Barcode and voice recognition techniques for data entry into computerized dairy database records.

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Even though computers operate at amazing speeds, data input into programs remains the rate-limiting step preventing many dairymen and veterinarians from adopting a computerized system. Keyboard entry of individual animal events into a computer program is extremely tedious, but present barcode and voice recognition technologies exist to ease this cumbersome task.

Barcode labels allow data to be scanned by machine and then the data (animal events, diseases and treatments) can be processed by a computer. Currently available software and hardware are available to incorporate the ease of barcode data entry into computerized health records systems.

In addition to the barcode method of data entry, a voice recognition system has been developed for the direct verbal entry of data into the computer. Database programs have been developed in FoxPro 2.6 for Windows that permit **either** barcode of voice recognition data entry methods.

The objective of this presentation was to publicize the ease of barcode and voice recognition data entry methods and will present information on barcode and voice recognition data entry into a dairy database in five aspects: 1) the batch entry of data into the computerized record system (the dairy herd health program). 2) the production of the barcodes and the barcoded list of animals. 3) the barcode reader and reading the barcodes and, 4) formatting the barcoded data for data entry, and 5) the use of voice recognition to input data directly into a database.

While this system is somewhat improvised, it demonstrates that the technology is currently available and working to ease the drudgery of keyboard data entry into an available dairy herd health program. Without the ease of data entry using barcodes or voice recognition, computerized database programs probably would not be used at the LSU VTH&C because of the time consuming effort of data entry.