



User Manual

Simple farm management. Built for real farm life.

Edition of September 30, 2026 · covers BarnDesk on iPhone, Android and the web at app.thebarndesk.com

How to use this manual. Read Part 1 once, then go straight to whichever chapter matches the job in front of you. Every chapter starts with where to find the screen and ends with the things people trip on. Screens on the phone and on a computer share the same names, so the steps work on both.

Questions, mistakes in this book, or something you wish the app did: reply to the email that came with it, or write to bryan@thebarndesk.com. It goes to the farmer who built the app.

BarnDesk is built by Bryan Blackwell, a working farmer in Castalian Springs, Tennessee. BarnDesk organizes your own records. It is not tax, legal or veterinary advice.

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Getting started

What BarnDesk is, how to get in, and how the screens are laid out. Ten minutes here saves an hour later.

What BarnDesk does

BarnDesk replaces the barn notebook. It keeps your animal records, breeding, health, receipts and tax records, tasks, pastures, inventory and equipment in one place, on your phone in the barn and on your computer at the desk. It is built for owner-operators and family farms running one or several species: cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, horses, bees, guardian dogs and more.

Two things set it apart from a spreadsheet. First, records feed each other: a weight you log today shows up on the growth chart, the buyer packet, the weaning report and the sale sheet without you retyping it. Second, your records come back out in the shapes you actually need: a Schedule F tax summary, an FSA worksheet, a due-date roster for the barn wall, a one-page sale document for a buyer.

Getting the app

- **iPhone and iPad:** search for BarnDesk on the App Store.
- **Android:** search for BarnDesk on Google Play.
- **Computer or any browser:** go to app.thebarndesk.com. On a screen wider than a tablet you get a full desktop layout with a sidebar.

All three are the same app on the same records. Log a weight on your phone in the pasture and it is on your computer screen before you get back to the house.

Signing in

BarnDesk does not make you remember a password. On the sign-in screen, enter your email and tap **Email me a 6-digit sign-in code**. Type the code from the email and you are in. You can also sign in with Google, or with Apple on an iPhone, and if you set a password earlier that still works too.

TIP

If the code email does not arrive within a minute, check your spam folder and make sure you typed the same address you signed up with. A code only works for a short time; request a new one if it has expired.

The first time in

A short setup wizard asks for your farm name, your location (a ZIP code is enough; it drives the weather card and a few defaults), and anyone you want to invite to help. You can skip the invitation step and come back to it. The last step shows the plans; you can skip that too and stay on the Free plan for now. Part 12 explains what each plan includes.

Finding your way around

On the phone, five tabs sit along the bottom of the screen. On a computer the same places are in the sidebar on the left, with a few extra shortcuts.

Today

Your morning screen: what needs attention, what is due, the weather, quick logging buttons and the widgets you choose.

Animals

Your herd. Every animal has its own page with its timeline, weights, breeding history, pedigree and photos. Tools for import, batch entry and bulk sell live here.

Money

Receipts and income. Scan a receipt and BarnDesk files each line under the right tax category.

Tasks

Everything you have to do, as a list and a calendar. Recurring jobs, vaccination schedules and reminders live here.

More

Everything else: Breeding, Reports, Pastures, Inventory, Equipment, Contacts, Members, Species, Settings, How To guides, and your account.

Add record (the green button)

On every screen. It opens a menu to add an animal, log a receipt, create a task, log a breeding, and so on, without hunting for the right tab.

On the desktop, the sidebar also shows Breeding, Reports, Inventory and Equipment directly, so you do not need to go through More.

Three habits that make everything else work

- 1 Log it the day it happens, from wherever you are.** A breeding logged from the pasture is worth more than a perfect one entered from memory next week. Every form lets you backdate if you are catching up.
- 2 Use your own tags and names.** Whatever you call the animal in the barn is what you should call it in the app. Tag numbers on their own are fine.
- 3 Let the app clear your list.** When you log a vaccination, a weight or a deworming, the matching task on Today marks itself done. You should never have to record the same job twice.

Getting help

Inside the app, **More → How To** has a short walk-through for every feature, and the search box at the top finds a topic fast. This manual is the longer, organized version of the same material. For anything the app cannot answer, email bryan@thebarndesk.com. There is no ticket system and no call center; you are writing to the person who built it and runs a farm with it.

Setting up your farm

A few settings made once make every later record cleaner. Do these in your first week.

Farm details

More → Settings → Farm. Your farm name and location. If you run sheep or goats, this is also where you enter your **USDA scrapie flock ID** once; every sheep and goat on the farm inherits it, so you never type it per animal. An animal you bought from another producer keeps that producer's flock ID; you can set an override on that one animal's page.

Species and gestation

More → Species lists every species on your farm with the gestation length BarnDesk uses for due dates, the default vaccinations, and the expected weaning age. The built-in figures are in the appendix at the back of this manual. If you raise something that is not in the list, tap **+ New** to add a custom species with your own terms for males, females and young, and your own gestation length.

Retirement ages

More → Settings → Retirement thresholds. Set the age at which a female or male of each species is considered retired on your operation. Retired animals stay on the farm and in your records; the Today screen flags them so you can decide what to do, and cost reports still count them because a retired ewe still eats.

Inviting family and helpers

More → Members → + Invite member. Enter their name and email and pick a role. They get an email, sign up or sign in, accept, and they are working the same farm: same animals, same tasks, same books. Every change syncs to every device within seconds. The number of members depends on your plan (see Part 12).

Notifications and the daily email

BarnDesk sends a daily email digest of what is overdue and what is coming: vaccinations, treatment ends, breeding due dates, low inventory, hive inspections. Turn it on or off under **More → Settings**. There are no lock-screen push notifications yet; the Today screen and the digest are where reminders live.

Light or dark

More → Settings lets you pick light, dark, or follow the phone. Dark is easier on the eyes in the barn before sunrise.

If you already have records somewhere else

Do not type your herd in by hand. Part 3 explains how to import animals from a spreadsheet or from an export out of another program, and how to bring their history (weights, treatments, scores, notes and past matings) with them.

GOOD TO KNOW

Settings like species, retirement ages, pastures and templates belong to the farm, not to you. Everyone you invite sees the same rules.

Your animals

Adding animals one at a time or by the hundred, what lives on an animal's page, identification, and what happens when an animal leaves the farm.

Add one animal

- 1 Open **Animals** and tap the green + (or **Add record → Animal**).
- 2 Pick **Single animal**. (Pick **Flock** only for poultry you manage by the coop; see Part 10.)
- 3 Choose the species, then enter the tag and name you actually use.
- 4 Add sex, breed and birth date if you know them. An estimated birth date is fine; age is what drives health schedules and weaning math.
- 5 If you bought the animal, fill in **Acquisition**: raised, purchased or gifted, plus the date, cost and where it came from. This is what puts a later sale on the right tax line, so it is worth getting right.
- 6 Save. BarnDesk offers the suggested health protocols for that species. Tick the ones you run and your vaccination schedule sets itself up.

TIP

You can add sire and dam on the same form if the parents are already in BarnDesk. If not, add the animal now and link parents later from its page; the pedigree fills in the moment you do.

Import a herd from a spreadsheet

Already have the herd in Excel, a CSV, or an export from another program? Bring it in at once.

- 1 **Animals → Tools → Add animals → Import from spreadsheet**, or **More → Import**.
- 2 Drop in your file (CSV or Excel). No file yet? Tap **Download template** and fill that in; it uses the same columns as BarnDesk's own export.
- 3 BarnDesk matches your column headings automatically (it understands "tag number", "ID", "DOB", "birth date", "gender" and dozens more). Anything it cannot place shows as **ignore**; pick the right field from the dropdown.
- 4 Choose a default for how the animals were acquired: raised, purchased or gifted. A row with its own value overrides the default.
- 5 **Continue to review**. Every row shows **Ready**, **Needs fix** (with the reason) or **Duplicate** (an animal of that species already holds that tag). A duplicate row names the animal it clashed with and lets you edit the tag right there, so you can fix the row instead of losing it. Nothing is saved yet.
- 6 **Confirm import**. When it finishes, tap **Go to herd**.

What the importer takes

- **Required**: species, and a tag or a name.

- **Optional:** name, sex, breed, birth date, birth type (single, twin, triplet), current weight, acquisition type, date and cost, registration status, number and association, sire and dam tags, tattoos, brand, EID, horn status, scrapie and NSIP IDs, notes.
- **Sold and deceased animals too.** A `status` column of `sold` with a sale date and price reconstructs the sale on your tax report the same way a Mark as sold tap would. `deceased` with a date records the loss. This is how you keep a complete tax year when you move to BarnDesk mid-year.

Rules that save you a second try

- Dates must be written **YYYY-MM-DD** (2026-03-14). BarnDesk will not guess whether 03/04 means March 4 or April 3.
- Up to 1,000 animals per file. Bigger herds: split the file; the importer dedupes across runs, so overlaps land as Duplicate and nothing doubles up.
- Tags are unique **per species** among the animals you still hold. A cow and a ewe can both wear tag 42; two live ewes cannot. Selling or losing an animal releases its tag for the next one.
- Parent tags that match another animal in the file or on the farm become real pedigree links, in either order. Tags that match nothing are kept as the parent's name on the offspring.
- Re-importing a file never overwrites parents you have already set on existing animals.

Import history: weights, treatments, scores, notes, matings

After the animals are in, bring their past with them. Same hub (**More → Import**); drop a file and BarnDesk detects which kind it is, or pick the kind yourself. Each kind has a blank template to download.

Kind	Columns	Where it lands
Weights	tag, date, lb, weight_type, notes	Growth chart, ADG, weaning report
Treatments	tag, date, product, dose, notes	Health timeline (reclassify a row to vaccination or deworming later if you want it on the schedule)
Scores	tag, date, famacha, bcs, notes	FAMACHA and body-condition history
Notes	tag, date, note	Dated notes on the timeline
Matings	dam_tag, sire_tag, date, fertilization_type, notes	Breeding history (past dates only)

Rows match an existing animal by tag first, then by name. Up to 4,000 rows per file. Running the same file twice changes nothing: rows already on file come up as Duplicate.

Scan a registration certificate

If an animal is registered, its papers already hold the name, registration number, sex, birth date, microchip, birth type, weights and three to five generations of ancestors. Photograph the paper and BarnDesk reads it.

- **New animal from the paper:** **Animals → Tools → Scan cert.** Pick the photo, tap **Extract pedigree**, check every field on the review screen, confirm. The animal and its ancestor tree are created in one step.
- **Animal already in BarnDesk:** open it, tap the ... menu, **Scan certificate**. The review screen shows what is blank, what matches, and what conflicts. Conflicts are flagged in amber and you choose; nothing is overwritten silently.
- **Pedigree only:** tap **Extend** on the animal's Lineage card.

Landscape photos in even light read best. PDFs from a registry email work too. The certificate image stays on the animal record afterwards, handy for the "prove it is registered" moment at a sale.

The animal's page

Tap any animal in the list. From top to bottom you will find:

- **Header:** photo, tag, name, species, breed, sex, age, status, and the ... menu (edit, buyer packet, scan certificate, transfer, mark as sold, process, and more).
- **Quick log row:** one-tap buttons for Health check, Weight, Vaccination, Deworming and Breeding. This is where daily logging starts. FAMACHA, fecal egg counts and body condition each have their own card further down, with their own **+ Record score** button.
- **Health status card:** what is due next, any active withdrawal window, and the latest FAMACHA score.
- **Growth:** every weigh-in charted, by date or by age, with average daily gain between weigh-ins.
- **Breeding history and Reproductive history:** every exposure, service, preg check and birth, plus lifetime offspring counts.
- **Pedigree:** sire, dam and grandparents at a glance, great-grandparents behind a tap, with a CSV export.
- **Shares and Carcass:** who is buying part of this animal and what each buyer owes, and the plant's numbers once it has been processed. Both are covered later in this part.
- **Littermates, Body condition, Open tasks, Activity timeline, Photos.** The timeline has filter chips (Health, Weights, Production, Other) so you can find one kind of record fast.

The Tools sheet on the Animals screen

Next to **Add animal** at the top of the Animals list is **Tools**. Most of the jobs in this manual that involve more than one animal start here:

- **Sort by** tag, name or youngest first; **Group by** species, class or nothing.
- **Add animals:** Import from spreadsheet, Scan registration certificate.
- **Batch entry:** Batch weights, Batch treatments, Batch FAMACHA, Batch fecal egg counts. One shared date or product, one value per animal, the whole run saved at once (Part 4).
- **Health:** FAMACHA score, Screwworm report.
- **History:** Reclassify treatments, which moves imported treatment rows to vaccination or deworming by product name so they count on the schedules.

- **Sell:** Bulk sell (below).
- **Poultry:** Hatches (Part 9).

Identification

Tap **Edit** on the animal and open the **Identification** card. Besides tag and name, BarnDesk stores what registries and buyers ask for:

- **Tag color:** the color of the physical tag, picked from a fixed list of 17: white, yellow, orange, red, pink, green, blue, purple, black, grey, brown, tan, turquoise, spearmint, salmon, lime and fuchsia. It sits directly under the Tag field and is **not** the animal's own color, which is further down the same form. Plenty of farms number lambs and kids by tag color and reuse a number across colors, so the herd roster prints the color beside the tag. There is no column for it in the spreadsheet import; set it on the animal.
- **Registration:** Registered or Commercial, the registration number and the association. Registered animals show the number under their pedigree tile and on the buyer packet. If you are not sure, Commercial is the safe default; you can flip it later.
- **Herd identifiers** (a collapsed section near the bottom): left and right ear tattoos, brand and its location, which ear the tag is in, horn status (polled, horned, scurred, dehorned), and the number on an electronic ID tag. Microchip is a separate field for an implanted chip.
- **Sheep and goats:** scrapie animal ID (the flock ID is inherited from the farm), and NSIP ID for flocks enrolled in the National Sheep Improvement Program. BarnDesk stores these exactly as printed and never reformats them.
- **DNA / Genetics:** free text, which for sheep is usually the scrapie codon result (RR, QR).

Color, group, purpose and notes

Also on the edit form: **Color** and **Group** (free text you can filter and sort on), the animal's **Purpose** (market, breeding, dairy, draft, sport), which decides whether a later sale lands on Schedule F or on Form 4797, and a **Notes** field. Anything you cannot fit in a proper field can go in Notes, but a proper field is always better because reports can read it.

Photos

+ **Add photos** on the animal's page. The first photo becomes the one on the buyer packet and sale sheet. Storage limits depend on your plan.

When an animal leaves

Sold

... **menu** → **Mark as sold**. Enter the date, price, weight if the buyer paid by the pound, and who bought it (**Sold to**). BarnDesk writes the income entry for you, on the right tax line, and the animal moves to sold status. It stays in your records and reports for the year.

Processed (harvested)

... menu → **Process** when the animal goes to the processor for meat. Enter the harvest date and, if you have it, the hanging weight from the plant's sheet. You can also record the processor, whether the meat was **Custom exempt** or **Inspected**, the grades if the plant gave them, and the processing bill if the farm paid it, which goes into Money as an expense. The animal is marked **Harvested**, leaves your herd lists, its open tasks drop off Today and the Tasks list, and a carcass record appears on its page. Harvested is not a death, so it never lands on the LIP worksheet, and any money from the animal comes through its shares (below).

If the animal is still inside a meat withdrawal on the harvest date, the Process page names the product and the date the withdrawal ends. It is a warning, and you can still save.

An animal you sold alive, where the buyer owns it and pays the plant, can be processed too: the carcass record is added and the animal stays sold. If an animal already has a carcass record, for example from imported harvest history, Process starts from that record and keeps it instead of adding a second one.

Deceased or culled

Same menu. Enter the date and the reason. If the reason is a predator, disease or weather, say so; the LIP disaster worksheet (Part 11) reads the reason. No income entry is written. Culled is for an animal leaving the breeding herd; one going to the processor for meat should be processed instead, as the culled form reminds you.

Retired

An animal past your retirement threshold is flagged on Today. Retired animals stay in the herd, count for cost per head, and can still be sold or culled.

Undo

Marked the wrong animal sold, or recorded a death that did not happen? Open the animal and use **Undo sale**, **Undo death** or **Undo harvest**. Undoing a sale takes the paired income entry with it. Undoing a harvest puts the animal back the way it was and keeps every payment recorded on its shares; a carcass record that existed before Process is restored, not deleted. A harvest that came in with imported history cannot be undone from the app. While an animal is sold or deceased its status is shown read only, so the only way back is the undo, and the record and the money stay in step.

Sell several at once: Bulk sell

Loading a trailer of stockers, a set of ram lambs, a group of cull cows: **Animals → Tools → Bulk sell**.

- 1 **Pick the animals.** Filter chips use your species' own words (Rams, Ewes, Wethers, Ram lambs, Ewe lambs, Lambs; Bulls, Cows, Steers, Bull calves, Heifer calves, Calves). Tap a chip, then **Select all shown**, or search for tags one by one.
- 2 **Price the load.** Enter buyer, date and notes, then choose how the buyer paid: **Split evenly** (one total, divided per head), **By weight** (a price per pound against each animal's last weight, with per-animal overrides for sale day), or **Per animal**.

- 3 **Mark N sold.** Each animal gets its own income entry, so per-head reports stay right. If any animal fails, nothing is written and you can fix it and retry.

Selling an animal by the share

Beef, pork and lamb often go to families by the whole, half or quarter. BarnDesk keeps each buyer's part on the animal itself and works out what each one owes from the hanging weight.

- 1 **Reserve each buyer's share.** On the animal's **Shares** card tap **Reserve a share**, enter the buyer, pick Whole, Half, Quarter or Eighth, and set the price: per pound of hanging weight (the usual way), per pound of the latest live weight, or a flat amount. Enter a deposit on the same page if you took one, plus any processing you will bill back or a discount. Until the animal is processed the share reads **Priced at harvest**.
- 2 **Process the animal** (above). Each share becomes an invoice: its part of the hanging weight times its price, plus rebilled processing, minus any discount, rounded to the cent.
- 3 **Record payments.** Tap **Record payment** under the buyer and choose deposit, payment or refund, with the date the money changed hands. The card shows due, paid and balance, and at zero the share reads **Paid**.

Shares can never add up to more than one animal. Whatever nobody bought shows as **Own use**, the part your family keeps. **Cancel** frees a share: leave the refund blank to keep a deposit as income, or enter a refund to give money back. An animal with shares on record cannot be deleted.

Worked example: a steer hangs at 633 lb. The half at \$2.00 a pound is 316.5 lb, so **\$633.00**. Each quarter at \$2.50 a pound is 158.25 lb, so **\$395.63**. A quarter of a 710 lb carcass at \$2.50 comes to \$443.75; with a \$250.00 deposit already paid, the balance is \$193.75.

GOOD TO KNOW

Under custom exempt processing the buyers must own their part of the animal before it is killed, and the meat is stamped not for sale. That is why the share is a sale of part of the live animal, reserved before harvest, rather than meat sold afterwards. Rules differ by state, and your processor knows yours.

Buyers and contacts

Every sale has a **Sold to** field. Start typing and BarnDesk offers buyers you already have; a new name is added when you save. **More → Contacts** lists everyone you have sold to with head count, lifetime total and last sale. Open a contact to see every animal they bought, with its sire and dam, so the next one you sell them is not related. A share appears on the buyer's page from the day it is reserved, with its fraction and whether it is reserved, invoiced or paid. A sale barn or processor is a buyer too; put its name in and every head you take there shows on one page.

The buyer packet

A one-page PDF to hand a buyer at pickup, mail with an invoice, or attach to a listing.

Animal → ... menu → Buyer packet PDF. It carries the photo, IDs (registration, scrapie and NSIP where they apply), the pedigree, weights with the latest daily gain, vaccinations, dewormings and treatments with who administered them, and FAMACHA scores. Sections with nothing in them are left out so a young animal's packet is short.

Sale sheets for a group

More → Reports → Sale sheet. Pick the animals, add a header, footer and price, and generate an image per animal or one PDF for the set. Photos, lineage, latest weight, FAMACHA and registration fill in from the records. Share straight to Messages, email or your camera roll.

Transfer an animal to another BarnDesk farm

When the buyer also uses BarnDesk, move the record itself instead of a PDF.

Animal → ... menu → Transfer to another farm. Set a price (or leave it blank for a gift), choose which records to include (weights, vaccinations, dewormings, FAMACHA; notes are off unless you turn them on), add an optional one-line breeding note, and create a link. Send the link any way you like. Nothing changes on your side until the buyer accepts; when they do, the sale is booked for you and the animal appears in their herd with the records you included and the pedigree carried as names. The link is single-use and expires after 14 days.

GOOD TO KNOW

On the Free plan your ten earliest animals are fully usable and any past that are read-only until you upgrade. Nothing is deleted or hidden; you just cannot edit or sell the locked ones. Flock birds and off-farm ancestors do not count toward the ten.

Daily logging: weights, health and scores

The records you make in the barn, one animal at a time or a whole run at once, and how they clear your task list for you.

Weights and the growth chart

- 1 Open the animal and tap **Weight** in the quick log row.
- 2 Enter the weight and the date. Pick a type if it matters: Check (the everyday weigh-in), Birth, Wean, Yearling or Pre-sale.
- 3 Save. The Growth section charts every weigh-in; toggle **Date** or **Day-age**. Average daily gain shows for each stretch between weigh-ins and overall.

TIP

Weigh on a rhythm, monthly or at the same checkpoints for every animal. Birth, weaning and yearling weights are what the weaning and growth reports are built on, and a weight within the last month before harvest is what makes dressing percentage possible on the carcass report.

Vaccinations

Tap **Vaccination** on the animal. Only the **product** is required for a two-tap save. Add amount, unit and route (SQ, IM, oral and so on), lot and manufacturer, the next due date, and who gave it: you, another member, or a veterinarian with name and license. Enter meat, milk and egg **withdrawal** days and the hold shows on the animal's health card and on Today until it clears. If a vaccination task was open for that animal, logging the shot marks it done.

Dewormings

Tap **Deworming**. Same shape as a vaccination: product required, amount, route, the drug class (BarnDesk infers it from a known product name if you leave it blank), the reason (FAMACHA-guided, fecal egg count, scheduled, other), who gave it, and withdrawal days. A deworming clears an open deworming task automatically. Every deworming appears in its own section of the buyer packet.

Treatments and health checks

Treatments are logged from the Animals screen, not from the animal's own page:

Animals → Tools → Batch treatments. Despite the name it works for one animal as well as forty. Choose **Other treatment** for an antibiotic course, an injury, anything with a product and a dose that is not a vaccination or a deworming (choose **Deworming** and it is the same as the deworming log, for a group). It carries product, route, per-animal dose and withdrawal days, and lands on each animal's timeline. A **Health check** from the quick log row is a dated observation with notes, for the things you noticed but did not treat.

A whole run at once: batch weights and batch treatments

Ran the flock through the chute and wrote it all on a notepad? Enter the run in one screen.

- 1 **Animals → Tools → Batch weights or Batch treatments.** Pick the animals: species and group chips narrow the list, search finds a tag, **Select all shown** takes everyone in the chip.
- 2 Set the shared date and, for weights, the type. For treatments, pick Deworming or Other treatment, then the product, route and withdrawal days that apply to everyone.
- 3 Enter each animal's weight or dose in its own box. The counter shows how many of the group you have filled.
- 4 Save. Every animal gets its own record, exactly as if you had logged it alone; any open task for those animals is cleared; withdrawals land as one grouped row on Today ("40 animals, Cydectin, clears Aug 19"). If any row fails, the whole batch is held back so you never wonder what landed.

To undo a batch, open any affected animal and delete the entry from its timeline.

FAMACHA (sheep and goats)

Score one animal from the FAMACHA card on its page, or a whole group through

Animals → Tools → Batch FAMACHA (one date, one score per animal) or **Tools → FAMACHA score** for the guided tracker. Pick the animal, score 1 to 5, save. The score goes on the timeline and the tracker shows the whole flock, worst to best. Score in natural light and trust the trend over a single reading.

A score of **4 or 5** opens a follow-up: **Log deworming now**, **Schedule deworming** (a task on Today for when you have product in hand), or **Not now**. BarnDesk does not put deworming on a calendar; it asks for the score, because treating only the animals that need it is what keeps dewormers working.

Body condition scores

On the animal's page, **+ Record score** in the Body condition section. BarnDesk uses the right scale for the species: 1 to 9 for cattle (ideal 5), 1 to 5 for sheep and goats (ideal 3), half steps allowed. Each button on the grid shows the meaning (Thin, Watch, Ideal, Over) so you do not have to remember thresholds.

More → Body condition shows every animal's latest score; filter to Thin to get the list to pull off pasture and supplement. Score at breeding, in late gestation and at weaning.

Fecal egg counts

The parasite signal that pairs with FAMACHA. Sample the whole contemporary group on the same day and enter the counts through **Batch fecal egg count** on the FAMACHA page (one shared date, one batch). BarnDesk labels each count by the animal's age (weaning, early or late post-weaning) and flags a very high count with the same deworm-now prompt a FAMACHA 4 gets. Single-animal entry is on the animal's page too.

Voice logging

Gloves on, hands full: on Today tap the **Voice** chip, tap the mic and say one thing: "Log weight 750 pounds for tag 16001", "Vaccinated 16000 with CDT", "Log deworming for tag 16", "12 eggs from coop A", "Open animal 1600". BarnDesk shows what it heard on a confirm sheet, you fix anything wrong and tap Confirm. Nothing is saved until you do. Every plan gets five voice logs a month to try it; Pro is unlimited.

Notes

A dated note goes on the timeline from the Health check form, or through the notes importer if you have a stack of them. Use notes for the things that have no field of their own. If you find yourself writing the same kind of fact in notes for many animals (a buyer, a date, a score), tell us; that is usually a field we should add.

Withdrawal windows

Every vaccination, deworming, treatment and task completion can carry meat, milk and egg withdrawal days. Active windows show on the animal's health card and in one card on Today with the clear date, so you know which animals cannot go to the sale barn or the milk tank this week.

When an animal has more than one withdrawal running, BarnDesk shows the latest clear date of all of them, treatments included, so a short withdrawal given last never hides a longer one given first. The Process page checks the same windows against the harvest date before an animal goes to the plant.

Logging the work clears the task

This is the rule that keeps the task list honest. Record a vaccination, deworming, treatment or FAMACHA score on an animal and BarnDesk finds the matching open task and marks it done. A herd-wide task shows progress ("3 of 14 done") and clears itself when the last animal is logged. You should never record the same job twice.

New World Screwworm watch

Screwworm is back in the United States. Check newborn navels, any wound, and body openings often; a wound that will not heal, a foul smell, or visible maggots means call the vet today. BarnDesk has a check log for it on the animal and a dismissible banner on Today; the full guidance is in

More → How To → Watching for New World Screwworm.

Breeding

Turnouts, single services, preg checks, births, and the reports that come out the other end. Read this part in order the first time; the pieces depend on each other.

The one idea to hold on to. Every pregnancy in BarnDesk starts as one record on the female, called a cycle: an exposure, a natural cover, an AI service or an embryo transfer. Preg checks, a birth, or a loss attach to that cycle and close it. Reports, due dates and reminders all read from cycles, so if a cycle is right, everything downstream is right.

Two ways to record a breeding

Use this	When	What BarnDesk records
Breeding group (bull turnout, buck-in, ram-in)	A male runs with a group of females for days, weeks or months.	One group with a turnout date and a pull date, and one exposure row on every female. Due dates are a window : turnout plus gestation through pull plus gestation.
Single service (natural cover, AI, embryo transfer)	You saw the mating, or a technician did the service on a known day.	One row on that female with the service date. Due date is a single day: service plus gestation.

Tapping **Exposure** on an animal's page takes you to the breeding group form, because an exposure is a date range and that form is the one place to record one.

Create a breeding group

- Breeding → + New breeding group.** Pick the species; every label on the form switches to bull and cows, buck and does, or ram and ewes.
- Pick the male: an animal on your farm, or type the name of a leased or borrowed male.
- Tap **Pick** and select the females. The list shows only active females of that species.
- Set the **turnout date**. Or flip to **Target first calving / kidding / lambing**, enter when you want births to start, and BarnDesk back-calculates the turnout day for you.
- Set the **pull date** if you already know it; otherwise leave it and pull later. Optional: the pasture.
- Save. Every female gets an exposure row dated to the turnout, with the male linked. A future-dated group shows as Planned and wakes up on its own when the day arrives.

Pull the male when he comes out: tap **Pull** on the group card and confirm the date. The card flips to Pulled and the due window locks. While he is still in, the calendar shows the window as open ("2027-01-10, still open").

TWO MALES WITH THE SAME FEMALES

If two bulls (or two rams) ran with one group at the same time, create **one group per male** over the same dates. When you later log a birth, BarnDesk sees both groups covering that female and asks you which male sired the calf instead of guessing. If you only enter one of the males, every calf from that turnout will be credited to him.

Record a single service

- 1 Open the female and tap **Breeding** in the quick log row (or **Add record → Breeding**).
- 2 Pick the type: **Natural cover**, **AI** or **Embryo transfer**.
- 3 Pick the sire. The list shows active males of the same species; for AI you pick a straw from your inventory, an on-farm sire, or an outside sire by name (see below).
- 4 Enter the date and save. BarnDesk shows the expected due date from the species gestation and offers the usual follow-up tasks: a preg check and a get-ready-for-birth reminder.

Where breedings live: the Breeding screen

More → Breeding (or Breeding in the desktop sidebar). The buttons at the top are **New breeding group**, **Log a breeding**, **Straw inventory** and **Embryos & flushes**. Below them are your breeding groups with their windows and preg-check progress; past groups are one tap away. Below is every open cycle across the farm, with **Active**, **Recent** and **All** filters. Each row shows the female, the type and date, the sire and the due date or window.

Tap the three-dot menu on a row to **Edit**, record a **preg-check result**, or **Delete**. Delete is only here, not on the animal's own page; a breeding row opened from the animal page can be edited but not removed.

Preg checks

When a female is checked, tap her breeding row and choose **Record preg-check result**, or complete the **Pregnancy check** task on Today; both do the same thing. Five results:

- **Confirmed bred:** she checked pregnant. The cycle stays open and now reads as bred everywhere.
- **Recheck:** could not tell yet. Cycle stays open; schedule another check when you are ready.
- **Open (did not settle):** she never took. Closes the cycle.
- **Pregnancy lost:** she was bred and lost it. Closes the cycle.
- **Not sure:** you know she is not going to deliver but not which of the two above happened. Closes the cycle.

For a breeding group, complete the group's pregnancy check task and the result attaches to each female's own exposure row; the group card shows bred, open and recheck counts as you go.

Close a cycle without a preg check

You do not need a vet visit to close a cycle. Use the same menu and pick **Open (did not settle)**, **Pregnancy lost** or **Not sure**. Reminders stop and she comes off the due list. Closed by accident? Open her page: the closed row in Breeding History has a **Reopen this cycle** button, and nothing is lost.

Log a birth

- 1 Open the dam and tap the green **Log birth** button.
- 2 Say how many were born, then for each one: sex, tag, name (optional), birth weight (optional).
- 3 Set the birth date (defaults to today; backdate if you are catching up) and confirm the sire.
- 4 Save. BarnDesk creates the offspring as animals with dam and sire set, records the birth against the dam's open cycle, and closes that cycle.
- 5 The **care protocol** prompt opens: the follow-up tasks for that species (navel dip, tag, CD&T, banding, preconditioning shots, weaning check and 205-day weight for calves; CD&T, banding and weaning check for kids and lambs). Rows are pre-ticked from your farm's defaults. Untick anything for this birth, or Skip. Nothing is created until you tap Apply.

Which cycle does the birth attach to?

BarnDesk looks at every open exposure or service on that female and picks the one whose expected window fits the birth date. A group turned out ten months ago fits a calf born today; one turned out two months ago cannot have produced it, and it is left open. If two cycles could both fit, the sire you picked breaks the tie. If nothing fits, the birth is recorded on its own and no cycle is closed.

Twins, triplets and embryo births

Multi-birth litters get one care-protocol prompt for the whole delivery, and the littermates section on each offspring lists the others. For an embryo transfer birth, tick **This was an embryo-transfer birth** and pick the embryo: the donor goes on the pedigree as the dam, and the recipient is recorded separately as Carried by. She never appears in the pedigree, which is how every registry treats it.

Your farm's care-protocol defaults

More → Templates → Kid-care protocols lists every birth-anchored template with a switch. Castration and banding are off unless you turn them on; disbudding is off by default for goats. An animal added months after birth never gets a navel-dip task: anything more than 14 days in the past is skipped.

The birthing calendar

More → Reports → Birthing calendar. The due-date roster for the barn wall: one row per expected birth, sorted by date, with dam, sire, service, the expected date or window, days out, and a status in plain words (Upcoming, Due now, Past due, Birth logged). Group exposures are grouped under their turnout with the window in the heading. The default view runs from 60 days ago through 300 days ahead, so it shows recent births, anything past due, and the full gestation for every species. Tap **Print** for a large-type version with letter margins.

A female whose preg check came back open is moved off the calendar and onto the **Open females** report, because listing her as due would be a lie. A female with a birth logged after her exposure shows as Birth logged, then drops off as the window passes.

Open females: the cull-decision list

More → Reports → Open females. Three sections, never merged: **Confirmed open** (a preg check said so), **Presumed open** (past the window with no check and no birth), and **Not yet evaluable** (the sire is still with them). Each row shows the exposure window, what is known, days since exposure, and her lifetime offspring count, because a first-timer who missed once is a different decision from a veteran dam.

AI and semen straws

Breeding → Straw inventory → + Add lot: sire name and straws purchased are required; registration number, breed, vendor, cost per straw and tank location are optional. Logging an AI service against a lot takes one straw off; editing or deleting the service puts it back. Empty lots cannot be picked by mistake. A follow-up prompt after each AI service offers a preg-check reminder at day 30.

Embryo transfer

Breeding → Embryos & flushes. Log a flush (donor, sire, method, technician, recovery totals from the practitioner's sheet) and the embryo lots it produced by grade, stage, day and freeze method. Purchased embryos go in the same place without a flush. To transfer, tap **Transfer** on a lot or log a breeding of type Embryo transfer on the recipient; the lot count drops and the recipient gets a due date that accounts for the embryo's age. **Reports → Genetics inventory** prints a tank audit sheet for straws and embryos with a blank count column to fill in at the tank.

Breeding soundness exams

On an intact male, tap **Breeding soundness** in the quick log row. Enter the exam date and scrotal circumference in centimeters, plus body condition, semen results if collected, the checklist, who examined and a recheck date. BarnDesk compares the measurement to published thresholds for the species and age and shows Pass, Under or Developing, and prints a certificate. This is a record of what you measured, not a veterinary verdict; a certified BSE has to come from a licensed vet.

Breeding reports in one place

Report	Answers
Birthing calendar	Who is due, when, and who is past due.
Open females	Who did not settle, and how sure we are.
Birth summary	Everything born in a window: totals, live and stillborn, twinning rate, top dams and sires, by species.

Report	Answers
Exposure history	Every breeding group: window, females exposed, services, and offspring attributable to that window.
Dam productivity	Every dam ranked by lifetime and weaned offspring, wean weights and wean rate; tap through to her offspring.
Sire performance	Every sire, on-farm and straw, by conception rate, offspring born and weaned, birth weight and wean gain.
Progeny record	Every offspring of one animal, with the other parent and outcomes.
Carcass performance	Which sire is putting beef in the cooler: hanging weights and dressing percentage by sire.

GOOD TO KNOW

Every dam count in these reports uses the genetic dam. An embryo recipient never counts as a mother on a report, and a sire never gets credit for a birth that was logged without him.

Tasks and Today

Reminders that come from your records, clear themselves when you log the work, and reschedule from the day you actually did the job.

The Today screen

Open the app and you land here. From the top: the weather for your farm, **Needs attention** (overdue vaccinations, treatment ends, breeding due dates, ready pastures, low inventory, retirement flags, equipment issues), **What's owed** (today's tasks, swipe right to mark done, swipe left to skip a recurring one), active withdrawal windows with each animal's product and clear date, quick-log chips (including Voice), your flock egg counter if you keep poultry, and the widgets you have chosen: money summary, income and expense chart, animals by species, upcoming tasks, rotation snapshot and more.

Today → **Customize** lets you show, hide and reorder every widget; the choice is yours alone and does not change what other members see.

Creating a task

Tasks → **+** (or Add record → Task). Give it a name and a due date, tie it to an animal, a group of animals, a piece of equipment or a pasture if it is about one, set a repeat if it recurs (daily, weekly, every N days, monthly, yearly), and add withdrawal days if completing it starts a hold. Tasks also show on the calendar view.

Completing a task

Tap a task for three choices: **Mark done** (records it and moves a recurring task to its next date), **Skip this time** (next occurrence, nothing recorded), **Delete series**. The completion sheet has a **Completed on** date: leave it on today, or set it back if you are catching up. A job done Sunday and logged Tuesday counts as Sunday, and a repeating task schedules its next occurrence from Sunday, not Tuesday. Future dates are refused.

Tasks that come from your records

- **Health protocols** you accepted when you added an animal become recurring tasks timed off its age.
- **Breedings** offer a preg-check task and a birth-due reminder.
- **Births** offer the care-protocol chain for calves, kids or lambs.
- **Pasture moves** set a move-by reminder named after the group and pasture.
- **Recheck dates** on a breeding soundness exam or a preg check show up when due.

And the reverse: logging the vaccination, deworming, treatment, FAMACHA score or move clears the matching task. Herd-wide tasks show "3 of 14 done" and finish themselves.

Templates (Pro+)

More → Manage templates. Build a reusable protocol (a vaccination program, a monthly hoof check, a custom after-birth chain with your own day offsets) and apply it to any animal in two taps. Birth-anchored templates appear in the care-protocol prompt like the built-in ones.

Money, receipts and taxes

Scan the receipt, check the lines, and the tax summary builds itself. Sales of animals post themselves when you mark them sold.

Scan a receipt

- 1 **Money → Scan a receipt** (or Add record → Receipt). Take a photo: feed, fuel, vet, fencing, anything.
- 2 BarnDesk reads the vendor, the date printed on the receipt, and every line with its quantity, and sorts each line into an IRS Schedule F category.
- 3 Check the category and amount on each line, fix anything it misread, and save.

Flatten the receipt and get decent light; faded thermal paper is hard on everyone. If no purchase date is printed, the date is left for you to fill rather than guessed. The number of receipts you can scan in a 30-day window depends on your plan.

Enter by hand

Money → Or add manually. A cash sale with no receipt, a check you wrote, a market payment: same fields, same categories. Income entries work the same way; choose **In** instead of **Out**.

Income from animal sales

You do not enter these on the Money tab. Mark the animal sold (or use Bulk sell, or a transfer with a price) and BarnDesk writes the income entry on the right line: raised animals sold go to Schedule F line 2; purchased or gifted animals sold for resale go to lines 1a through 1c with their basis; breeding, dairy, draft and sport animals are capital sales and go to Form 4797. What decides the line is the animal's acquisition type and purpose, both on its edit page.

Shares of an animal (Part 3) post the same way. Each deposit and payment you record on a share becomes an income entry on the line a sale of that animal would use, counted in the year you received it: a deposit taken in December counts that year even if the animal is processed in January. For an animal you bought to resell, what you paid goes on line 1b once, in the year it is harvested, and only for the part you sold; sell half and keep half, and half the cost is deducted. The part your family keeps is not a business sale, so confirm how you report it with your tax preparer.

Egg sales

From a flock, **+ Log egg sale**: dozens, price per dozen (remembered from last time), date, buyer. It lands on the Money tab as income, on Schedule F line 2, and on the Egg sales report.

Link purchases to inventory

A line for a bag of mineral or a bottle of dewormer can be linked to an inventory item; BarnDesk offers to bump the on-hand quantity when you save. Part 8 covers inventory.

Big purchases: capital assets and depreciation

A tractor, baler, grain bin, truck or barn is not a feed bill. Deducting the whole price in one year is wrong and the IRS will not accept it; the cost is recovered over its useful life through depreciation on Schedule F line 14.

- 1 When you log the receipt, pick the **Equipment and capital purchases** category. That keeps the price off line 32.
- 2 **Reports → Capital assets → + Add asset:** description, asset class (each carries its own recovery period), new or used, date placed in service (backdate freely), cost, business-use percent, and any depreciation your prior accountant already booked.
- 3 Each tax year, enter the depreciation figure your CPA gives you for that asset. BarnDesk sums them onto line 14 and will not let the total exceed the cost.

You can register an asset straight from a transaction on the Money tab or from a piece of equipment; once linked, the asset's cost and placed-in-service date are what Schedule F and Form 4797 read.

The Schedule F summary

More → Reports → Schedule F. Pick the tax year. Net farm profit or loss at the top; Part I income grouped by line; Part II expenses by line, each expandable to the receipts behind it; capital sales and capital purchases in their own amber blocks because they belong on other forms. Export CSV or PDF for your accountant. It is a summary of your own records laid out the way the form is; it is not tax advice.

Needs review. A livestock sale belongs either on Schedule F as ordinary income or on Form 4797, and which one depends on whether the animal was kept for breeding, dairy or draft. Where BarnDesk cannot tell, it lists the sale under **Needs review** with the reason instead of guessing. Nothing is wrong and your totals are right; the list is there so you can check them. Set the animal's **Purpose** on its edit form and the sale drops off the list.

Form 4797

Sales of breeding, dairy, draft and sport animals and of depreciated equipment. Shows proceeds, basis, accumulated depreciation and adjusted gain as three separate figures. CSV and PDF.

Cost per head

More → Reports → Cost per head. Your logged expenses allocated across animals, by species, for this month, year to date or the trailing twelve. Active and retired animals count; sold, deceased and off-farm animals drop out. The more faithfully you scan receipts, the truer this number.

The Money tab, day to day

A list of every entry, newest first, with a monthly summary. Tap an entry to see and edit its lines. The Today screen shows year-to-date income and expenses and a six-month chart.

Date range and categories. The list opens on **All time**; narrow it to a year or a custom range from the date control at the top. The category chips filter your **whole history**, not just the entries already loaded on screen, so tapping Feed on a farm with nine years of records finds every feed purchase and not only the recent ones. The list loads more as you scroll.

Pastures, inventory and equipment

Where the animals are, what is on the shelf, and what the machinery has cost you.

Pastures and rotation

More → Pastures. Add each pasture you rotate through; only a name is required. Set a rest target in days (30 by default; for sheep and goats, 30 or more days of rest breaks the barber pole worm cycle, so rotation is parasite control as much as grass). If you strip-graze with temporary fence, open a pasture and **Divide into paddocks**; twenty paddocks are named for you in one tap. A feeding pen with hay or grain is a **Dry lot**: BarnDesk tracks who is in it but skips the rest math.

Groups and moves

Moves happen by group ("Ewes", "Bulls"): **Pastures → Groups**, add a name and species. You can link animals to a group but you never have to. From a pasture's grid, tap **Move to next paddock** and BarnDesk suggests the one that is rested and ready; confirm and you are done. On the move screen you can backdate, score the paddock's condition as you leave it, and set a reminder pre-filled with the group's usual interval. The grid reads at a glance: deep green is being grazed, tan is resting with a day count, light green is rested and ready, grey has no history yet.

Ground you were already using

Set up mid-season and BarnDesk does not know when a paddock was last grazed. Tap a paddock and **Set last grazed**, or seed a whole pasture at once from Edit. Seeded dates start the rest clock and are labelled as before BarnDesk.

Grazing history report

Reports → Grazing history turns the log into a printable record for FSA, NRCS or your own review: grazing days, moves, rest achieved against target per pasture, dry lot use, and every stay. Rest is measured per paddock, from one group leaving to the next arriving. CSV and print. Included with Pro.

Inventory

More → Inventory. Feed, minerals, medications, supplies: each item with an on-hand quantity, a par level and a reorder rule. Drop below par and it shows in Needs attention and in the daily email. From an item, **Add expense** opens a receipt entry pre-tagged to it, and receipt lines can be linked to items so on-hand counts move when you buy.

Equipment

More → Equipment. Each machine with its type, cost, status and an open-issue badge. Log maintenance (date, what was done, cost) and issues from the equipment's page. Tasks can be tied to a piece of equipment. Register a machine as a capital asset from its page so the operating record and the tax record are one thing (Part 7).

Poultry and bees

Birds by the coop, eggs by the dozen, hatches by the batch, and hives by the inspection.

Flocks

Chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, guinea fowl and quail are managed as a **flock**: one record for the coop with a headcount ledger. **Animals → + → Flock**; name it, enter hens, roosters and unsexed birds, and the hatch date if you know it. Count changes (sold, culled, lost one to a hawk, new chicks) go under **Record count event** so headcount and lay rate stay honest. Want to follow a favorite hen? **+ Name a bird** gives her a record of her own inside the flock.

Eggs

Log eggs from the Flocks card on Today or from the flock's screen: a big counter that starts near yesterday's number, two taps. The flock page shows lay rate, eggs this week, cost per dozen and a two-week trend once it has a few days of data. Egg sales are in Part 7.

Hatches

Animals → Tools → Poultry → Hatches → +. Pick the species (each has its own day count, lockdown day and candling schedule), the set date (past dates are fine), egg count and source flock. Tick the reminders you want: candling days, lockdown, hatch day. Log candling results as you go; at the end, **Record hatch** with how many chicks made it and the flock they went into, and the flock's headcount updates.

Bees

Each hive is an animal record of species Bee Hives. Log inspections, queen events and honey harvests from its page. Hive inspection reminders appear in Needs attention and the daily email, and the Bee log export is included with every plan.

Reports

Every report is built from the records you already keep, and every one prints, saves as PDF and exports to CSV.

Using any report

More → Reports (or Reports in the desktop sidebar). Cards are grouped: Herd and records, Breeding and genetics, Health and parasites, Grazing and land, Money and tax, USDA and FSA. Open a report, set the date range or species at the top, and use the bar for **Export CSV**, **Export PDF** and **Print**. On a phone the share sheet offers Mail, Messages, Files and AirDrop; on Android 1.3.1 or later there is a Print button that goes straight to your printer. Reports marked Pro are included with Pro and Pro+.

What each report is for

Report	Use it for	Plan
Herd inventory	How many head of each species and class, today or on any date.	All
Herd roster	One line per animal with tag, tag color, name, sex, class, birth date, breed, sire, dam, color, group, registration, birth type, birth weight and genetics. The clipboard list for walking the barn.	All
Annual herd	Year-end snapshot with a tax handoff card.	Pro
Vaccination compliance	Who is current, who is overdue, by species; per-animal certificate PDF.	All
Parasite management	FAMACHA distribution, fecal egg counts by age, drug classes used, repeat-treated animals.	All
Weaning and ADG	Weaning weights and daily gain by birth cohort, with dam drill-down and a flag for animals past wean age with no weaning recorded.	Pro
Growth comparison	Several animals on one chart by age, with the ones falling behind called out and days to a target weight.	Pro
Birthing calendar, Open females, Birth summary, Exposure history, Dam productivity, Sire performance, Progeny record, Carcass performance	See Part 5.	Pro

Report	Use it for	Plan
Genetics inventory	Straws and embryos by tank; the print is the tank audit sheet.	Pro
Breeding soundness	Exams and certificates.	Pro
Grazing history	Stays, moves and rest per pasture for a date range.	Pro
Schedule F, Form 4797, Capital assets, Cost per head	See Part 7.	Pro
Egg sales, Sale sheet, Bee log, Data export	Income by the dozen; sale documents; your data out.	All
Sales by buyer	Every buyer with head count, total and first and last sale for a date range.	See the report card
Herd history, LFP draft, LIP draft	See Part 11.	Pro

TIP

A report is only as complete as the records behind it. When a report shows a "Needs review" list, those are the animals missing one field (a birth date, a weight, a birth type). Tap through, fill the field, and the report reclassifies on its own.

USDA and FSA paperwork

Disaster program worksheets pre-filled from records you already keep. BarnDesk organizes the records; FSA decides eligibility and payment.

Herd history

Reports → Herd history. Pick the program year and date range. Your animals grouped by the FSA categories (kind, type, weight range) with head at the start and end, acquired and disposed in the range by reason, and average age. A **Needs review** list shows animals missing a field FSA needs; a separate list shows what is not on the FSA livestock list (chickens, hives, dogs) so the totals explain themselves. Export and hand it to your county office.

LFP draft (CCC-853)

Reports → LFP draft. Enter the three things BarnDesk cannot know: the drought begin date from FSA's map for your county, the county, and your grazing acreage. Tap **Build draft**. BarnDesk applies the eligible-species filter, the 60-day ownership test, the weaned-age proxy and the disposal lookback, then shows eligible inventory by category, lets you mark which sold or culled animals were drought-related, and lists what needs review. **Download LFP worksheet** gives you a PDF with every derived value filled, clear lines for what you fill, the per-animal detail behind each count, and a checklist of the companion forms. The official CCC-853 is hand-fillable only; transcribe the worksheet onto it, sign, and file. The Grazing history report opens pre-filtered to the 60-day window from the same page.

LIP draft (CCC-852)

Reports → LIP draft. Reads your recorded death losses for the program year (individual animals with a date and reason of death, flock losses from the count ledger) and buckets them into FSA categories using each animal's last weight, side by side with the published normal-mortality threshold. Animals that died without a recorded weight go to a review list; log a weight on the timeline and rebuild. Land, AGI certification, signature and payee details are yours to complete on the form.

PLEASE READ

These reports do not determine eligibility or payment and they are not legal advice. Verify every figure against your own books and confirm program rules with your FSA county office. The disclaimer card at the top of each page is the language to share alongside the worksheet.

Plans, sharing and your account

What each plan includes, how the farm is shared, and how to get your data out.

Plans

	Free	Pro	Pro+
Active animals	10 fully editable; the rest read-only	Unlimited	Unlimited
Farms	1	1	Unlimited, with a farm switcher
Members per farm	2	5	15
Receipts scanned per 30 days	20	200	500
Photo storage	250 MB	10 GB	50 GB
Voice logs	5 per month	Unlimited	Unlimited
Reports	Herd inventory, Herd roster, Vaccination compliance, Parasite management, Egg sales, Sale sheet, Bee log, Data export	Everything, including Schedule F, Form 4797, the breeding reports, grazing history and the USDA worksheets	Everything in Pro
Task templates	Built-in protocols	Built-in protocols	Custom templates too

Pedigrees, certificate scanning, buyer packets, transfers and FAMACHA are included with every plan. The plan belongs to the farm: upgrade once and every member of that farm gets it.

Upgrading and managing your plan

More → Settings → Subscription. Tap **Upgrade plan** to see Pro and Pro+; payment runs through the App Store or Google Play like any subscription. To change or cancel, **Manage subscription** takes you to Apple's or Google's subscription settings. New phone? **Restore purchases.** A code from us or from an association? **Redeem code** on the same card. On a computer the subscription page is view and manage only; buy in the phone app.

Sharing the farm

More → Members. Invite by email, pick a role, and the invitee accepts from their email. Changes made by anyone appear on everyone's devices within seconds. A farm can have more than one owner.

More than one farm (Pro+)

Own several places, or keep a business you manage for someone else separate? Pro+ lets you create additional farms and switch between them from the farm name at the top of the sidebar. Each farm has its own animals, books, members and settings.

Your data is yours

Every report exports to CSV and PDF. For everything at once, **More → Account → Download my data** packages your animals, events, money and tasks into one archive in standard formats. A herd export can be re-imported, so it doubles as a way to make corrections in a spreadsheet and bring them back.

Closing your account

More → Account → Delete account. Your data is held for 30 days in case you change your mind, then removed. Download your data first.

A season with cattle and sheep

If you run a cow herd and a ewe flock, this is the year in BarnDesk, in order, with the page numbers to turn to.

Setup, once

- Farm details, including your scrapie flock ID for the sheep (Part 2).
- Check gestation and weaning defaults under Species: cattle 283 days and 210-day weaning, sheep 147 days and 75-day weaning. Change them only if your records say otherwise.
- Set retirement ages for cows, bulls, ewes and rams.
- Import the herd and its history rather than typing it (Part 3). Include sold and dead animals for the current tax year so Schedule F is whole.
- Under Templates, turn castration on if you steer bull calves and band ram lambs; leave disbudding alone.

Breeding season

- The day the bull goes in, create a breeding group with the cows and the turnout date. Same for each ram and his ewes. Two males with one group means two groups over the same dates (Part 5).
- A mating you watched happen, or a cow you took to a neighbor's bull for a day, is a natural cover on that female with the date and the sire.
- The day the male comes out, tap Pull on the group card. The birthing calendar now shows the calving or lambing window for every female.

Preg checks and the cull list

- When the vet checks, record each result from the breeding row or the pregnancy check task. Open females go to the Open females report, which is your cull list with each female's lifetime offspring beside her.
- Body condition score at breeding, in late gestation and at weaning. Cattle on the 1 to 9 scale, sheep on 1 to 5; the app switches for you.

Calving and lambing

- Print the birthing calendar for the barn wall.
- Log every birth from the dam's page, the day it happens, with the birth weight. If two males could have sired it, BarnDesk asks you which; if the sire you pick matches a group she was in, that settles it.
- Apply the care-protocol tasks (navel dip, tag, clostridial shots, preconditioning, weaning weight for calves; CD&T and weaning check for lambs). Completing each one writes the health record.

- Check newborn navels for screwworm.

Through the summer

- Sheep: FAMACHA every two to three weeks in the wet months, on the tracker; deworm the 4s and 5s and let the app clear the task. A batch fecal egg count on the lamb crop once they have been on grass four to six weeks.
- Both: batch weights at each handling. Move groups through the pastures from the grid and let Today tell you when a paddock is ready.
- Scan every receipt the day you get it.

Weaning and sales

- Batch weights with type Wean on weaning day. The Weaning and ADG report and Dam productivity update themselves.
- Sell a trailer load with Bulk sell, priced by the pound against the sale-day weights; put the sale barn's name in Sold to. Breeding stock sold to another farm gets a buyer packet, or a transfer if the buyer is on BarnDesk.
- Freezer beef and lamb by the half or quarter: reserve each buyer's share on the animal with their deposit, record a live weight in the last month, then tap **Process** when it goes to the plant and enter the hanging weight from the kill sheet. BarnDesk bills every share and posts the payments to Money and Schedule F. The Carcass performance report ranks your bulls by what their calves hung.

Year end

- Schedule F summary and Form 4797 to your accountant, with the capital asset register if you bought equipment.
- Herd history for the year, and the LFP or LIP worksheet if there was a drought or losses.
- Herd roster printed and walked through the barn to catch anything the records have wrong.

Reference

The built-in species figures, what BarnDesk does not do yet, and a short glossary.

Species defaults

These drive due dates, weaning flags and which tools appear. Change any of them per farm under [More → Species](#).

Species	Gestation or incubation	Expected weaning	FAMACHA	Scrapie ID	Kept as
Cattle	283 days	210 days			Individual
Sheep	147 days	75 days	Yes	Yes	Individual
Goats	150 days	75 days	Yes	Yes	Individual
Pigs	114 days	28 days			Individual
Bison	285 days	180 days			Individual
Horses	340 days	180 days			Individual
Donkeys	365 days	180 days			Individual
Mules	Sterile; no gestation	180 days			Individual
Alpacas	345 days	180 days			Individual
Llamas	350 days	180 days			Individual
Rabbits	31 days	35 days			Individual
Guardian dogs, Dogs	63 days	49 days			Individual
Cats	64 days	56 days			Individual
Chickens	21 days				Flock
Ducks / Muscovy ducks	28 / 35 days				Flock
Turkeys, Peafowl	28 days				Flock
Geese	30 days				Flock
Guinea fowl	27 days				Flock
Quail (Coturnix) / King quail	17 / 16 days				Flock

Species	Gestation or incubation	Expected weaning	FAMACHA	Scrapie ID	Kept as
Emu / Ostrich	48 / 42 days				Individual
Ringneck doves	14 days				Individual
Bee hives	Not applicable				Hive

What BarnDesk does not do yet

- **Work offline.** The app needs a signal. If you lose it in the back forty, the form will save when you are back in range; do not close the app in between.
- **Read RFID tags.** The EID field holds a number you type or import. Reader support is planned for the end of 2026.
- **Push notifications to the lock screen.** Reminders live on Today and in the daily email.
- **Buy a plan on the computer.** Sign-up is free anywhere; purchases happen in the phone app.
- **Submit anything to NSIP, a registry or FSA for you.** BarnDesk gives you the records and worksheets in the right shape; you file.
- **Sell meat by the package.** Selling whole, half and quarter shares of an animal is covered (Part 3). An inventory of inspected cuts sold by the pound, and cut sheets, are on the list.

Glossary

Acquisition type. Raised, purchased or gifted.
Decides the tax line when the animal is sold.

ADG. Average daily gain, in pounds per day between two weigh-ins.

BCS. Body condition score. 1 to 9 for cattle, 1 to 5 for sheep and goats.

BSE. Breeding soundness exam on a male.

Custom exempt. Processing for the owners of the animal, stamped not for sale. Share buyers own their part before harvest.

Cycle. One breeding on one female, from exposure or service through preg check, birth or loss.

Exposure. A female's membership in a breeding group; her row carries the turnout date and the group carries the window.

FAMACHA. A 1 to 5 eyelid-color score for anemia in sheep and goats, used to decide who gets dewormed.

FEC. Fecal egg count, in eggs per gram.

Flock. A group record for poultry, with a headcount ledger instead of one record per bird.

Hanging weight. Hot carcass weight from the plant, before cutting. Shares are usually priced on it.

Harvested. The status of an animal that has been processed for meat. Not a death and not a sale.

LFP, LIP. USDA Livestock Forage Disaster Program (drought) and Livestock Indemnity Program (deaths).

NSIP. National Sheep Improvement Program; BarnDesk stores the ID, NSIP computes the EBVs.

Open. A female who did not settle.

Own use. The part of a processed animal no buyer reserved; your own freezer.

Pull. The day the male comes out of the group.

Purpose. Market, breeding, dairy, draft or sport. Breeding and the others route sales to Form 4797.

Recipient. The female who carries an embryo-transfer pregnancy; not the dam.

Scrapie ID. The USDA flock ID plus animal number required on sheep and goats that change hands.

Share. A buyer's whole, half, quarter or eighth of one animal, priced and paid on its own.

Turnout. The day the male goes in with the group.

Withdrawal. The days after a treatment before meat, milk or eggs can be sold.

BarnDesk User Manual, edition of September 30, 2026. BarnDesk LLC, Castalian Springs, Tennessee. This manual describes the app as of that date; features ship every week, and the in-app How To guides always describe the current version. BarnDesk organizes your own records and is not tax, legal or veterinary advice.