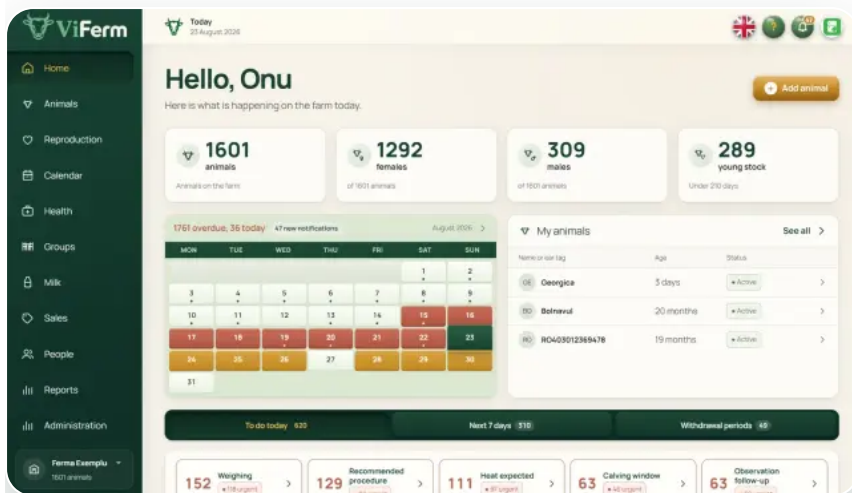


ViFerm vs CowMaster, iLivestock and My Cattle Manager

Four cattle record-keeping apps set side by side on the same criteria: what they cost, what they record, what they do without a signal and what equipment they work with. Every statement about a competitor comes from its own official page.



What suits your farm

There is no single winner for every farm. The choice depends on what you do each day and on the equipment already standing in your yard.

Small or medium cattle farm

You keep the records, the reproduction and the treatments, with no budget for software.

Best fit: ViFerm

ViFerm is free in full, with no animal limit and no locked features. CowMaster asks for a subscription above five cattle.

Farm reading EID ear tags and weighing automatically

You read the ear tag with a reader and the weight arrives on its own from the scales.

Best fit: iLivestock

iLivestock sells the reader and the weigh head and links them to the software. ViFerm does not connect to any reader or weigh head today.

Mixed farm, cattle and sheep

You keep two species and want a single register for both.

Best fit: iLivestock

iLivestock keeps cattle and sheep. The other three are built for cattle only.

Dairy farm: milk, feed and rations

You want the milking, the rations and the costings in one place.

Best fit: CowMaster

CowMaster has ration preparation and feed stock in its multi-user plans. ViFerm has milk, but no feed and no rations.

Farm that wants free software, in its own language

You pay no subscription and want the screens in the language you read.

Best fit: ViFerm

ViFerm is free in full and available in 11 languages. CowMaster offers more languages, but its free plan stops at five cattle; above that a subscription is needed. iLivestock and My Cattle Manager run on a subscription.

What it costs, in short

The amounts are the ones each maker publishes, in its own currency. They are not converted: an exchange rate worked out by us would go stale without saying so.

ViFerm	CowMaster	iLivestock	My Cattle Manager
Free unlimited cattle	Free up to 5 cattle · one user	27.50 £ per month unlimited cattle	9.90 \$ per month unlimited cattle
	145 \$ per year up to 20 cattle · one user	300 £ per year unlimited cattle	99 \$ per year unlimited cattle
	215 \$ per year up to 60 cattle · one user		
	285 \$ per year up to 200 cattle · one user		
	345 \$ per year unlimited cattle · one user		
	325 \$ per year up to 60 cattle · 2 users		
	425 \$ per year up to 200 cattle · 3 users		
	525 \$ per year unlimited cattle · 5 users		
	No free trial announced	14-day free trial	No free trial announced

Equipment sold separately

An ear tag reader or a weigh head costs more than a year of software. Put it in the sum from the start.

EID ear tag reader 375 £ – iLivestock

Weigh head 425 £ – iLivestock

Prices, taxes and availability by country can change. Open the official source before you decide.

The comparison, criterion by criterion

Thirteen criteria, the same for all four. Where a product’s official source does not mention a feature, that is what it says – not that the feature is missing.

Criterion	ViFerm	CowMaster	iLivestock	My Cattle Manager
Cost model	✓ Free, with no paid plan and no locked features.	~ Free up to 5 cattle; above that an annual subscription, from 145 to 345 dollars.	✗ 27.50 pounds a month or 300 a year, after a 14-day free trial.	✗ 9.90 dollars a month or 99 a year.

Criterion	ViFerm	CowMaster	iLivestock	My Cattle Manager
Animal and user limits	✓ No limit on animals or on users. Tested on a herd of 1,602 head.	~ Each plan has its own limit, from 5 cattle up to unlimited; from one user up to 5.	✓ The official page announces no animal limit and says any number of users can be invited.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.
Reproduction	✓ Heats, matings, pregnancy checks, calvings and weanings, with the relatedness check across 4 generations of ancestors before mating.	~ Heat and pregnancy tracking, stated on the official page.	~ Reproduction notes, as part of the herd register.	✓ Matings, pregnancies, calvings, abortions and pedigree line.
Health and treatments	✓ Observations, cases, treatments with doses and procedures, with withdrawal periods for meat and milk; selling is held back while a withdrawal period runs.	~ Vaccinations, diseases, treatments and parasite controls. The official source consulted does not state doses or withdrawal periods for meat and milk.	✓ Treatment recording, stated on the official page.	~ Health notes, alongside reproduction and growth.
Without internet	✓ The herd is read with no signal, and 11 kinds of entry go into a queue and are sent when the signal returns.	✓ Working without internet is stated on the official page.	✓ Working without internet is stated on the official page.	✓ Works without internet, and the data synchronises when the signal returns.
EID readers and scales	✗ Does not connect to ear tag readers or to scales. The RFID code is typed by hand on the animal's record.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.	✓ Ear tag reader and scales sold by the maker and linked to the software; the reader from 375 pounds, the weigh head from 425.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.
Import and export	✓ The herd is uploaded from a spreadsheet; the data comes out as CSV, as PDF and as a full copy of the farm.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.	~ Reports can be exported, stated on the official page.	~ Export to PDF, Excel or CSV, stated in the app description.
Milk	✓ Milkings, deliveries, tank stock and other uses.	✓ Milk data tracking, stated on the official page.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.	✓ Daily yield per cow and the highest-yielding cows.
Finances	~ Sales, payments, costs and margin per animal. It does not stand in for accounting.	✓ Income and costs, stated on the official page.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.	✓ Income and costs, stated on the official page.
Feed and rations	✗ No feed management and no ration formulation.	✓ Ration preparation and feed stock, in the multi-user plans.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.

Criterion	ViFerm	CowMaster	iLivestock	My Cattle Manager
Species	~ Cattle only.	~ Cattle only.	✓ Cattle and sheep.	~ Cattle only.
Languages	✓ 11 languages.	✓ 24 languages, stated in the app store.	? No mention found in the official sources consulted on 20 September 2026.	~ One language announced in the app store.
Platforms	✓ Opens in the browser and installs on the phone as an app, without a store.	✓ Phone app, with a web part.	✓ Phone app, with a web part.	~ Phone app.

What each criterion means on the ground

The real cost, not the headline price

An annual subscription is easy to compare; what is hard to compare is what goes into it. With CowMaster the price rises with the herd: five cattle are free, and from there the plans step up in twenties, then in hundreds. With iLivestock and My Cattle Manager the amount is the same however many animals you keep.

With iLivestock, the software is the small part of the sum. The ear tag reader and the weigh head are bought separately, and each costs more than a year of subscription. If the equipment is the very reason you choose it, that is an outlay to count from the first day.

ViFerm has no paid plan. It is not an opening offer, and no paid plan opens up above a certain number of animals.

Reproduction

This is where the difference between noting what happened and knowing what comes next shows most clearly. All four hold the mating and the calving. What differs is whether the app works out the next job on its own from what was recorded.

In ViFerm a mating gives rise to the pregnancy check, the pregnancy to the calving window, the calving to the calf's record and its weighings. Before a mating, relatedness is checked across four generations of ancestors and the connection found is named, without claiming a genetic coefficient.

My Cattle Manager states matings, pregnancies, calvings, abortions and the pedigree line. CowMaster states heat and pregnancy tracking. With iLivestock, reproduction is one part of the herd register, not the main subject of its page.

Medical records and withdrawal periods

Recording the treatment without its withdrawal period keeps the medical history, but it does not protect the farm from selling the animal too early. The difference shows on the day the animal goes to the abattoir.

ViFerm records the treatment, the dose, the person who administered it and the withdrawal periods for meat and milk; the animal cannot be sold until they expire. iLivestock states treatment recording. CowMaster states vaccinations, diseases, treatments and parasite controls, with notifications for them; its source does not state doses or withdrawal periods. My Cattle Manager keeps health notes alongside reproduction and growth.

What works without a signal

All four say they work without internet. The useful question is a different one: with no signal, can you only read, or can you also write?

In ViFerm the herd is read from a copy held on the phone, and eleven kinds of entry – weighing, heat, mating, calving, treatment given, new animal and the rest – go into a queue and are sent on their own when the signal returns. Each carries a code of its own, so that a retry does not write the same event twice.

My Cattle Manager states the same thing: you work without internet and the data synchronises later. CowMaster and iLivestock state that they work without internet, without saying on the page consulted what can be written then.

Ear tag readers and scales

This is the one criterion where ViFerm plainly loses, and it is better known beforehand than afterwards.

iLivestock sells the ear tag reader and the weigh head and links them to the software: you read the ear tag, the weight arrives on its own, the treatment is written on the animal standing in front of you. For a farm that weighs often, that changes the working day.

ViFerm does not connect to any reader or to any weigh head today. The RFID code is a field typed by hand on the animal's record, and the weight is entered from the keyboard. For CowMaster and My Cattle Manager we found no mention of equipment in the official sources consulted.

Who each one suits

iLivestock is cut for the farm that works with equipment and that also keeps sheep. The software is the middle part; the end of it is the reader in your hand.

CowMaster is cut for the dairy farm that wants the milk, the rations and the costings in the same place, and that accepts the price rising with the herd.

My Cattle Manager is a phone app, in a single language, with a small subscription and wide coverage: reproduction, health, weights, milk, finances, photographs.

ViFerm is cut for the farm that keeps its own records, with no software budget and no equipment: free, in eleven languages, with the tasks worked out from what was recorded.

What ViFerm does not do

Written here because it shows in the first week of use, not in the third month.

It does not connect to EID ear tag readers or to scales.

It is built for cattle only. Sheep and goats have no place in it.

It keeps sales, payments, costs and margin per animal, but it does not stand in for accounting.

It has no feed management and no ration formulation.

How the comparison was made

This comparison is made by the ViFerm team from the information published by the app makers.

ViFerm is one of the products compared. We have not tested every competitor feature ourselves; what is said about them comes from the official sources listed. Prices and features can change.

The criteria used

Cost, animal limits and user limits, as the maker publishes them.

What the app records: reproduction, health, growth, milk, money.

What can be done without a signal.

What equipment it works with and what files it takes in and puts out.

What species it covers, what languages it is written in and what device it opens on.

How strong each statement is

“Not stated” means the official source consulted does not mention the feature – not that the feature is missing. The statements about ViFerm are checked in the app.

Sources

CowMaster

www.cow-master.com/download – checked on 20 September 2026

apps.apple.com/sa/app/cowmaster-herd-management-app/id1532895245 – checked on 20 September 2026

iLivestock

www.ilivestock.com/pricing – checked on 20 September 2026

www.ilivestock.com/software – checked on 20 September 2026

My Cattle Manager

apps.apple.com/us/app/my-cattle-manager-farm-app/id6450873776 – checked on 20 September 2026

Found something out of date?

Write to contact@viform.org and we will correct it, with the date of checking changed on the page.

Frequently asked questions

Which is the best free app for cattle records?

Of the four compared, ViFerm is the only one free in full, with no animal limit and no locked features. CowMaster has a free plan, but it stops at five cattle. iLivestock and My Cattle Manager are on subscription.

Does ViFerm connect to EID readers or to scales?

No. The RFID code is typed by hand on the animal's record, and the weight is entered from the keyboard. If you need reading with a stick reader and automatic weighing, iLivestock sells the equipment and links it to the software.

Which app keeps sheep as well?

Of the four, iLivestock. Its official page says "sheep & cattle records". ViFerm, CowMaster and My Cattle Manager are built for cattle only.

Can I use ViFerm together with my workers and my veterinarian?

Yes. People can be invited into the farm with four roles: owner, worker, veterinarian and read only. Each one sees and can write only what belongs to their role, and each one reads the screens in their own language.

Does ViFerm work without internet?

The herd is read with no signal, from a copy held on the phone. Eleven kinds of entry – weighing, heat, mating, pregnancy check, calving, treatment given, observation, body condition score, new animal, task completed and pregnancy declared – go into a queue and are sent when the signal returns. The other screens need a connection.

Can I import my animals from a spreadsheet?

Yes. The .xlsx file is uploaded as it is, the app shows you what it understood from every column, and the records are created only after you confirm. The data comes out at any time as CSV, as PDF and as a full copy of the farm.

What is the difference between ViFerm and CowMaster?

The cost and what each one covers. ViFerm is free, with no animal limit, but it has no feed and no rations. CowMaster is free up to five cattle, then on an annual subscription that rises with the herd, and it has ration preparation and feed stock in its multi-user plans.

Start with the herd you already have

The account is free. The animals are uploaded from a spreadsheet or added one by one.