

HERDBOOK.

GETTING STARTED

The visual home for your herd.

A field guide for your first twenty
minutes with HerdBook.

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WELCOME

Your herd isn't a spreadsheet.

It's a hundred individuals with names, mothers, moods, and stories.

HerdBook is built on one bet: your records should look like your herd. Photo-first. Face-first. Every animal a profile you'd actually open.

This guide walks you through the first twenty minutes — enough to have your first animal on file, your existing spreadsheet imported, your pastures mapped, and a feel for how the deeper records (lineage, health, weights, heat) come together.

Nothing here is one-way. Everything you add can be edited, merged, moved, or exported. Start small. Add a photo. See what it feels like.

WHAT YOU'LL COVER

1. Add your first animal, from a photo taken in the pasture.
2. Bring your existing spreadsheet in — with lineage intact.
3. Map your pastures and start tracking moves.
4. Layer in lineage, health, weights, and heat as you go.

Twenty minutes. One animal at a time. That's the whole thing.

Your first animal.

A photo, a tag, and a name. That's the whole beginning.

- 1 Open Add Animal from the dashboard.**
Big rust button, top right. Onboarding lands you here on first sign-in — the first animal you add is the reveal moment.
 - 2 Take (or upload) a photo.**
Portrait, single animal, ear tag visible if you have one. HerdBook handles HEIC from iPhone. Reads the date, time, and GPS from the photo's metadata automatically.
→ Bright shade beats harsh sun. Get close enough that the face fills half the frame.
 - 3 Tag, name, sex, status.**
The tag is the only truly required field. Name is optional and encouraged — Jelly, Pooder, 127 all work. Sex progresses with age (Heifer → Cow, Bull calf → Bull, or Steer if castrated).
 - 4 Save. You'll land on the profile.**
That profile page — photos, lineage, health, weights, notes, offspring — is the shape every animal takes from here on. Everything else in HerdBook fills it in.
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YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK

Add another photo later. Fix the tag. Change the status when they're sold or move to a different pasture. The profile grows with the animal.

CHAPTER TWO

Bring your spreadsheet in.

Existing records, lineage intact, in a few clicks.

Animals → Import from CSV. Drop or upload the file. HerdBook reads the header row and shows a mapping screen so you can confirm each column is going to the right field.

WHAT WE MAP AUTOMATICALLY

YOUR COLUMN	MAPS TO
Tag / Ear tag / ID	Tag (required, unique per ranch)
Name	Name
Sex / Gender	Sex (Female / Male / Steer / Unknown)
DOB / Birth date	Date of birth
Breed	Breed (or inferred from parents)
Dam tag / Sire tag	Dam & Sire — matched by tag across your ranch
Status	Active / Pending / Sold / Deceased
Pasture	Current pasture (creates it if new)
Notes / Weight / Sale price	Direct fields when named clearly

LINEAGE MATCHING

Include Dam tag and Sire tag columns and HerdBook will connect the family tree during import — even for animals that appear later in the same file. Case-insensitive. Matches are reported at the end so you can see which ones landed and which didn't.

LEFTOVER COLUMNS

Anything HerdBook doesn't recognize (sale numbers, brand marks, EPDs, custom notes) is saved and offered back to you after import as custom fields. Map them to real fields later, or keep them as-is on the profile.

FIXING MISTAKES

Duplicates happen. Head to Animals → Duplicates to review suspected matches side-by-side and merge or delete. Nothing you import is written in stone.

Pastures and moves.

Where the animal is right now, and where it's been.

1 Create your pastures.

Pastures tab → Add pasture. Name them the way you actually say them out loud — Arrowhead Patch, Back Forty, Trap 3. Add acreage if you know it.

2 Assign animals as you go.

Set a pasture when you create an animal, or move them later from the profile. Bulk-select from the dashboard to move a group in one action.

3 Every move is a dated stamp.

The profile shows every pasture the animal has lived in and when they got there. The pasture page shows every animal currently living in it.

WHY THIS IS WORTH DOING

Once your pastures are set, HerdBook becomes a live inventory. Open a pasture, see the fifteen animals in it, tap into any of their profiles. When you rotate, the record follows — no notebook, no memory required.

CHAPTER FOUR

Lineage you can see.

Dam, sire, offspring — two clicks in every direction.

Every profile has a Lineage section: dam and sire with photos and one-tap links to their profiles. Every parent has an Offspring section listing every calf HerdBook knows they've produced, on ranch or sold.

Set parents from the edit dialog on any animal — search by tag or name. HerdBook keeps the relationship live in both directions, so tagging Pooder as sire on a calf makes that calf show up on Pooder's page automatically.

BREED, INFERRED

If both parents have a breed set and the calf doesn't, HerdBook proposes one — Brahman × Hereford becomes Braford, and so on. You can accept or override. Purebreds stay purebred; crosses get the cross name.

PUBLIC SHARING

Any profile can be shared with a public link — read-only, no login required. Ideal for a buyer who wants to see the animal's mother, sire, and full history before they show up. If a viewer wants to see a linked dam or sire that isn't public, you get a request in your Inbox and can copy a link or email one straight back.

Health, weights & heat.

The records that make the profile earn its keep.

1 One-tap logging from the profile.

Open an animal → Health → Add vaccination. Pick from your vaccine catalog (or add a new one). Date auto-fills to today. Log a whole group at once from the dashboard bulk bar.

2 A running weight chart per animal.

Profile → Weights → Log weight. Date, pounds, optional note. The chart draws itself. Handy at weaning and pre-sale — you'll see the growth curve at a glance.

3 Twenty-one days, on repeat.

For any female, Profile → Heat → Log heat. HerdBook predicts the next cycle at 21 days out and surfaces upcoming heats on the dashboard's Heat Watch panel. Log a bred date and it stops predicting.

QUICK NOTES

Every profile has a Quick note button — a one-line dated entry prepended to the animal's notes without opening the full editor. Perfect for the pasture: "Limping on the left front, will recheck tomorrow."

CHEATSHEET

The whole thing, on one page.

Every knob and where to find it.

STATUSES	Active (default) · Pending (sale in progress) · Sold · Deceased. Sold & Deceased grey out and drop off the main dashboard.
SEX	Female · Male · Steer · Unknown. HerdBook advances the label with age (Heifer → Cow, Bull calf → Bull). Mark a male as steer any time — it stamps a dated castration note.
CATEGORIES	Herd (breeding stock) · Companion · Working · Poultry. Non-herd animals don't count against breeding numbers.
SEARCH	Dashboard search bar finds animals by tag, name, or pasture. Live results, no enter key needed.
BULK ACTIONS	Select from the dashboard grid → the sticky action bar appears at the bottom for status, pasture, and vaccine updates.
DUPLICATES	Animals → Duplicates surfaces likely matches. Merge (keeps history) or delete.
MEMBERS	Settings → Members. Owner, admin, member, or viewer. Viewers see everything read-only — good for family, vets, or a buyer.
PUBLIC HERD	Settings → Public herd. Turn on a read-only gallery at aherdbook.com/yourranch for available and nursing animals.
EXPORT	Settings → Export. Full CSV and JSON, any time. Your data is always yours.

STUCK? ASK.

HerdBook is built by someone still checking his own pastures. If something's missing, broken, or awkward — say so. Real replies from a real person.

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