FarmLink 4

Advanced management of traceability and cattle feeding

FL4

Rationing & Milk Tracking Software

Rationing

Traceability

FarmLink is a software for PC, working with Windows in combination with Perin Weighmaster's weighing systems (models Farm Scale: 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, Visual 2000). These weighing systems are usually installed on "UNIFEED" mixer wagons of several makes or on mills for food preparation.

The software can be installed on new or already existing mixers (even if originally preset with scales of other makes), without having to change the load cells. FarmLink is an important help to create reports that are essential to manage Quality, moreover it is indispensable for the farms which want to attest the traceability of livestock feeding.

The targets of the program are:

- optimization of raw material management for animal feeding
- optimization of the use of manpower employed for the preparation of rations
- improvement of the quality of the ration distributed to the individual cattle groups with relevant increase of the quantity and quality of milk or meat produced
- improvement of the health of the animal
- traceability of the food distributed to the individual cattle groups
- automatic calculation of IOFC (Income Over Feed Cost)
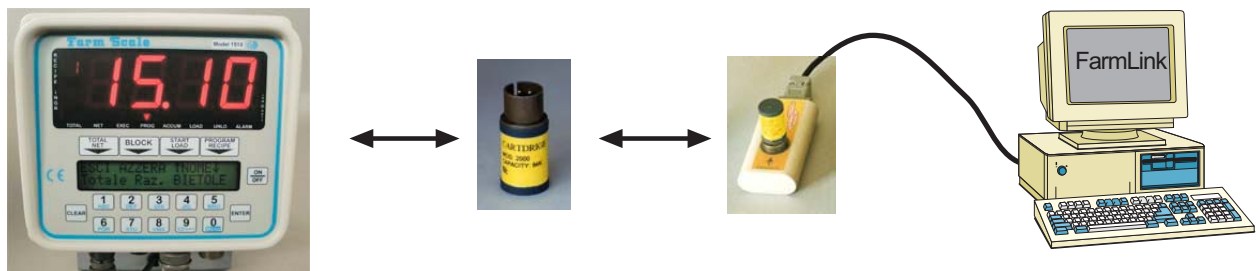- minimizing of expenses and wastes

Stock

Distributed D.M.

Check loading/unloading

The program manages all the operations carried out by the mixer wagon (loadings/unloadings and mixing times); moreover it records all the rations distributed to the different groups and their ingredients. For each product it is possible to manage information about the stock on hand, the price per kg, the minimum stock, the percentage of dry matter and loading/unloading operations. The operations of the mixing wagon are stored with the following information: date and time of mixing, real and theoretical quantities, execution times, differences per cent between real and programmed quantities. After recording, it is possible to get reports of the consumptions relative to any period; the remaining autonomy (in days) is calculated for any single food, with automatic warning in case the stocks decrease. Besides it is possible to obtain reports on the real costs of employed foods and labour. You create then a computerized traceability system without having to do handpaper compilation. The primary function of the system, that is the transfer of recipes and the control of the actions of the wagon, has been enriched with some innovations: the possibility to set the mixing time for each product introduced into the mixer, the function of recipe with integration which allows to execute a base ration to distribute for example to milk cows and then add other poorer products to distribute to dry cows.

The operating principle of FarmLink is based on the cartridge, movable memory particularly resistant and conceived for severe environments such as the farm. The functions of the cartridge are mainly two: the first one allows to "store" the theoretical data coming from the program by means of a proper interface. The second one allows to record all the operations carried out by the feeder: real consumptions, starting date/time of loadings/unloadings and relevant duration of the operation.

When cartridge reading is carried out by the PC, the consumed products (real quantities) are automatically cancelled from the stocks, the used lot is traced and a warning is given when minimum stock is reached. After having recorded data, economical and analytical elaborations can be done.

FarmLink is the result of a long experience, acquired thanks to our presence in the agricultural field and to the suggestions of users and operators. While developing the software, great importance has been given to simplicity. As a matter of fact, a graphic interface - easy and immediate to use - has been created, considering above all that the average user is not usually a data processing expert.

FarmLink allows farmers and dieticians to measure, with simplicity and reliability, the parameters which are essential if they want to take correct decisions on feeding in order to make cows more and more efficient.

Composition of KIT FarmLink

The FarmLink system is composed of: weighing system on feeder; cartridge memory; datalinker interface for the connection to the PC; software FarmLink4 for PC.

AVAILABLE WEIGHT INDICATORS

Weight indicator Mod. 1500/1510:
20 recipes (99 for Mod. 1520) with 20 ingredients and 10 unloadings each. Numeric visualization of information with well-visible digits and extra alphanumeric display.

Weight indicator Mod. 1510/1530:
20 recipes (99 for Mod. 1530) with 20 ingredients and 10 unloadings each. Numeric visualization of information with red digits on black screen and extra alphanumeric display.

Weight indicators 1500 and 1510 can work with cartridges 64K and 256K, weight indicators 1520 and 1530 with cartridges 256K.

MEMORY UNITS

Memories of 64K and 256K are available and can contain respectively 680 and 3800 operations. By operation we mean the storage of a loading or unloading. (e.g.: using 5 daily recipes, each composed of 8 ingredients, a total of 40 daily operations is reached; then if a 64K cartridge is used, a capacity of 17 days will be achieved; within this period the cartridge has to be read and unloaded).

DATALINKER AND PC

The datalinker interface allows you to create a connection to the PC where the software is installed. It will therefore be possible to read and write the cartridge. The interface makes use of the USB output (which is normally present on each computer), without having to install any other device. The datalinker does not need any other power supply source.

FarmLink4 is distributed in two versions: Light and Plus.
"Light" has the base function of control of consumptions and executing times of the mixing wagon; "Plus" has the addition of food traceability and several advanced elaborations up to the automatic calculation of "IOFC".

Characteristics of the two versions of the program

	LIGHT Version	PLUS Version
Traceability management of outgoing products	yes	yes
Management of dry matter	yes	yes
Management of consumptions	yes	yes
Management of integration	yes	yes
Management of costs	yes	yes
Programming rations per animal	yes	yes
Checking execution times	yes	yes
Internet updating	yes	yes
Programming rations in %	NO	yes
Management of traceability of incoming lots	NO	yes
Management of milk/meat production	NO	yes
Management of customers/suppliers	NO	yes
Management of company locations	NO	yes
Management of animal categories	NO	yes
Management of orders	NO	yes
Management of premixes	NO	yes