Management Minder – A Web Based Data Management Application (Concept)

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Summary

The Management Minder web app provides Beef producers with a production calendar management tool capable of referencing best management practices with the convenience of their Mobile Device.

Introduction

Management Minder is a web based application developed as a joint project between the Iowa Beef Center and Kansas State University allowing beef cattle producers to manage their day to day schedule regarding cattle nutrition, reproduction, health and herd management. Producers can create a customized calendar and share it with their employees, consultants and veterinarians over the internet. This application also provides web links containing useful information regarding "best management practices" in regards to these different activities. Content was primarily a contribution by collaborators at Kansas State University. Software development and site hosting was the responsibility of the Iowa Beef Center.

Materials and Methods

A web based application was developed to provide an easy method of software maintenance, immediately effective updates and the convenience of using a smart phone or compact handheld device for accessing the app or the data stored through the app. Content updates were designed to use an excel sheet comprising different categories, activities corresponding to the categories. The data sheet content when modified by beef extension specialists from Iowa Beef Center or Kansas State University can be conveniently reposted to the web without the need of additional programming expertise.

Users register into the website with unique Farm Name/Ranch Name. All other functions in the application are linked to the farm name allowing the program to identify different producers. This application gives an option to register multiple usernames under the same Farm Name. Managers can share these usernames with their subordinates, allowing members in the same operation to access the application at the same time.

Results

A calendar file (.ics) will be received to the respective email address upon the producer's action. This file can be added to the calendar system immediately just by clicking on the attachment. Each event starts at 6:00 AM in the morning reminding the producer to perform the activity. At this point we have finished the coding and are ready to initiate the app. The following link navigates to the web application
http://cowweb.exnet.iastate.edu/CowWeb/faces/ .