

Producer FAQs

Q: What are the recommended computer specifications for PCDART?

A: Recommended minimum system requirements to operate PCDART include:
MS DOS compatible computer with Pentium CPU and VGA color monitor
8 MB Random Access Memory
One 3.5" Diskette Drive
220 MB Fixed Disk Drive
MS DOS Version 6.2
19,200 baud DOS compatible modem with compression and error checking
DOS compatible Printer and Cables

Recommended minimum requirements for buying a **new** computer to use with PCDART:

MSDOS compatible computer with Pentium II or III CPU and VGA color monitor
64 MB Random Access Memory
One 3.5" Diskette Drive
One CD ROM Drive
2GB Fixed Disk Drive
Windows 95, 98, ME, NT or 2000
56KB baud DOS compatible modem with compression and error checking
DOS compatible Printer and Cables

Q: How do I know what my RAC is?

A: For Service Affiliates who publish the Remote Access Code (RAC) it can be found on the DHI-213 Herd Data Report underneath the address section. If it is not printed there it can be obtained from your Service Affiliate. This number serves as a password to gain access to your herd's information via the Bulletin Board System and the DRMS website.

Q: Can I install PCDART on a second computer?

A: Yes, but one computer should be used as a data entry computer and the other should be used as a read only computer. Instructions on how to manage two computers can be printed by going into A-Auxiliary Menu, P-Programs, PI-Print instructions for two computers.

Q: I am trying to exchange files with my technician, it is asking for disk 2, and there isn't a disk 2?

A: Producers and Technicians occasionally experience difficulty Importing and Exporting files. The most reliable method to correct this problem is to format the diskette on the computer that is having problems reading from or writing to the diskette. Then repeat the exchange process using the newly formatted diskette.

Q: I am trying to enter an abortion date and PCDART is telling me "carried calf less than 152 days use P6/N" or "in milk less than 200 days"?

A: PCDART edits determine if an abortion or calving date is valid (meaning is it acceptable to start a new lactation). National DHIA guidelines indicate an abortion is valid if the cow has carried the calf more than 152 days or if no breeding date is reported, the cow has been in milk more than 200 days. When getting the "carried calf less than 152 days" then use P6/N to code the cow as open. The only way to indicate the abortion date is to enter that information as health date using P15. When getting the "in milk less than 200 day" message use P15 to enter the abortion as health data.

Q: How should Canadian animals be entered?

A: Registration numbers of Canadian cows and sires need to be preceded with the numbers 04 to indicate they are from Canada. Depending on the length of the number zeros may need added after the 4 and before the beginning of the registration number. For example, sires with six digit numbers are prefixed with 040.

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Q: How do I transfer cows bought from another DHI herd?

A: In P23 enter the cow's Index Number, DHIA ID, and Barn Name. On the Birthdate line enter the letter T. This will bring up a screen, which allows you to enter the old herdcodes and index number. It also allows you to enter a Farm ID but it is optional. Press F10 to continue to the next cow.

Q: What if the purchased cow's previous herdcodes is unknown?

A: Enter the cow as a new cow in P23. Include as much information as possible. In Special Handling Instructions, record any other information known on the animal such as the name and location of the previous owner. Usually, DRMS staff can locate a cow based on her identity.

Q: How do I code a cow pregnant to a previous breeding?

A: When coding a cow pregnant to a previous breeding you can enter P###. The ### represents the number of days the animal is diagnosed pregnant. Entering P90 would mean the cow has been pregnant for 90 days. If there are multiple breedings a box will appear with breeding dates which allows you to choose the correct service sire. Or if you know the correct breeding date, simply re-report with P4 making sure you enter the appropriate service number.

Q: How often should I do a program update?

A: Updated program files are now placed into production at the beginning of each month. To update PCDART 6.2 select A-Auxiliary Menu, P-Program Updates, R-Retrieve New Programs. To update PCDART 7 access the website www.drms.org and click on the PCDART 7 link. An update from the website will also update PCDART 6.2 programs. Update diskettes or a CD can also be requested by calling one of the DRMS offices.

Q: If I make a backup when exiting PCDART is that all my data?

A: The backup on exit in PCDART only backs up information that has been entered since last testday and the group numbers for the cows in your herd. It is not a complete back up of your database. However, an Offload from the Auxiliary Menu is a complete copy of your database. It contains all transactions and health data you've entered in PCDART regardless of if it was entered before or after the most recent testday. It's much easier for computer support to restore your database from an offload. Also, if you are moving PCDART to a new computer, you will need an offload from the current computer.

Q: What does Open Error 35 mean?

A: Open Error 35 means it cannot find the file specified usually the DARTMAST or BULLFILE. Additional help is needed. Call your Service Affiliate or DRMS Computer Support.

Q: What does Open Error 96 mean?

A: Open Error 96 means there is not enough memory available to operate the program. Usually rebooting your computer will solve the problem or if using Windows close all other programs currently running. Contact your Service Affiliate or DRMS Computer Support if you need further assistance.

Q: What does Open Error 97 mean?

A: Open error 97 means you have two or more PCDART sessions open at the same time. Return to your Windows desktop and close the sessions on your task bar until you have only one open.

Q: What does a RCL005: Index file error mean?

A: A data file corruption has occurred. This is usually caused by a power surge or interruption in power while using PCDART. Contact your Service Affiliate or DRMS Computer Support to resolve the situation.