

A COTTON BALE RECORDS PROGRAM FOR MICROCOMPUTERS

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Introduction

Most cotton producers are keenly aware of the need to keep and utilize records on production practices and inputs and costs associated with growing each crop. The final step in that production process is, of course, the harvesting and final delivery of the crop. For many producers, however, the chore of assembling, analyzing, and using records of individual bales to gain information that can be used in the management and marketing of his crop, has been most difficult to develop and often impossible due to the timeliness with which the crop is harvested and sold and the sheer bulk of the bale records information. In order to be effective marketers and managers, not only do cotton producers need information about market conditions, but they also need to have timely and accurate knowledge of their own situations and the number of bales they have in each quality classification and its value with regard to the loan rate. Further, producers may be able to utilize bale records to identify fields that have particular problems or need management adjustments.

This microcomputer cotton bale records program was developed to aid producers in maintaining accurate bale records, and accounting for and producing reports for cotton bales as they are ginned and delivered. Each bale is identified by its unique gin bale number and can be recalled rapidly for updates or changes to existing information. The system contains several reporting formats that include reports generated for bales sorted by farm and field, by farm, field, and class, by particular specified item, or simply all bales in sequential order. Still another portion of the program provides a record for payments for groups of bales and a corresponding report of those records.

This program is compiled and runs on all IBM-PC or compatible machines. It requires at least 128K RAM and two disk drives. Machines which have at least one hard drive are highly desirable for this application. The program will accommodate about

5,000 bales in one contiguous data set on a hard drive system. Users with more than that number of bales could divide their records into groups and keep multiple data sets.

A Bale Record

Each computer record contains all of the information for one bale. Figure 1 illustrates the items contained on each bale record. Records and the data entry process are designed so that they can be easily recalled and new information entered quickly. Hence, every piece of data for a bale need not be available to initiate a bale record. In fact, the farm names, field num/name, bale number (from the gin), bale weight, seed weight, date, and gin number are usually the first pieces of information available for each bale while the remainder becomes available at a later time.

A Payments Record

Payments records are independent of any bale record accounting. They serve to record payments for groups of bales. Figure 2 shows the content of a payments record.

Features

The program is designed to be very user oriented. By far the major problem with using a program such as this is the time it takes to key in the bale information. Since most often, groups of bales will have a large portion of data exactly the same, much of the information on each bale can be defaulted. Figure 3 gives a list of information that can be defaulted. Each item defaulted will appear on each record brought to the screen if that particular information was not previously input and the cursor comes to rest at the first blank space in the information set. Another feature is an automatic bale counter that increments the bale number by one for each new record. These procedures greatly reduce the data entry time where bales with similar data are to be entered.

RECORD NUMBER:	4977	DATA	CHANGES
Farm name (12 char max)	:	:HONEY	:
Field num/name (12 char mx)	:	:HNY 1	:
Bale number (7 char max)	:	:33191	:
Bale weight (lbs.)	:	: 456	:
Seed weight (lbs.)	:	: 730	:
Date (mm/dd/yy)	:	:10/23/87	: / /
Gin code (5 char max)	:	:30204	:
Compress num (6 char max)	:	:675721	:
Compress weight (lbs.)	:	: 458	:
Grade/Staple Code(ggssrrcc)	:	:4134	:
Mike	:	: 32	:
Class (24 char max)	:	:SLM WHITE 1-1/16	:
CCC Loan Val (Cents/Pound)	:	: 48.50	:
Price Recv'd (Cents/Pound)	:	: 0.00	:

Figure 1. Example of bale records screen and items contained on each bale record.

RECORD NUMBER:	12	DATA	CHANGES
Schedule number (6 char max)	:	:050532	:
Date (mm/dd/yy)	:	:10/ 1/87	: / /
Number of bales	:	: 50	:
Net weight (lbs)	:	: 25010	:
Gross amount (\$)	:	: 14586.46	:
Warehouse charge (\$)	:	: 135	:
Misc charge (\$)	:	: 137.49	:
Storage charge (\$)	:	: 87.5	:
Capital retained (\$)	:	: 112.5	:
Net amount (\$)	:	: 14113.97	:
Average gross amount (\$)	:	: 291.7292	:
Average net amount (\$)	:	: 282.2794	:

Figure 2. Example of payments record screen and items contained on each payments record.

Enter default information	DATA	NEW DATA
Farm name (12 char max)	:	:
Field num/name (12 char mx):	:	:
Starting Bale # (7 char mx):	:	:
Seed weight (lbs.)	:	:
Date (mm/dd/yy)	:	: 0/ 0/ 0
Gin code (5 char max)	:	:
Compress num (6 char max)	:	:
Grade/Staple Code(ggssrrcc):	:	:
Mike	:	:
Class (24 char max)	:	:
CCC Loan Val (Cents/Pound)	:	:
Price Recv'd (Cents/Pound):	:	:

Figure 3. Example of default screen and default information for bale records.

BALE SUMMARY

DATE: 12-11-1987

FIELD #	NO. ACRES	TOTALS				AMOUNT/BALE				AMOUNT/ACRE							
		NO. BALES	GIN WT	COMP WT	SEED WT	LOAN VAL	PRICE VAL	GIN WT	COMP WT	SEED WT	LOAN VAL	PRICE VAL	GIN WT	COMP WT	SEED WT		
FARM: B. BLANEY																	
BB 2/3	68	162	79417	79385	98100	41393.32	0.00	490	490	606	255.51	0.00	2.38	1164	1438	608.94	0.00
BB 1	85	197	97075	97539	122510	49273.67	0.00	493	495	622	250.12	0.00	2.33	1146	1446	581.74	0.00
FARM TOTAL	153	359	176492	176924	220610	90666.98	0.00										
FARM AVERAGE								492	493	615	252.55	0.00	2.35	1154	1443	592.98	0.00
FARM: GRADEY																	
GRADEY 1	27	65	33574	33750	19070	6171.61	0.00	517	519	293	94.95	0.00	2.43	1257	1264	231.15	0.00
GRADEY 2	62	153	74046	73972	117160	39657.58	0.00	484	483	766	259.20	0.00	2.47	1196	1893	640.67	0.00
FARM TOTAL	89	218	107620	107722	136230	45829.20	0.00										
FARM AVERAGE								494	494	625	210.23	0.00	2.46	1215	1538	517.26	0.00
FARM: NO HOPE																	
NH 4	124	309	151907	152257	209630	81109.09	0.00	492	493	678	262.49	0.00	2.50	1227	1230	655.16	0.00
NH 68	60	150	76553	76862	44580	41031.03	0.00	510	512	297	273.54	0.00	2.48	1267	1273	679.32	0.00
NH 6A	93	208	103498	103931	112170	54843.93	0.00	498	500	539	263.67	0.00	2.23	1110	1115	588.45	0.00
NH 12	129	341	168886	168934	239910	90723.97	0.00	495	495	704	266.05	0.00	2.64	1306	1308	702.20	0.00
NH 2/3	181	377	185089	185582	265610	97142.69	0.00	491	492	705	257.67	0.00	2.08	1022	1025	467.53	0.00
FARM TOTAL	588	1385	685743	687566	871900	364850.69	0.00										
FARM AVERAGE								495	496	630	263.43	0.00	2.36	1167	1170	484.81	0.00
FARM: IRISH																	
IR 1	81	159	77438	77727	125620	41518.59	0.00	487	489	790	281.12	0.00	1.97	957	961	513.21	0.00
IR 2	132	237	115040	115420	186580	61889.65	0.00	485	487	787	281.14	0.00	1.79	871	874	468.51	0.00
FARM TOTAL	213	396	192478	193147	312200	103408.23	0.00										
FARM AVERAGE								486	488	788	261.13	0.00	1.86	904	907	485.48	0.00
ALL FARMS																	
TOTAL	2151	5084	2488185	2494778	3462400	1303164.00	0.00										
AVG								489	491	685	256.33	0.14	2.36	1157	1160	605.78	0.32

Figure 5. Example of bale summary report by farm and field.

PAYMENTS TO DATE: 12-11-1987

SCHED#	DATE	#BALES	NET WT	GROSS AMT	W/HOUSE	MISC CHG	STORAGE	CAP RET	NET AMOUNT	AVG GROSS	AVG NET
040868	9/13/87	40	20,227	11,973.06	108.00	111.85	70.00	90.00	11,593.21	299.33	289.83
040869	9/13/87	45	22,923	14,728.34	121.50	133.38	78.75	101.25	14,293.48	327.30	317.63
040873	9/13/87	153	75,576	44,692.87	413.10	422.44	267.75	344.25	43,445.33	293.42	283.96
040874	9/13/87	47	23,441	13,651.00	126.90	130.10	82.25	105.75	13,406.00	294.70	285.23
040927	9/17/87	5	2,636	1,536.81	13.50	14.21	8.75	11.25	1,489.10	307.36	297.82
041354	9/20/87	26	13,202	7,498.09	70.20	71.01	45.50	58.50	7,252.88	288.39	278.96
041365	9/20/87	25	12,864	7,487.21	67.50	69.94	43.75	56.25	7,249.77	299.49	289.99
041712	9/24/87	42	21,404	12,257.45	113.40	115.56	73.50	94.50	11,860.49	291.84	282.39
041739	9/24/87	52	25,872	15,044.13	140.40	142.26	91.00	117.00	14,553.47	289.31	279.87
043329	9/27/87	8	2,966	1,912.47	16.20	17.47	10.50	13.50	1,854.80	316.75	309.13
043366	9/27/87	60	30,088	17,710.89	162.00	166.25	105.00	135.00	17,142.64	295.18	285.71
050532	10/ 1/87	50	25,010	14,566.46	135.00	137.49	87.50	112.50	14,113.97	291.73	282.28

TOTAL: 551 276,209 163,478.78 1,487.70 1,531.96 964.25 1,239.75 158,255.13

COUNT: 12

AVERAGE/BALE 501 286.69 2.70 2.78 1.75 2.25 287.21

Figure 7. Example payments report.