

## Q and A's for Cowbytes Release

March 15, 2012

Why was Cowbytes version 5.3.1 required?

Changes from the CowBytes 4.x program to the 5.x version were needed to make the program compatible with the Microsoft Vista and Microsoft Windows 7 operating systems. Minor modifications have been made to the mechanics of the program itself, with the intent to make the program more “user” friendly. Ration files and feed tables from version 4.x are compatible with the new version.

There are many improvements on the use and function of the new Cowbytes 5. One of the key features is the interaction and menu use is very similar to version 4. Current owners of Cowbytes version 4 will find the new version of Cowbytes familiar, easy to use, and navigate.

What's new in this release?

### **Yardage calculator:**

Previous versions of Cowbytes calculated feed costs for individual animals per day, or pen feed costs per day or for the feeding period. Cost of gain was printed on the ration report.

On the Feeding Information page, yardage can be included to determine a breakeven cost. A Yardage Calculator has been added to the program. This allows the user to determine their actual yardage cost.

### **Math calculator:**

For convenience, a simple math calculator was included in the program.

### **Ration Summary Report:**

The order in which individual rations are placed in the summary report can be adjusted. In previous versions, this was not possible. When feed names were

modified and used in rations, the summary report did not compile these values properly in the “Total amounts and costs.” This problem has been resolved.

### **Nutrients from Water:**

The water section has been updated with new recommendations on the effects of different levels of dissolved minerals in the water. The dissolved minerals can be added to the minerals contained in the feeds used in the ration. This is useful when investigating mineral deficiencies and mineral interaction problems.

In the previous version; when water was included in the ration, the amount of a nutrient contributed was added to the contribution from the feed. The % of diet concentration did not reflect this change. This has been corrected.

### **Help Section:**

Completely reviewed and updated with new information and recommendations. There are 84 pages of information on beef cattle nutrition and how to use Cowbytes.

### **Feed Table:**

The nutrient composition of the feeds has been updated and a number of new feeds have been added. A new Note Section has been added to each feed. Feeding information and precautions have been added to many of the feeds. The Note Section can be edited and is saved with each feed.

### **Ration Note Section:**

The Quick Report, Ration Report and Ration and Manure Report have a new Note Section. Feeding recommendations and other advice can be added and saved with each Ration. The notes are printed on each report. 400 character maximum.

### **Batch Scale Reports:**

The report will print the nutrient profile of the Batch Mix in both Dry Matter and As Fed values. This feature is useful if a Feed Label or Feed Tag is required for a feed mix.

### **Modification Section:**

This section now contains a button that will reset all values to their default setting for each class of cattle.

### **Animal Type Section:**

A button has been added to restore the Environmental factors to their default settings.

**Tetany Ratio:**  $K/(Mg + Ca)$  is now calculated in milliequivalents.

**User comfort:** The program has been designed to be more “user friendly”, for example:

- Drop down tabs show all the information eliminating the need to scroll down.
- Additional methods to access rations and the summary file were added to make navigation within the program easier.
- Combining the animal Type screen and the Environmental information onto one page reduces the number of steps required to enter information.
- Winter and summer hair coat depths are now button selections instead of typing in the required value.

Cowbytes version 5

Q & A - Upgrading from Cowbytes version 4 to version 5

1. Will my Cowbytes version 4 Program, Feed Tables and Ration File be erased or changed when I install Cowbytes version 5?

No, Cowbytes version 5 is installed into a new folder and will not affect any of the Cowbytes version 4 files.

2. Are my Cowbytes version 4 Feed Tables and Ration Files compatible with Cowbytes version 5?

Yes, it is suggested to copy the version 4 Feed Tables and Ration Files into the Version 5 folder. When each of these files is opened in version 5, they are automatically converted into version 5 format.

### 3. Where are the files located?

Unless the default folders have been changed by the owner, the following are the normal file locations. .

#### Windows XP

Cowbytes version 4

C:\Program Files\AAFRD\Cowbytes4

Rations Files are saved in the \Rations folder

Cowbytes version 5

C:\Program Files\ARD\Cowbytes5

Rations Files are saved in the \Rations folder

The Manual is located in the \Manual folder

#### Windows Vista and Windows 7

C:\Program Files(x86)\ARD\Cowbytes5

Rations Files are saved in the \Rations folder

The Manual is located in the \Manual folder

The default Feed Table is named **system.fml**

The default Ration File is named **system.cml**

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