in the evaluation.
- 4. Consider the use of labour saving devices,** particularly in larger herds, such as electronic weigh scales and tags.
- 5. Involve your staff.** Breeding decisions and the associated work is often carried out wholly or partly by farm staff. Their support is crucial and should never be underestimated. Whoever is involved in collecting the records needs to be aware of the importance of accuracy and timeliness and ideally be made party to the results of their efforts.

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