

Best Practices for SAE Recordkeeping & The Value of It

- Keep records daily, weekly or monthly... based on your schedule and what is appropriate for the type of SAE. For example, large animal records may be kept based on significant changes to diet, weigh-ins or events. Small animal projects like rabbits are best kept daily since they are kept for a short period of time and grow rapidly.
- Finding the right systems is key!
 - Receipt Filing System - consider using a plastic bag or accordion folder for receipts that is kept in your truck.
 - Google Photos - we utilized systems like Google Photos Shared Album to share record weights and photos by animal and year. Ex. 2022 PLSR Turkeys, 2022 HLSR Pig. I highly recommend this so the parent and their student may contribute.
 - Microsoft Excel - track financial records or changes in weight. You can take the average weight gain X days until show to get an idea of what your animal might weigh and decide to hold or push feed/water accordingly.
 - Binder - to keep all the records together in one place.
- Use your record book to communicate with ag teacher, breeder or veterinarian. The data in your record book can help identify sickness or problems sooner than we may have realized. This information can be valuable for a vet visit if you need to tell how long your animal has been off feed, losing weight, limping or coughing.
- Data from your record book may allow you to improve each year. You can look back at the story and find areas to focus on next year.
- Accurate record keeping will allow you to enter your records in AET easily. Records are entered in AET in order to apply for State and National FFA Degrees and Awards, such as Lone Star and American Degrees, Star Awards, Proficiency Awards, etc. Some of these awards include premiums and scholarships.

Along with these best practices, I've included a few documents to help you get started.

1. Examples of daily logs by animal type.
2. An example of how to keep financial records organized in Excel.
3. An example of how to track average weight gain in Excel.

2021 PLSR - PIG

	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		

2021 PLSR - MEAT PEN

		Rabbit #1		Rabbit #2		Rabbit #3		Rabbit #4		Rabbit #5	
	AM Feed Time/Amount	:		:		:		:		:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:		:		:		:		:	
	Weight	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
	Notes										
		Rabbit #1		Rabbit #2		Rabbit #3		Rabbit #4		Rabbit #5	
	AM Feed Time/Amount	:		:		:		:		:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:		:		:		:		:	
	Weight	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
	Notes										
		Rabbit #1		Rabbit #2		Rabbit #3		Rabbit #4		Rabbit #5	
	AM Feed Time/Amount	:		:		:		:		:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:		:		:		:		:	
	Weight	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
	Notes										

2022 PLSR - STEER

Date	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
Date	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
Date	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
Date	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		
Date	AM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	PM Feed Time/Amount	:	
	Weight		
	Notes		

Date	Vendor	Description	Cost	Type
10/6/2021	Walton Feed & Supply	6 bags of Lone Star	\$113.70	Feed
10/7/2021	Tibaldos Feed & Supply	Coastal Hay	\$11.95	Feed
10/11/2021	Amazon	Laser Sheen Detangler	\$15.99	Supplies
10/11/2021	Amazon	Healthy Haircare Product Horse Hair Moisturizer	\$28.99	Supplies
10/13/2021	Sullivan Supply	Hybrid Heat Leather Neck Sweat	\$118.19	Supplies
10/13/2021	Evans	\$11 Cotton Hull Seeds, Prolate Lintox, Sunglo Expl	\$121.12	Feed
10/13/2021	Steinhausers	Purina Fitter	\$19.29	Feed
10/15/2021	BCR Ventures	Cedar Fiber Super Sac	\$120.00	Pen Set Up
10/18/2021	Chewy	Sullivan Clear Choice Shampoo	\$31.67	Supplies
10/18/2021	Chewy	Sullivan Double Dip Conditioning Spray	\$38.33	Supplies
10/20/2021	Walton Feed & Supply	5 bags of Lone Star	\$94.25	Feed
10/24/2021	Gulf Coast Equine	Coastal Hay	\$12.75	Feed
10/26/2021	Tractor Supply	Glucosamine Joint Supplement	\$20.99	Preventative Meds
10/26/2021	Tractor Supply	Iodine Gallon	\$23.99	Preventative Meds
10/26/2021	Tractor Supply	3 gal feed tub for iodine dip	\$10.99	Supplies
10/26/2021	Gulf Coast Large Animal Clinic	Vet Visit	\$105.50	Vet
10/26/2021	Gulf Coast Large Animal Clinic	Bute Anti-inflammatory meds	\$45.00	Preventative Meds
10/30/2021	Gulf Coast Equine	Coastal Hay	\$12.75	Feed
11/3/2021	Evans	Cotton Hull Seeds	\$11.00	Feed
11/6/2021	Sullivan Supply	Show Halter Lead	\$28.75	Supplies
11/6/2021	Sullivan Supply	Show Feed Pan	\$19.75	Supplies
11/6/2021	Tractor Supply	Hook Over Water	\$18.99	Supplies
11/7/2021	Sullivan Supply	Show Stick Comb	\$16.95	Supplies

Total	\$1,040.89
Animal Purchase	\$0.00
Feed	\$396.81
Pen Set up	\$120.00
Preventative Meds	\$89.98
Show Fees	\$0.00
Supplies	\$328.60
Vet	\$105.50

*Picked them up 8/2/21

Meat Pen PLSR 2021

Rabbit Weight	8/6	8/7	8/8	8/9	8/10	8/11	8/12	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
#1	lbs.	2					2													
	oz.	8					15.5													
	total oz.	40	0	0	0	0	47.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Progress		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
#2	lbs.	2					2													
	oz.	5.6					12.7													
	total oz.	37.6	0	0	0	0	44.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Progress		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
#3	lbs.	2					2													
	oz.	1.9					7.7													
	total oz.	33.9	0	0	0	0	39.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Progress		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
#4	lbs.	2					3													
	oz.	9.6					0.2													
	total oz.	41.6	0	0	0	0	48.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Progress		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
#5	lbs.	2					3													
	oz.	10.2					2.5													
	total oz.	42.2	0	0	0	0	50.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Progress		#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!

Progress is measured in ounces

Can be used to estimate weight at show, see which 3 are most similar in weight, which to push or hold back feed/water, if needed