

Abstract by Mauro Fioretti - A new tool for beef performance recording in Italy

A new device is presented to estimate chest girth in beef cattle. The device is formed by a digital camera and by a software to process digital images. The digital camera allows to take several images of the animal to be recorded; these images are then processed by a dedicated software to extrapolate an accurate chest girth, that is then used to estimate live weight of the animal through conversion formulae depending on breed, sex and age in days at recording. The device will allow the security of the operator (no contact is required with the animal) together with a reliable and objective method of measure, less stress and risk of injuries for the animals and a reduction of recording time and related cost especially in situations of grazing animals, without losing accuracy in chest girth recording.