



Salers Society – Performance Recording Checklist

1) Barbara Webster of Pedigree Cattle Services provides the performance recording service for the Salers Society in the UK. The first thing to do, is to contact Barbara to enrol. Barbara is our expert on performance recording, and she will help you get started.

Contact her on barbara@breedplan.co.uk or call 01738 448346.

2) Performance recording requires information each year from all the cows and their calves in your herd. Some animals may miss being weighed or recorded for whatever reason, but the more complete the information, so the more accurate your EBVs will be. **This means that all the breeding females and all their calves have to be entered into the Breedplan pedigree database.** They don't have to be registered. You can enter cows and their calves into the system as "commercial" animals for free by using the birth notification method (see Guide to Registrations on the Society website). You have the option to convert commercial animals to registered animals.

Contact Terence Pye on terencepye.salers@yahoo.co.uk or call 07982 813596 for more information on how you get all your breeding females and their calves into Breedplan.

3) Our performance recording system relies on information being entered into Breedplan. You can do this via the Breedplan online system, or Barbara is happy to receive information directly via a spreadsheet or other method. Talk to her to work out what is best for you.

4) At its simplest Breedplan requires data at the birth, and the weaning of your calves (notionally 200 days). Ideally they should be evaluated again at 400 days, and at 600 days (if they are still with you). You should aim to get close to these dates, but they are not sacrosanct, as the system can adjust for information supplied at different intervals. Also if you record information more frequently, the system can make good use of extra data points.

5) At birth, you need to record the calving ease and the calf birth weight (kg). We recommend the weigh tape method which assesses the calf size by measuring around the front hoof. This information is collected into the system at the time you register or birth notify the calf.

Do not exclude difficult calvings or heavy calves or dead calves. You should submit this information along with all your other calvings, to ensure that the Salers most important attribute of exceptional ease of calving is protected.

6) At weaning (circa 200 days), the ideal is weigh your cows and their calves on the same day. If you adopt a different weighing scheme, that is okay as long as you treat all the calves the same. The option of splitting animals into different management groups can be used to let the system know if one group of calves has been treated differently from another.

This information is submitted via the Online Transactions option, or as agreed with Barbara Webster.

7) At 400 days or thereabouts, weigh all your youngstock. If you opt to have them scanned (back fat/eye muscle) then this can be input at this stage.

8) At 600 days or thereabouts, weigh all your remaining youngstock, except for heifers more than 3 months in-calf.

Don't hesitate to contact Liz Wilde or Barbara or Terence for more information / assistance.