



Current Report

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets are also available on our website at:
osufacts.okstate.edu

Crop and Forage Recordkeeping Software¹

Damona Doye

Extension Economist, Regents Professor and
Rainbolt Chair of Agricultural Finance

Brent Ladd

Extension Assistant – Agricultural Finance

Producers who have computers frequently ask about the availability of software programs to manage crop and forage production records. Before purchasing a software program, it is important to analyze the value of such a system with regards to making better management decisions. Producers should evaluate their existing records to determine the types of information sought from a software program. Are inventory records important? Are summary reports of primary interest? By considering specific record needs, the producer is better equipped to choose an appropriate software package. This publication is a compilation of software programs to be used as a reference for agricultural producers.²

If no records on crop or field performance are currently being kept, a good starting point may be some basic production records. Managers will want to maintain records on variety, planting rates, fertilizer rates, pesticides, fuel consumption, grain, hay, or forage matter produced, etc. for each field to determine prolific or inefficient areas of the operation. Some records, such as Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) application, must be maintained according to the 1990 FACT Act.³

The most difficult steps to building a valuable recordkeeping system are (1) making time for recordkeeping, (2) determining which information is economically feasible to collect, and (3) summarizing the data for use in the decision-making process. Meaningful crop and forage records may be handwritten (for example, see agecon.okstate.edu/farmbook) or kept on a computer, tablet or mobile application. The choice of programs, features, and cost of software are the “fine-tuning” portion of recordkeeping. In the following summary of nine

commercially-available crop record keeping software packages, the features are described under three headings:

- Common Features
- Technological Information
- Advanced Features

The program purchase costs range from \$199 to \$750 for basic versions of the software; advanced versions are more expensive. Many software companies offer free program demonstration copies. Programs have various computer requirements such as minimum processor type and speed, minimum RAM, operating system, and hard disk space. Most programs provide comprehensive data entry fields, as well as production summaries.

Before purchasing any software, determine the level and cost of software support that will be provided by the company. In addition, some programs have specific enterprise information that is required before the program will work. Sorting and filtering capabilities and the type of reports generated may vary, but in many cases, producers have the opportunity to customize reports to meet specific needs. Another important feature may include the ability to query or search the data for specific field information. Every operator must determine the amount of time available to devote to practical recordkeeping and weigh this commitment against software costs, data entry features, and the need for information for management purposes.

Information provided about the following programs was confirmed by the software provider's representative. The summary does not cover all available programs or individual program features. Programs may have other capabilities that are not described in the summary. Producers should contact the respective companies for current purchase information, details on features, and specific hardware requirements.

The features summarized in the tables are not all-inclusive. Some of the software packages go into intricate detail in products applied to the fields and have detailed scale tickets for harvest sales. As the user experiments with demo versions of the software packages, the capabilities of each program become clearer. Several of the software companies have additional software products and/or modules that work with the basic software package to enhance user control. The end user decides how much information to input, track, calculate, and summarize.

- ¹ Update from an earlier version co-authored by Randy True, former Extension Assistant. Current updates by Brent Ladd, Extension Assistant.
- ² An internet search was used to identify widely used commercial software products with multiple applications. Companies were contacted to complete a survey noting their program's parameters. Inclusion in this report is not an endorsement of a product nor is exclusion of a program a rebuke of the product.
- ³ For more information about the FACT Act, please refer to Extension Fact Sheet EPP-322, Pesticide Recordkeeping Requirements for Crop Production.

SST Sirrus/Summit Basic
SST Development Group, Inc.
824 N. Country Club Rd.
Stillwater, OK 74075
Phone: 888-377-5334 / 405-377-5334
Fax: 405-377-5746
Website: <http://www.sstsoftware.com>

Farm Works Mapping Software
Farm Works
P.O. Box 250
Hamilton, IN 46742
Phone: 800-225-2848
Fax: 260-488-3737
Website: info@farmworks.com

Field Manager Pro
Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Management Software
1800 Hamilton Street
P.O. Box 4320
Regina, SK
Canada S4S 4L3
Phone: 1-800-667-7893
E-mail: Info@fccsoftware.ca
Website: www.fccsoftware.ca

Farm Files Crops
Farm Files
4684 N. Briargate Ct.
Park City, KS 67219
Phone: 913-515-5991
Fax: 785-899-5860
E-mail: sales@farmfiles.com
Website: <http://www.farmfiles.com/crops.html>

MapShots Ag Studio Farm
MapShots
5995A Parkway North Blvd.
Suite 9
Cumming, GA 30040
Phone: 678-513-6093
Fax: 678-513-7755
E-mail: info@mapshots.com
Website: <http://www.mapshots.com>

WinCrop, Farm View Record Keeper, LandView DSS Pro
Landview Systems
#600, 10665 – Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5J 3S9
Phone: 800-616-9401, 780-448-7476
Fax: 780-449-5385
E-mail: mail@landview.com
Website: <http://www.landview.com/products.html>

FarmLogs
410 N. 4th Ave., 2nd Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: (605) 318-5293
e-mail: support@farmlogs.com
Website: farmlogs.com

Technological Information

	SST Sirius	SST Summit Basic	Farm Works Mapping	Ag2Networks Landtrend	FCC Field Manager PRO	Farm Files Crops	MapShots, Inc. Ag Studio Farm	LandView WinCrop	Farmlogs
Synchronize with Hand-held Device*		Pocket PC	Pocket PC, Mobile Windows CE, or Laptop	Palm		No	Pocket PC, Windows iOS, Android	No	iOS and Android
Internet required	✓				✓		Yes		
Offline data access/entry	✓				✓		Yes (through (SELECT) Free via email		
Free Demo	Free	Product Tour on Website/ Call for free Demo	Downloadable on Website	Downloadable on Website	Downloadable on Website	Downloadable on Website	Product Tour on Website & Demo CD Available	Downloadable on Website	Free
Support			\$300/calendar year for unlimited technical support and upgrades. Free e-mail, internet discussion groups, and fax alternatives		1 year free (Phone, software updates, weekly bulletin included) Online user community YouTube channel with instructional videos	30 days free	Minimum free phone support w/certified tech.	3 months free, phone, fax, or e-mail	Free
Training									
Online	on website		✓		✓		Yes (videos)		
Remote Classroom			✓				GoToMeeting Training Yes		
Data access									
Sharing opt in/out									
Administrative rights assignment									
General	agX Platform								
Customizable									
Operating System	iOS	Microsoft® Windows 7 or higher	Microsoft® Windows 7, 8, XP	Microsoft® Windows 95 or higher Vista, Windows 7, 8	Microsoft® Windows 8, Windows 7 SP1, Vista SP2	Microsoft® Windows 95 or higher acceptable), Vista, Windows 7	Microsoft® Windows XP (2000 is	Microsoft® Windows 98 or higher	Web Based iOS Android
Processor	iPad	1.5 GHz	Pentium	Pentium	1.4 GHz +	Pentium	Pentium III 933 MHz +	Pentium, 66 MHz +	
Minimum RAM		4 GB	64 MB	128 MB	1 GB	16 MB	256 MB	16 MB	
Hard Disk Requirement		100+ GB	60 MB	5 MB	1 GBB	20 MB	20 MB		
Mobile operating system	iOS								
Devices supported (e.g. iPad only)	iPad only						iPad,i Phone, Android for select apps.		
Printer	Bluetooth printer						user defined		
User registration required									
Cost**	Free	\$750	\$750	\$280	\$499	\$200	\$695	\$349	Free

* Additional charges for hand-held software apply.

** Prices are subject to change

Common Features

	SST Sirius	SST Summit Basic	Farm Works Mapping	Ag2Networks Landtrend	FCC Field Manager PRO	Farm Files Crops	MapShots, Inc. Ag Studio Farm	LandView WinCrop	Farmlogs
Record quantity:									
Tillage practices	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Machinery usage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Seeding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Fertilizing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Insecticide application	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Field level reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harvest data		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Planting date	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ability to import:									
machine logged data		✓			✓				✓
yield data	✓	✓			✓				✓
"as applied" data	✓	✓			✓				
planted	✓	✓			✓				
sprayed					✓				
fertilizer		✓			✓				
crop protection`	✓				✓				
Variety	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Log soil test points/manage									
soil nutrient levels	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	DSS Pro	
Inventory/storage tracking			Farm Works Accounting		✓	✓	✓	DSS Pro	✓
Irrigation expense									
calculation			Farm Works Accounting		✓		✓		
Crop insurance			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Break-even analysis			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Collect/import field									
boundaries	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Mapper	✓
Calculate acreage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Mapper	✓
Equipment records:									
serial numbers					✓				
hours used					✓				
purchases					✓				✓
repairs					✓				✓
service interval			✓	✓	✓				✓
cost groups					✓				
Track crop rotation	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Delineate patches of weed									
and insect infestation	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Customizable reports	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Previous crop	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

View local weather	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Current conditions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rainfall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Temperature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wind speed and direction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Relative humidity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Forecasts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import imagery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Satellite	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aerial	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UAV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Historical weather data	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rainfall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Temperature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Record weather conditions:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rainfall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Temperature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wind speed and direction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Relative humidity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Field observed (user defined)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calculate net income	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Divide fields into multiple crop zones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mapping ability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
View chemical labels	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Other Features

	SST Sirius	SST Summit Basic	Farm Works Mapping	Ag2Networks Landtrend	FCC Field Manager PRO	Farm Files Crops	MapShots, Inc. ¹ Ag Studio Farm	LandView WinCrop	Farmlogs
Restricted usage pesticide reporting View pesticide labels Label checking							Yes		
GIS ² or GPS ³ technology	GIS/GPS	GIS/GPS	GIS - Farm Site GPS - Farm Site Mate	GPS optional	GPS	No	GIS/GPS	DSS Pro	
Cell enabled iPad or bluetooth Antennae			Yes				iPad enabled through SELECT		
Compatibility with other software	Any AgX platform	Additional SST software	Additional Farm Works software	No	AgExpert Analyst	Reports export to Microsoft	Yes, Reports Export via Microsoft Excel	No	No
Shapefile Other proprietary software 3rd party apps	Shp file Export						360 Yield Center; CDMS; Onsite; Valley-AgSense; DTN; Encirca; Fieldwatch-Driftwatch; GeoVantage; MyJohnDeere; Precision Planting-Fieldview; Raven-Slingshot; Satshot; Veris; Vision Services Group-VSG Unmanned; Integrated with all soil test labs in N. America		
Online database	AgX platform	AgX platform	Yes - First year of AgriDNA included	No	No	No	Yes	No	
Password protection for data	✓						Yes		Yes
Planning tools							Yes		Yes
Plan versus actual							Yes		Yes
Recommendations							Yes		Yes
converted to actual	✓								Yes
Define soil type per field	No	Multiple	Farm Site Multiple	Predominant	Yes	No	Yes	DSS Pro	Yes
Record government subsidy	No	No	Farm Funds	Yes	No	No	FSA Compliant	No	No
Leasing arrangements:									
Define tenant/landlord share %	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Leasing arrangements:									
Override default share	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

% for any product

- 1 Mapshots also integrates with RedWing Perception Accounting (www.redwingsoftware.com), JDOffice and JDMap (www.deere.com), SGIS (www.sgissoftware.com), FarmWorks (www.farmworks.com), Pioneer FIM (www.pioneer.com), and AgriS AgroGuide (www.agris.com) Other additions to AgStudio Farm: SELECTS allows producers to make additions/changes to software from mobile platforms; SELECT NOTES allows scouting the field with an iPad; Commodity Inventory allows entering and tracking harvest data; Cow, Calf and Herd Information, plus other options.
- 2 Geographic Information Systems.
- 3 Global Positioning System.

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Bringing the University to You!

The Cooperative Extension Service is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world. It is a nationwide system funded and guided by a partnership of federal, state, and local governments that delivers information to help people help themselves through the land-grant university system.

Extension carries out programs in the broad categories of agriculture, natural resources and environment; family and consumer sciences; 4-H and other youth; and community resource development. Extension staff members live and work among the people they serve to help stimulate and educate Americans to plan ahead and cope with their problems.

Some characteristics of the Cooperative Extension system are:

- The federal, state, and local governments cooperatively share in its financial support and program direction.
- It is administered by the land-grant university as designated by the state legislature through an Extension director.
- Extension programs are nonpolitical, objective, and research-based information.
- It provides practical, problem-oriented education for people of all ages. It is designated to take the knowledge of the university to those persons who do not or cannot participate in the formal classroom instruction of the university.
- It utilizes research from university, government, and other sources to help people make their own decisions.
- More than a million volunteers help multiply the impact of the Extension professional staff.
- It dispenses no funds to the public.
- It is not a regulatory agency, but it does inform people of regulations and of their options in meeting them.
- Local programs are developed and carried out in full recognition of national problems and goals.
- The Extension staff educates people through personal contacts, meetings, demonstrations, and the mass media.
- Extension has the built-in flexibility to adjust its programs and subject matter to meet new needs. Activities shift from year to year as citizen groups and Extension workers close to the problems advise changes.

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Higher Education Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, genetic information, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, or status as a veteran, in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This provision includes, but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. The Director of Equal Opportunity, 408 Whitehurst, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078-1035; Phone 405-744-5371; email: eeo@okstate.edu has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Equal Opportunity. Any person (student, faculty, or staff) who believes that discriminatory practices have been engaged in based on gender may discuss his or her concerns and file informal or formal complaints of possible violations of Title IX with OSU's Title IX Coordinator 405-744-9154.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President, Dean, and Director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$1.00 per copy. Revised 0915 GH.