RFID tag numbers connect FarmWorks and GenOvis

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Shearwell Data Ltd

Sheep breeders now have one more reason to switch from paper records to computer. A new export report in FarmWorks software uploads into GenOvis, using the CSIP electronic tag number as the unique identifier instead of farm tags and tattoos.

Producers with the FarmWorks program are already using EID (electronic identification) to collect data about lambs for management purposes – breeding, births, fostering, deaths and weights from weaning to slaughter age. GenOvis uses those same records to calculate breeding values for genetic improvement.

Identification is the challenge of meshing farm records with an industry database like GenOvis. A farmer's imagination is the only limit on sheep tagging systems, so numbers, letters and colours in every combination can be used in FarmWorks. In contrast, GenOvis creates a unique identity for every sheep using a special formula all its own. A cross-reference was needed, to match up the two identities for each animal.

The RFID tag in every sheep's ear solved the problem - the EID number in the CSIP tag was the common denominator in both programs. Now sheep breeders can let the computer do the work of matching up tag numbers with lamb weights and dates, taking the pain (and the paperwork) out of submitting data to GenOvis.

Producers recording lamb weights in pounds, not kilograms, will also be happy to hear that the FarmWorks report will convert their weights to the metric equivalent. GenOvis requires all lamb weights to be in kilograms, while many FarmWorks users record weights in imperial pounds.

A special Canadian version of FarmWorks with the new GenOvis link has just been released for beta testing with a small group of producers. A general release is planned for early in the New Year. The new upgrade will be sent out automatically to FarmWorks users with up to date support subscriptions.