Records & Record Keeping

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Objectives

- Understand the importance of record keeping of livestock production operations
- Understand the major components of a record
Whole Herd Record Keeping

- Essential part of good livestock management
  - Production performance analysis
- Essential part of good farm business management
  - Financial performance analysis
- Essential to optimize production and maximize profit
- Simple to implement and use
- Identification of best and poorest management
- Information necessary to make decisions
- Implementation of genetic improvement programs
- Implementation of quality assurance programs
Types of Records

- Hand-written entries in paper books
- Computer entries in electronic spreadsheets
- Computer entries in software programs
  - Most efficient form
  - Quick and easy entries
  - Information storage
  - Analysis of data
  - Generation of detailed production and financial summaries
Components of Records

- Animal identification
- Dam
  - ID
  - Health* – veterinarian, sick, death, test, treatment, prevention, cull
- Culling price
- Breeding
  - Fertility testing*
  - Date
  - Pregnancy detection*
- Birthing
  - Date, ID, birth weight, sex
  - Type
  - Health*
  - Milk

- Nursing
  - Growth or weight
  - Health*

- Weaning
  - Health*
  - Weight

- Weanling
  - Health*
  - Price
  - Carcass yield and grade
- Sire
  - ID
  - Health*
  - Cull price
  - Fertility testing*
  - Breeding

- Animal replacements
  - ID
  - Health*
  - Fertility testing*
  - Breeding

- Feed/supplements

- Property/land improvements

- Taxes/Interest