

## Quick Tips for Using CNCPS v.6.1

Dr. L. E. Chase  
Department of Animal Science  
Cornell University  
[lec7@cornell.edu](mailto:lec7@cornell.edu)

This document is a short roadmap for using the beta version of CNCPS v.6.1. A more detailed document will be available with the final release of the program.

1. To start the program, double click the CNCPS v.6.1 icon on your desktop.
2. You will see a flash screen and then a blank screen with a toolbar at the top.
3. Go to View on the toolbar and select settings, this allows you to select a number of parameters. These include:
  - Units
    - i. Metric or English
    - ii. Currency (\$, EU)
    - iii. Energy (Mcal, MJ)
  - Recipe settings
    - i. Show DM or as-fed amounts
  - Reports and Appearances
    - i. You can select to show body weight (BW) as either shrunk (SBW) or full (FBW). We typically use FBW for dairy animals. Shrunk body weight is usually used for beef animals that have been fasted before being weighed. Shrunk body weight is calculated a 96% of full body weight and is intended to remove variation in BW due to meal pattern.

Note: You can also get to the Settings screen by pressing the Alt F1 keys.

4. There are 2 basic methods for starting this program. They are:
  - Create a New Farm
  - Open Farm (uses an existing or saved farm file)
5. Option 1 – Open Farm
  - Click “Open Farm” on the toolbar
  - A box will come up with a list of farms in your Current Farms folder. If your farm file is in another location, select this location.
  - Click the farm you want to use, then click Open
  - The Farm Inputs screen will show. Enter any data that you want to. If you enter milk price here (and feed prices later), the program will calculate feed costs and income over feed costs.
  - **Note:** Milk price is entered as \$/lb. **not** \$/100 lbs.

- i. **Example:** If milk is \$20/100 lbs., enter this as 0.20
  - Click “Locations” on the toolbar. This defines the housing type, animal type, environmental and management factors.
  - Click “Cattle Inputs” on the toolbar. This screen provides information on the animal (age, weight, milk production, etc.).
  - Click “Feeds” on the toolbar. This brings up the list of feeds that was stored in the file for this farm.
  - Click “Recipes” on the toolbar. This brings up the ration that was stored for this group in the farm file.
  - You can see some of the ration parameters in the right pane of this screen. Click on the bottom of the screen to select the results to view.
  - Click “Reports” on the top line of the toolbar. This provides a list of the reports that you can view or print. Click on the specific report to have it displayed on the screen.
6. Option 2 – Creating a New Farm
- Click “Create New Farm” on the toolbar
  - Enter a name for this farm, click OK
  - The Farm Inputs screen will appear. Type in any information that you want to. If you enter a milk price (and feed prices later), the program will calculate feed costs and income over feed costs.
  - **Note:** Milk price is entered as \$/lb **not** \$/100 lbs.
    - i. **Example:** If milk is \$20/100 lbs, enter this as 0.20
  - Click “Locations” on the toolbar. The location screen allows you to enter the housing type, animal type and make changes to the environmental and management factors.

**Key Point:** You can have multiple locations and animal groups in 1 farm file. To add additional locations and animal groups, do the following:

- Right click on the location type box
- Click “New Location” to add another location. Enter location name and click OK. This can be repeated for other locations and animal groups.
- Click “Cattle Inputs” on the toolbar. This will bring up a blank screen with a list of animal parameters in the left column. To setup the information for your groups, do the following:
  - i. Place the cursor in the blank location box and right-click
  - ii. Select “Create New Group”, select location
  - iii. Enter the animal group name, click OK
  - iv. A list of default animal parameters will be added ion this column. To change any of these, place the cursor over the data you want to change and type in the new value.
  - v. Repeat this process if you have other location and animal groups to add.

We are now ready to select the feeds to be used on this farm or in this ration. This can be done as follows:

- Click “Transfer Feeds” on the toolbar.
- A screen with a list of feeds in the left column will appear.
- At the bottom left of this screen, you will see 2 choices:
  1. UFL = User Feed Library
  2. CNCPS Feed Library = Master Feed Library
- The CNCPS Feed Library has > 800 feeds. The objective is to select and transfer only the feeds you want in your UFL. By doing this, you will only look at a limited number of feeds in future runs rather than going through all 800+ feeds each time.
- To select and transfer feeds, use the following steps:
- Make sure that the CNCPS Feed Library is selected and highlighted before proceeding.
- There are 2 basic ways to work through the CNCPS Feed Library to select feeds. These are:
  - i. By Feed Name (1<sup>st</sup> column) – If you want to use this method, click the diamond on the right side of the box. This will sort feeds in alphabetical order.
  - ii. By Feed Type (4<sup>th</sup> column) – If you want to use this method, click the diamond on the right side of the box. This will sort the feeds by feed type (additives, etc.)
- Scroll down the feeds, click in the box to the left of the feed name to select a feed to be moved to your UFL. When you do this, the name of the feed selected will show in the bottom left side of the screen. Click the checkmark to deselect or remove a feed from the list.
- Repeat this process until you have selected the feeds you want in your UFL.
- To transfer the feeds to your UFL, click “Transfer Selected Feeds to User Feed Library” on the right side of the screen.
- If you now click UFL, it should show you your list of feeds. This library will be available to you in future runs.
- If you want to use these feeds in your current ration, select the feeds you want to use and click “Transfer Selected Feeds to Farm”
- Click “Feeds” on the toolbar. A “Feeds: screen should appear with the selected feeds and their nutrient composition. A couple of pointers:

- i. If you enter the base price (\$/ton), then feed costs and income over feed cost can be calculated.
- ii. If you select True or False for each feed, you can get total feed cost and purchased feed cost on the output.
- iii. You can change the nutrient composition of a feed by selecting the value and typing in a new value.

We can now define the ration and look at the results. The steps to do this are:

- Click “Recipes” on the toolbar.
- A blank box will appear.
- Set the cursor in the recipe box and right-click.
- Select “Create New Recipe for”, then the “Location” and then the “Animal Group”, click
- Enter a name for this recipe, click OK.
- A list of feeds will appear. You can use all of them (Select All) or place checkmarks in front of the ones you want to use.
- Click “Done”
- The selected feeds will be in the left pane. You can now enter the lbs/day for each feed. As you enter the feeds, watch the Summary Results screen in the right pane.
- You can view the results either in the right pane or go to “Reports” on the top line of the toolbar.
- Select the report you want and you can view or print this report.

#### 7. Saving your work:

- CNCPS automatically saves your ration and puts a date and time stamp on it. However, it may still be good to do the following before you exit the program:

- When you are done, click “File” on the toolbar
- Select “Save As”
- You can now enter a name for the file and the location where you want to store it.

When you installed the program, it created two links on the desktop, one for the program and one for the current farms. All of the rations are stored in the current farms folder with the link on the desktop. If you want to move a ration from one file to another, you can click on the “Current Farms” shortcut and it will open to the ration files that can then be copied and moved.