

# ■ Ranch Manager

## Complete User Manual

Everything you need to manage your ranch efficiently

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# Chapter 1: Getting Started

## Download & Install

Ranch Manager is available on the Apple App Store for iPhone and iPad.

### System Requirements:

- iOS 15.0 or later
- iPhone or iPad
- 50 MB of storage space
- Internet connection for initial setup and sync
- GPS capability for mapping features

## First-Time Setup

When you first open Ranch Manager:

1. **Welcome Screens** - Tap through the introduction to learn about key features
2. **Enable iCloud Sync** - Highly recommended for automatic backup and multi-device access
3. **Grant Location Permissions** - Required for GPS spread tracking and paddock mapping
4. **Dashboard** - You'll land on the main dashboard showing herd overview

# Chapter 2: Livestock Management

## Understanding Animal Types

Ranch Manager tracks three types of animals:

- **Cows** - Female breeding cattle
- **Bulls** - Male breeding cattle
- **Calves** - Young cattle under 8 months or unweaned

## Adding Cows

To add a cow to your herd:

1. Tap the **Livestock** tab at the bottom of the screen
2. Tap the **+ button** in the top right corner
3. Select **Cow** as the animal type
4. Enter information:
  - **Tag Number** (required) - Your identification number
  - **Breed** (recommended) - Select from list or enter custom
  - **Birth Date** (recommended) - App calculates age automatically
  - **Purchase Info** (optional) - Date and price if purchased
  - **Color** (optional) - Visual identification
  - **Sire/Dam** (optional) - Link to parents if in your herd
5. Tap **Save**

## Adding Bulls

Bulls are added using the same process as cows. Bulls can be linked to calves as the sire in breeding and calving records.

## Adding Calves

Calves can be added in two ways:

### Method 1: Through Calving Record (Recommended)

When you record a calving for a cow, the calf is automatically created and linked to the mother. This is the best method as it maintains accurate genealogy.

### Method 2: Manually

Livestock tab → + button → Select 'Calf' → Fill in details → Save

**TIP:** Always link calves to their dam (mother) for automatic herd assignment and better tracking.

## Viewing Animal Details

To view complete information about an animal:

1. Go to the **Livestock** tab
2. Tap on the animal in the list
3. Scroll through to view:
  - Basic information (tag, breed, age, status)
  - Medical records and vaccination history
  - Calving history (for cows)
  - Weight records and growth tracking
  - Sale information (if sold)
  - Breeding information (sire/dam)

# Chapter 3: Herd Management

## Understanding Herds

Herds allow you to organize your cattle by location, age group, or management strategy. You can create unlimited herds and move animals between them as needed.

## Creating Herds

To create a new herd:

1. Livestock tab → Tap **■ Manage Herds**
2. Tap **+ Create New Herd**
3. Enter a descriptive herd name:
  - By location: 'Main Pasture', 'North Field', 'Barn'
  - By age: 'Yearlings', 'Weaned Calves'
  - By status: 'Pregnant', 'Breeding Stock'
4. Tap **Create**

## Assigning Individual Animals

To assign a single animal to a herd:

1. Open the animal's details page
2. Tap **Assign / Change Herd**
3. Select the destination herd from the list
4. The animal is immediately moved to that herd

## Bulk Herd Assignment

To move multiple animals to a herd at once:

1. Livestock tab → Filter by **■ Assign** to see unassigned animals
2. Select animals using the checkboxes
3. Choose destination herd from the dropdown menu
4. Tap **→ Move Animals**
5. All selected animals are moved to the herd

## Automatic Calf Assignment

Unweaned calves automatically stay with their mother's herd. When you move a cow to a different herd, her unweaned calf moves with her. After weaning, calves can be managed independently.

## Renaming Herds

To rename an existing herd:

1. Livestock tab → ■ **Manage Herds**
2. Tap on the herd name you want to change
3. Tap **Rename Herd**
4. Enter the new name and tap **Save**

# Chapter 4: Medical Records & Vaccinations

## Recording Individual Vaccinations

To record a vaccination for a single animal:

1. Open the animal's details page
2. Scroll to the **■ Medical Records** section
3. Tap **+ Add Medical Record**
4. Select **Vaccination** as the record type
5. Choose vaccine from the dropdown menu or enter a custom name
6. Enter:
  - Dosage amount
  - Withholding period (meat/milk withdrawal time)
  - Notes (batch number, location given, etc.)
7. Tap **Save**

The date is automatically set to today but can be changed if recording a past vaccination.

## Pre-Loaded Vaccine List

Ranch Manager includes these common vaccines:

- Bovi-Shield Gold 5 • Vista Once SQ • Pyramid 5
- UltraChoice 7 • Vision 7 • Cavalry 9
- ScourGuard 4KC • Scour Bos 9 • Titanium 5
- Vira Shield 6 • Pulmo-Guard • Autogenous Pinkeye

You can also enter any custom vaccine name.

## Bulk Vaccinations

To vaccinate an entire herd at once:

1. Livestock tab → **■ Manage Herds**
2. Select the herd you want to vaccinate
3. Tap **■ Bulk Vaccinate**
4. Select specific animals or tap **Select All**
5. Choose vaccine and enter details
6. Tap **Apply Vaccination**

**NOTE:** Bulk vaccinations are saved individually to each animal's medical history, so you can review their complete vaccination record later.

## Other Medical Records

In addition to vaccinations, you can record:

- **Treatments** - Antibiotics, medications, injuries
- **Deworming** - Product used and withdrawal period
- **Hoof Trimming** - Maintenance records
- **Other** - Any other health-related notes

# Chapter 5: Calving & Breeding Records

## Recording a Calving

To record when a cow gives birth:

1. Open the cow's details page
2. Tap **+ Add Calving Record**
3. Enter calf information:
  - **Calf Tag Number** (required) - Your ID for the new calf
  - **Sex** (required) - Heifer or Bull calf
  - **Birth Date** (required) - When the calf was born
  - **Birth Weight** (optional) - Weight at birth
  - **Calving Ease** (recommended) - Unassisted, Easy Pull, Hard Pull, or C-Section
  - **Calf Status** (required) - Alive, Stillborn, or Died Shortly After Birth
  - **Notes** (optional) - Any additional details
4. Tap **Save**

The app automatically creates the calf and links it to the mother!

## Tracking Calving Ease

Recording calving ease helps you identify which cows have difficult births. This information is valuable for:

- Breeding decisions (cull cows with repeated difficult calvings)
- Bull selection (some bulls produce larger calves)
- Planning assistance for future calvings

## Weaning Calves

### Individual Weaning:

1. Open the calf's details page
2. Tap **+ Add Weaning Record**
3. Enter weaning date and weaning weight
4. Tap **Save**

### Bulk Weaning:

From the Dashboard, tap ✓ **Bulk Wean Calves**. This allows you to:

1. Select multiple calves to wean at once
2. Enter a common weaning date for all
3. Enter individual weaning weights
4. Tap **Wean Selected** to process all at once

# Chapter 6: Recording Sales

## Selling Individual Animals

To record a sale:

1. Open the animal's details page
2. Tap **+ Add Sale Record**
3. Enter sale information:
  - **Sale Date** (required)
  - **Sale Price** (required) - Total dollar amount
  - **Sale Weight** (optional) - Weight at sale
  - **Buyer Name** (optional) - Who purchased the animal
  - **Notes** (optional) - Sale location, auction details, etc.
4. Tap **Save**

The animal is automatically archived and moved to the 'Sold' filter. It will no longer appear in your active livestock count.

## Bulk Selling Weaned Calves

To sell multiple calves at once:

1. From Dashboard, tap **■ Bulk Sell Weaned Calves**
2. Select the calves you want to sell
3. Enter common sale date
4. Enter individual sale prices and weights
5. Tap **Record Sales**

## Viewing Sales History

To view all sold animals:

1. Livestock tab → Filter dropdown
2. Select **■ Sold**
3. View all animals you've sold with dates and prices

## Revenue Tracking

The Dashboard displays your total revenue from sales. This includes all animals sold with recorded sale prices.

# Chapter 7: Hay Production Management

## Setting Up Paddocks

To create a hay paddock:

1. Tap the **Hay** tab
2. Tap **+ Add Paddock**
3. Enter:
  - **Paddock Name** - e.g., 'North Field', 'River Bottom'
  - **Acreage** - Size of the field
  - **Status** - Active, Resting, or Fertilizing
4. Tap **Save**

## Recording Hay Cuttings

To record when you cut hay:

1. Hay tab → Select the paddock
2. Tap **+ Add Cutting**
3. Enter:
  - **Cutting Number** - 1st Cut, 2nd Cut, or 3rd Cut
  - **Date** - When the hay was cut
  - **Year** - Production year (auto-fills current year)
  - **Bale Count** - Number of bales produced
  - **Tonnage** (optional) - Total tons produced
4. Tap **Save**

## Multi-Year Tracking

Ranch Manager tracks hay production across multiple years. You can:

- Record cuttings for any year
- Compare production year-over-year
- Identify trends in field productivity
- Make informed decisions about fertilizing and field rotation

## Hay Production Reports

To generate a production report:

1. Hay tab → Tap **■ Hay Report**
2. Select the year you want to report on
3. View comprehensive data:
  - Total production by paddock

- Production by cutting number
  - Overall totals for the year
4. Tap **Share** to export as PDF or print

# Chapter 8: USDA Market Prices

## Viewing Current Cattle Prices

Ranch Manager displays live cattle market prices from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

To view current prices:

1. Go to the Hay tab
2. Scroll down to the **Cattle Market Prices** card

## Available Price Data

### Feeder Steers (by weight class):

- 400-500 lbs
- 500-600 lbs
- 600-700 lbs

### Slaughter Cows:

- Breaking Utility and Commercial grade

## Price Updates

Prices are sourced from the USDA National Daily Feeder & Stocker Cattle Summary. The data:

- Updates weekly (typically Monday-Friday when markets are active)
- Is cached for 7 days for offline access
- Can be manually refreshed by tapping the **Refresh** button

## Using Price Data

Use current market prices to:

- Determine the best time to sell feeder calves
- Decide when to cull cows based on slaughter prices
- Estimate the value of your current inventory
- Track price trends over time

# Chapter 9: GPS Features

## GPS Spread Tracking

Track fertilizer, spray, or seeding operations with GPS:

1. Hay tab → Tap **■ Spread Track**
2. Tap **Start Tracking**
3. Your GPS path appears on the satellite map as you drive
4. The app tracks:
  - Your exact path
  - Distance traveled
  - Area covered
5. When finished, tap **Stop Tracking**
6. Enter product applied and any notes
7. Tap **Save** to store the tracking session

**TIP:** GPS works offline! The satellite map is pre-loaded, so you don't need cell service while tracking.

## Viewing Past Tracking Sessions

All saved tracking sessions are available in the Spread Track history. You can review:

- Date of application
- Product used
- Coverage area
- GPS path on satellite map

## Paddock Boundary Mapping

Draw accurate field boundaries using GPS:

1. Hay tab → Select a paddock
2. Tap **Edit Boundary**
3. Walk or drive the perimeter of your field
4. Tap to add GPS points along the fence line
5. Continue around the entire perimeter
6. Tap **Close Boundary** when you return to the start
7. The app automatically calculates acreage
8. Tap **Save Boundary**

## Editing Boundaries

You can refine boundaries by:

- Adding new points to make the boundary more accurate
- Moving existing points by dragging them
- Deleting unwanted points

## Satellite Imagery

All GPS features use high-resolution satellite imagery from Esri. This allows you to:

- See actual field conditions
- Verify fence lines and boundaries
- Identify areas that need attention
- Navigate visually even without cell service

# Chapter 10: Reports & Analytics

## Calf Records Report

Generate a comprehensive list of all calves:

1. Livestock tab → Filter by **Calves**
2. Tap ■ **Calf Report**
3. View detailed table showing:
  - Calf tag number
  - Dam (mother) tag number
  - Birth date and age
  - Birth weight
  - Weaning weight (if weaned)
  - Current status
4. Tap **Share** to export as PDF or print

## Hay Production Report

Review hay production data:

1. Hay tab → Tap ■ **Hay Report**
2. Select the year to report
3. View:
  - Total bales by paddock
  - Total tonnage by paddock
  - Production by cutting (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
  - Year-over-year comparisons
4. Export as PDF for records

## Dashboard Analytics

The Dashboard provides at-a-glance metrics:

### Livestock Counts:

- Total cows, bulls, and calves
- Active calves by age group (0-6 months, 6-8 months, weaned)
- Unweaned vs. weaned calf counts

### Revenue:

- Total revenue from all sales

### Hay Production:

- Total bales produced across all years

# Chapter 11: Troubleshooting

## GPS Not Working

**Symptoms:** GPS tracking doesn't start, location is inaccurate, or map doesn't load

**Solutions:**

1. Check location permissions:
  - Settings → Privacy → Location Services → Ranch Manager
  - Make sure it's set to 'While Using the App'
2. Ensure you're outdoors with clear sky view
  - GPS requires line-of-sight to satellites
  - Won't work well indoors or under heavy tree cover
3. GPS works without cell service (uses satellites)
4. Wait 30-60 seconds for GPS to acquire signal

## Data Not Syncing Between Devices

**Symptoms:** Changes on one device don't appear on another

**Solutions:**

1. Check iCloud is enabled:
  - Settings → [Your Name] → iCloud
  - Make sure iCloud is ON
2. Verify same Apple ID on all devices
3. Connect to WiFi to trigger sync
  - Large data syncs work best on WiFi
4. Force quit and reopen the app
5. Check for pending app updates in App Store

## App Crashes or Freezes

**Solutions:**

1. Force quit the app:
  - Swipe up from bottom (iPhone X+) or double-click home button
  - Swipe up on Ranch Manager to close
  - Reopen the app
2. Check for app updates in the App Store
3. Restart your device
4. If problem persists, contact support

## Market Prices Not Loading

**Solutions:**

1. Check internet connection
2. Tap the ■ **Refresh** button to force update
3. USDA only publishes prices on business days (Monday-Friday)
4. Prices are cached for 7 days, so you'll see last available data

## Can't Delete or Edit a Record

### Solutions:

1. Make sure you're tapping **Edit** before trying to delete
2. Some records (like calving records) cannot be deleted to maintain data integrity
3. You can archive animals instead of deleting them

## Getting Help

If you need additional assistance:

- Email: [support@ranch-manager.com](mailto:support@ranch-manager.com)
- Website: [ranch-manager.com/contact.html](http://ranch-manager.com/contact.html)
- We typically respond within 24 hours

When contacting support, please include:

- Your device model and iOS version
- App version (found in Settings)
- Description of the problem
- Screenshots if applicable

## End of User Manual

Thank you for using Ranch Manager!

For the latest updates and information, visit [ranch-manager.com](http://ranch-manager.com)