

Frequently Asked Questions



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Title: Gallagher / Ruddweigh Scale Use
Product: Hardware
Version: N/A
Date: August 10, 2006

Symptom:

How do I use a Gallagher Scale with AgInfoLink Data Collection Software Programs?

Resolution:

The RuddweighInterface program is required to interface with Individual Animal Manager. Download this file from www.aginfoLink.net/swupdates under the Hardware section. Save the zip file to the desktop, then unzip the file. Leave the RuddweighInterface.exe file that was unzipped on the computer desktop.

After downloading the program, follow these instructions to use the Gallagher Scale with one of AgInfoLink's data collection software programs?

1. Open Device Ports on the computer and set the Scale com port to (none). Close Device Ports.
2. Start the Ruddweigh Interface application and set it's com port to the com port being use for the scale (you can verify this in Windows Device Manager on the computer).
3. Plug the scale into the computer via its Port 1 if it's a model 700 or 800 or Port 2 for the R600 model.
4. Set the scale into setup mode and change to the communication setting option (no 6), select the port used for output (1 or 2) and change it to 'Ruddweigh'.
 - To access the setup menu, turn the dial on the scale to "S" for setup. The menu for setup will be displayed in the lower portion of the display window. Below the display are arrows to scroll through the menu.
 - **Note: if Ruddweigh is not an option in the port setup, you must change the language setting to New Zealand or Australia. The newer models will have a LANGUAGE option in the setup menu.**
 - **After changing the language setting, then go into the User Options of setup and change from kg to lbs.**
5. On the Rudweigh Interface, click on the 'Port is Open/Closed' button so that the port is Open.
6. Look at the RuddweighInterface application and it should now start showing the output from the scale in the Buffer text box. It is now ready to start taking weights. Note that the Rudweigh Interface Program has to be opened and closed separately to Individual Animal Manager - and should always be opened BEFORE launching Individual Animal Manager.
7. Open Individual Animal Manager.

Disclaimer on how the interface program works:

The RuddweighInterface program sends a (?) every second to the Rudweigh / Gallagher scale and then the MSComm control 'OnComm' event is monitored to see if any data is being received from the scale. If

data is being received, it is assembled until such time as the last four characters of the data is one of 'KG' or 'LB' followed by a line feed and carriage return. If one of those is present, the second and third characters of the string are then inspected to see if they are 'HO' which is the R600 indicator of a holding weight.

If this is also true, then the weight value is extracted from the string and that value is passed to the AgInfoDeviceCore.

This means that when an animal is on the weighbar and a stable weight is registered, in either auto or manual mode on the scale, the resulting weight value is sent every second to the device core. This doesn't seem to cause a problem with device core buffers etc from testing, but as there is no way to re-trigger a reading if a user rescans the autoscale event, the multiple sends will have to suffice until Device Ports are modified to accept the scale.

When the weigh is unstable (moving animal) or zeroed, no values are sent to the device core.